

## Horrors 681

### Chapter 681: Your Character Is a Crazy Murderer [2 in 1]

Chen Ge was busy dealing with the issues inside and outside of the Haunted House. His previous adventure had lasted the whole night, and he did not have the chance to catch a well-deserved rest in the morning. So, when noon arrived, the man was almost at his breaking point already.

Opening his backpack, Chen Ge released Ol' Zhou and the rest. He selected a few of the employees who looked presentable and had them enter the underground scenes to get them to help with the basic running of the place. Other than Xu Yin, most of the employees were not affected by the curse. If anything, most of them had gained nutrients from the blood fog and obtained some benefits. When their injuries recovered, their power would have an obvious improvement.

"For today, scaring the visitor should come second to everything. You should focus on resting, and do not overwork yourselves," Chen Ge told his employees, basically telling them to go easy on the visitors. Even though the employees did not understand why Chen Ge was actively working against his own Haunted House, most of them followed his order.

At 12:30 pm, Xiao Gu and Xu Wan went for a half-hour break each. Most of the visitors also went to have their lunch, and the queue in front of the Haunted House had a sizeable decrease. As the number of visitors decreased, two men walked through the crowd.

One of them had his face covered in bandages while the other stood rigidly upright. The latter wore a suit, and his expression looked quite nervous.

"I'm sorry, but is Boss Chen here?" the man in the suit asked Uncle Xu, who was manning the ticket booth.

"Are you the visitors or families of the visitors?" When Uncle Xu saw the man's bandaged face, his heart skipped a beat, and his first thought was that Chen Ge had created more trouble.

"We're here to work. Boss Chen should have informed you about us, right?"

"Oh, are you the new employees? Okay, please wait here a moment, I'll go give him a call."

Several minutes later, Chen Ge walked out from the Haunted House. He was given quite a shock when he saw his two guests. These two were completely different from how he remembered them.

Half of Scissors' face was covered in bandages. He was lanky and tall, his skin eerily white. He seemed to have lived a life away from the sun for a long time already. The impression that he gave off was not that of a murderer but a man suffering from a serious illness. Whereas the drunkard, Zhang Jingjiu, was the complete opposite of Scissors. After taking a bath and putting on his suit, he looked sunny and approachable, pretty much like those successful figures that were featured on magazine covers.

"Your timing is perfect. Since there aren't that many visitors around now, I'll take you on a tour around the place." Chen Ge welcomed the two into the Haunted House. "By the way, where is the doctor? Did he not come with you?"

“After you left, we exchanged numbers, but for some reason, we’ve been unable to reach the doctor on his phone.” The mention of the doctor caused the expression on Zhang Jingjiu’s face to shift slightly. “I wonder if something happened to him, or could it be something else completely? I purposely went to the address that he gave me, but after asking the nearby neighbor, I found out that was not even where he lives.”

“Meaning the doctor is currently missing?” Chen Ge thought about it before nodding. “It does not matter; I have trust in him. We’ve been through far too much for him to harm us. There has to be a reason for his disappearance.”

Actually, to be fair, Chen Ge did not have faith in the doctor; he had more faith in the judgement of the black phone. The doctor was not a simple character, but at least he did not intend to harm others.

Leading the two employees into the Haunted House, Chen Ge gave them a brief introduction to each scenario. Unlike Xiao Gu and Xu Wan, Chen Ge planned to cultivate them to become full-fledged workers at the Haunted House, instead of having them just looking over a single scenario.

“When we resume working after lunch, I suggest the two of you follow the visitors and experience all of the scenarios in my Haunted House starting from the 1-star scenarios.” Chen Ge used the kindest and friendliest tone to deliver the sentence to Scissors and the drunkard, who still had no idea how cruel it was. “Since you are going to work here in the future, there is no way you can be scared of the things here.”

“Don’t worry, we will try to do our best,” Scissors and the drunkard promised easily. Perhaps from their perspective, since they had survived some place like Li Wan City, what else could possibly scare them in this world?

“Perfect, in that case, you should enjoy yourselves as the visitors this afternoon.” Chen Ge did not arrange a mission for Scissors and the drunkard. He merely told them to follow the other visitors—that was the best way for them to grow.

The lunch break was soon over, and Scissors and the drunkard began the most memorable day of their lives.

Hearing the screams and yells that came from the scenarios, Chen Ge scratched his chin. “They’re still too easily scared, still too unqualified to be Haunted House workers. I’m afraid that before they can scare the visitors, they will be scared witless by their colleagues. However, I need to start using Li Wan City’s scenario soon, so I have to train them as fast as I can.”

While Chen Ge was thinking, Uncle Xu’s voice came in from outside, and Chen Ge immediately jogged out to answer the summons. Uncle Xu stood next to Director Luo at the entrance, and they seemed to have something to tell Chen Ge.

“Director Luo, why have you decided to personally come visit me today?” Chen Ge was surprised. “Is it because the futuristic theme park has launched some kind of new tactic?”

“The futuristic theme park’s people is gearing up for their promotion and launch, but I’m here today to talk to you about something else.” Director Luo waved at Chen Ge, and the two wandered to a more secluded area. “Chen Ge, I’ve been looking through the little app that we designed earlier. I noticed that

quite a number of visitors have cleared the three-star scenario. In fact, some of the visitors are close to clearing all the scenarios at the Haunted House. If this continues, your Haunted House will be completely cleared before the futuristic theme park even opens its door. When that happens, the attraction that the Haunted House has on the visitors will drastically decrease, and with the under-the-table work done by the people from the futuristic theme park, the situation does not look that optimistic for us.”

Director Luo had been in the business for many years. Even though he did not have the appearance, he was actually quite a wily old fox. “The biggest attraction at our theme park thus far is that no one has ever achieved a full clear of your Haunted House, so I hope you can increase the difficulty of all the scenarios. I know this will be a big challenge for you, but currently, we are left with no other choice, and if we are not to surrender, this is the only thing that we can do.”

“Director Luo, you’re here for that?” Chen Ge was surprised that Director Luo’s way of thinking was similar to his. “Don’t worry, I was purposely going easy on the people today.”

“You did that on purpose? But with the number of visitors clearing the scenario increasing, how will that be good for us?” Director Luo had great faith in Chen Ge, but he really could not imagine why he would do something like this.

“Yes, the more people who cleared the three-star scenario, the greater the number of people who could enjoy the scarier, newer scenario. If no one challenges the newly-open scenario, without even hype, it won’t be good for our promotion,” Chen Ge explained in a calm voice.

“A new scenario?” Director Luo grasped the main point of what Chen Ge said immediately. “You have finished building a new scenario?”

“Most of the ideas and material were prepared by my parents, so I merely needed to assemble them. Don’t worry, I guarantee that this new scenario will be scarier than all of our existing scenarios.” Chen Ge looked at Director Luo. Without the need to say anything else, the two shared a mysterious smile.

“Okay, then continue doing what you’re doing. If you need anything, come and tell me. I will try my best to cooperate with you.” Director Luo felt much better, and he left holding the document in his hands.

“With such a boss that will pour everything into theme park, how can the visitors fear for a lack of joy to be found?” Chen Ge returned to the Haunted House. He bustled both above and below ground. While he followed up on Scissors and Zhang Jingjiu’s status, he made sure that nothing happened to the visitors in the scenarios.

At 6:30 pm, the Haunted House sent away the last batch of his visitors. Chen Ge had Xu Wan and Xiao Gu leave first before coming to the steps. Scissors and Zhang Jingjiu were lying weakly on the ground, and their consciousness was flagging.

In reality, they had a clear memory of themselves fainting inside the Haunted House. When they said a silent prayer that they would be given a release from experiencing the Haunted House anymore, they opened their eyes and realized that they were still inside the Haunted House. They glanced at the time on their phone, and it told them only ten minutes had passed since they fainted.

After a few more rounds of torture, they had gotten somewhat desensitized to the scares. Even though their faces were still paper white from the spooks, at least they stopped fainting.

“So, how do you feel?” Chen Ge passed the two bottles of mineral water. He planned to cultivate Scissors and Zhang Jingjiu as employees, so to prevent accidents from happening to them, Chen Ge had purposely asked Doctor Wei’s group to follow them, to provide medical attention whenever necessary.

“I really can’t say. It feels like no matter what kind of trial life throws at me in the future, I can smile in its face and conquer it.” Zhang Jingjiu recovered quite nicely. He tried to twist the cap of the bottle open with his shaking hands, and he failed after multiple tries.

“What about you, Scissors?”

“How come it feels like I was more comfortable in Li Wan City? Perhaps there really is a maniac hiding inside me.” Scissors held his face in his hands. Before going there, he really did not expect Chen Ge’s Haunted House to be so scary. The wounds that were slowly recovering on his face almost bled from the scares.

“Very good, now that you’ve experienced things from the perspective of the visitors, I’m going to bring you to experience everything again from the perspective of the employees.” Chen Ge stood up and pulled over a trolley from the resting hall.

“What? Again?” Scissors and Zhang Jingjiu squeezed together, comrades of fear.

“If you are unable to move, I can push you around with this. Don’t worry, it’s very safe. I’ve been running this place for almost a decade already, and nothing huge has happened yet.”

With the urging from Chen Ge, Scissors and Zhang Jingjiu reentered the Haunted House. However, their visit this time was different from their previous visits. Chen Ge started to teach them how to scare the visitors.

“Haunted House actors have next to no script, so one’s acting skills become even more important. You have to really see yourself as the character you’re playing so that the presence can naturally flow out from you.”

From learning how to pick the best cover to applying mouth-to-mouth resuscitation skills; from leaning how to use the small mechanisms that littered the haunted House to understanding the psychology of a maniac, Scissors and Zhang Jingjiu only then realized how much one needed to know to be a qualified Haunted House worker.

“It is getting late. You should go back home to take a rest. Come earlier tomorrow, and I will arrange some tasks for you to do, to have you really understand the joy and allure of working at a Haunted House.”

Once Scissors and Zhang Jingjiu left, Chen Ge sent them a bonus each. It was counted as the overtime fee.

After a day and night without rest, Chen Ge’s body reached its limit. He set the alarm and collapsed into bed.

At 4 am the next morning, Chen Ge was woken up by his alarm. He picked up the white cat that had crawled to curl beside his pillow from the bed and quickly switched open the black phone.

“3.5-star scenario—Li Wan City completed!

“Warning! The interior space of the Haunted House is full. Please expand as soon as possible!”

“There is a need for another expansion so soon? Just how big is Li Wan City’s scenario?” Chen Ge’s Haunted House had just been upgraded to a Maze of Terror. After another two expansions, it would upgrade to the next stage. “I will leave the expansion until later when it’s more convenient. For now, I should go check out the new scenario.”

The earlier the scenario was open to the public, the better it would be for Chen Ge. He put on his clothes, carried his backpack, and rushed underground. The path that led to Li Wan City was next to Coffin Village. The two scenarios was adjacent to each other, but this new scenario was bigger than Coffin Village and the Third Sick Hall combined.

“There’s a lake for the water ghost and the tunnel that leads to who knows where. Next to it is Coffin Village, and there’s even a hospital and a school down here. This place is coming up to be a perfectly well-functioning underground city.”

Walking down the street, the buildings around Chen Ge grew downward, instead of upward. There were basements, and most of the underground layout was interconnected, forming a maze of its own.

Out of concern for the visitors’ safety, Chen Ge checked all the buildings one by one. Just doing that took more than one hour; the size of this place was truly something to behold.

“But a big place has its advantages. I am free to make this place into anything I wish.” Chen Ge summoned all of his workers and started to modify the scenario. This included taking away objects that were sharp and dangerous. Then, he placed his new ‘trained’ employees into their set location.

“There are three main points of interest—the hotel, hospital, and residential area. Currently, I still have too few ghosts. After the sun rises, I can have Scissors and Zhang Jingjiu fill up the number in here, but other than that, I will need to make another batch of mannequins.”

The scariest thing about the hotel was the hidden room behind the fridge. Unfortunately, the gluttonous woman had been killed already, and a big element of fear had been lost. Chen Ge was trying to figure out a way to salvage that. He planned to recover Li Wan City to an authentic state as much as he could, to create the sense of despair where around every corner lurked a Specter and every turn led to a murderer.

“The other scenarios have less than ten scary points, and I’ve already placed more than that in Li Wan City. With such a high frequency of scares going around, I wonder if the visitors will be able to survive this.” Chen Ge was satisfied with his work at Li Wan City. He worked in there until 8 am. When he entered the scenario, his comic had been bulging with content, but when he left, it was practically blank.

“Yesterday, there were so many people who cleared the three-star scenarios. While their guard is down, there will definitely be many willing volunteers if I release the news that a new 3.5-star scenario is open to the public today. If I’m lucky, I might get some trolls among them; it would be best if there are people sent by the futuristic theme park.”

Leaving the underground scenario, Chen Ge took a cold shower and prepared to start his business. Today was the first day that Scissors and Zhang Jingjiu started their work, and they arrived very early.

“Boss, there’s something that I need to inform you about.” Zhang Jingjiu was still wearing his suit, looking very formal. “I still cannot contact the doctor; it feels as if he has disappeared.”

“I know. For now, let’s not worry about him.” Chen Ge led the two into the dressing room. “There’s no need to stand on ceremony, just treat this as your own home.”

Using the talent that he had gotten from the black phone, Chen Ge demonstrated his great skill in make-up to his two new employees. This surprised Scissors and Zhang Jingjiu—their new boss was truly an all-rounded genius.

“One has to know make-up to operate a Haunted House.” Chen Ge dressed Zhang Jingjiu in the image of the hotel boss from Li Wan City. Then he found the Jack the Ripper apparel in his Props Room and handed it over to Scissors. “Your character will be that of a crazed murderer. I’ve encountered more than ten different maniacs; I’ll jot down their qualities for you later. Hopefully, that will give you some inspiration and help.”

## **Chapter 682: Nameless Town**

After Scissors put on the costume, Chen Ge looked at him and did not feel anything, but Zhang Jingjiu subconsciously moved backward.

“This outfit suits you quite well.” The coat blocked his face, and the bloodied scissors flitted in and out of sight with the movement of the sleeves. From afar, it gave people a strange feeling. He was standing a distance away, but it felt like he was constantly moving closer and would jump at the others at any moment.

“I’ll find you a pair of shoes to change into later. What you’re wearing doesn’t quite match the rest of your outfit.”

Overall, Chen Ge was satisfied with Scissor’s get-up. Unlike Xiao Gu, Scissors had been training at home, watching videos and dramas on how to play the role of a madman. He also had firsthand experience at Li Wan City. Now, in terms of both presence and mannerisms, it was very similar to a real madman.

It was hard to describe in detail, but there was a fear that would form when one was in his presence. After a while, Xu Wan and Xiao Gu arrived.

Inside the dressing room, Chen Ge made the official introduction. “We’re going to be colleagues in the future, so we should help each other. Xu Wan is my most experienced worker, so if you have any questions, you can ask her.”

After putting the make-up on Xiao Gu and Xu Wan, Chen Ge had them enter their scenarios to prepare before going to the main control room to find the walkie-talkie and ear-mics and handing them over to Zhang Jingjiu and Scissors.

“There’s surveillance in the control room, so if there’s an accident, I will give you orders through these devices. Now, you should follow me to enter the scenario.” Chen Ge led them into Li Wan City. Walking

down the street, Scissors and Zhang Jingjiu had a surreal feeling, but based on their trust in Chen Ge, they did not ask too many questions.

“Jingjiu, I need you to stay inside the hotel to play the boss for now. You still need more training in scaring customers, so do not actively engage them unless necessary.” Chen Ge had confidence in his Haunted House, so he knew that those who had managed to clear three-star scenarios would not be easy scares. They were more experienced than his new employees.

“Then what should I be doing?” Zhang Jingjiu rubbed his hands together. It was his first day of work, and he felt like doing something. He was quite excited.

“Just listen to my orders, I will arrange tasks for you to do,” Chen Ge said that and turned to look at Scissors. “Temporarily, you should stay around the residential area. Just be free, but be mindful of these three things. One, do not make any physical contact with the visitors; two, the safety of the visitors is the most important; three, remember to protect yourself.”

“Protect myself?” Scissors had a bad feeling forming in his heart.

After assigning them their roles, Chen Ge exited the underground scenario. He purposely changed into new clothes. He looked clean and sharp, like the sunny big brother from next door.

“Uncle Xu, you sure are early today!” Chen Ge exited the Haunted House and ran into Uncle Xu outside. He greeted the senior worker cheerfully.

“Director Luo said that you might have some new ideas, so he had me come here to assist you as much as I can.” Uncle Xu saw the new get-up on Chen Ge, and for some reason, he felt weirdly unsettled. “Now is the crucial period for the contest between us and the futuristic theme park, so you’d better not do anything that’s too over the line!”

“Don’t worry.” That was all the assurance Chen Ge gave Uncle Xu. Then, he pulled out the wooden board that he had placed at the resting hall. He had used the same board to announce the opening of Coffin Village, and this time, he was going to use it again. “Naming the scenario Li Wan City might cause some dissent with the locals. Perhaps I should leave it nameless, that is quite a catch as well.”

Chen Ge called the new scenario Small Town and leaned the board against the ticket booth. It was simple and to the point, exactly what Chen Ge was known for.

“You’re planning to open a new scenario?” Uncle Xu saw the two words on the board, and he frowned. Chen Ge had been releasing new scenarios too fast for the support team to catch up.

“Yes, it won’t be too scary. You can see it as a kind of buffer—the difficulty is only 3.5-star. The main purpose is to lay the foundation for the later four-star scenarios.” Chen Ge took out his phone and logged into Director Luo’s app with the admin account and released a new announcement.

“New Scenario open to public! When fear soaks into your marrow and nightmare becomes reality, you’ll realize that you are unable to find the way to leave this small town.”

In the few minutes after Chen Ge released the announcement, there were already more than three thousand clicks. Some loyal people even shared the announcement on various sites, and the comments kept coming. With each refresh, the page was covered in new comments.

“Wait! Wasn’t a new scenario released a few days ago? How come I feel like I just came back from your place? Don’t you lie to me!”

“You’re pumping these out like crazy! There’s no time to waste. Secretary Liu, get me a ticket back to the country immediately!”

“This introduction is rather general! I wonder what kind of theme this new scenario will be based on.”

“I will enjoy the demise of you people from the safety of my home.”

“This is an advertisement: Young boys and girls who like to visit the Haunted House, perhaps Jiujiang Medical University is where your future will shine!”

The theme park opened like usual at 9 am. Once the gates opened, many young people rushed toward the Haunted House.

“Whenever I feel the passion on these visitor’s faces, I feel so lucky that I am in such a business.” Chen Ge helped Uncle Xu sell the tickets at the entrance. Most of the visitors that had rushed forward were first time visitors, and they asked to visit the low-level scenarios. They were excited because this was their first time.

Chen Ge’s target was the ‘senior’ visitors who had cleared the three-star scenario. These people were well-trained already. Even if they came earlier, they would not line up so soon. They would instead go to the resting hall to observe the situation.

Even though Chen Ge had been missing from his livestream lately and it had been some time since he last uploaded a video, those who had read through the Haunted House’s info knew who he was.

After all, in the poll set up online for the character that the visitors did not wish to run into inside the Haunted House, the first place winner was not some kind of Specter but Boss Chen. Of course, that was probably a joke.

When they saw Chen Ge selling the tickets outside the Haunted House, they huddled closer to look. They realized that the Chen Ge in their imagination was totally different from the Chen Ge in reality. How could this young man who had a comfortable smile be the character that people were most unwilling to meet inside the Haunted House?

“Please do not push. There are many scenarios, please line up nicely.” Ever since the Haunted House became popular, Director Luo had done many things for Chen Ge. He even set up a series of QR codes for Chen Ge. By scanning them, he could tell what level scenario they could visit. It was very convenient.

By 10 am, the first batch of visitors had finished their tour. The ‘senior’ visitors who were still observing showed signs that they were going to move soon. They finally could not hold it in anymore. They walked out from the resting hall and joined the queue.

“There are quite a few familiar faces today. Is it because the opening of the new scenario?” Nothing escaped Chen Ge’s sight. He maintained the smile on his face, hoping that his new project would be well-received by the visitors.

### **Chapter 683: Not a Normal Adversary**

There were more and more visitors coming to ask Chen Ge about the new scenario, and Chen Ge was willing to share some unimportant information with them. He knew what the visitors were hungry for, and the information that he tossed out was like delicious bait, luring them into taking the challenge.

“Boss Chen, we meet again. How come I feel like you’ve gotten much younger?” The woman who stood before Chen Ge had her hair cropped short, and her tomboyish apparel made her look even more stylish than the guys. However, her voluptuous figure did not diminish her feminine charm either.

“That might work on middle-aged uncles—do I look that old to you?” The woman could be counted as Chen Ge’s friend. Her name was Ye Xiaoxin, a blogger that specialized in reviewing Haunted Houses. She had more than a million followers. When the people from Tian Teng Medical Hospital came to visit, she had joined their group, and after she exited, she had practically closed in on herself on the spot.

“I would never waste time on ingratiating words; I really do think you look much younger.” Ye Xiaoxin took out her phone. “Give me a ticket to the underground morgue. I plan to review that scenario today.”

“The underground morgue?” Chen Ge did not hide the disappointment on his face. “Aren’t you going to consider challenging my new scenario? It’s fun.”

“No thanks, I’ll wait for the guide to show up online first.” Ye Xiaoxin tossed her hair back handsome. Then, as if reminded of something, she added, “By the way, there is a group online purposely gathering and sharing the pictures of the scenarios inside your Haunted House. Are you sure that you don’t want to do something about that? I have a feeling this a concerted attack against you.”

“It’ll be fine. I see it as free advertisement.” Chen Ge had Tong Tong’s help, but since there were too many scenarios, Tong Tong could not handle too many things, and of course, this also had something to do with Chen Ge purposely going easy on the visitors.

The Haunted House was rapidly expanding, and there would be a horrible match with the futuristic theme park in the future. Before the results were out, popularity was crucial to Chen Ge. After all, if he wanted to stop these activities, it would not be too difficult on the account of his employees being different from others.

“Just be careful. If people can’t take you down from the front, they might do something from the back.” Ye Xiaoxin lowered her voice. “When I was queuing up earlier, I saw this man at the resting hall, be careful of him.”

Ye Xiaoxin searched through her phone and showed Chen Ge a picture. The picture showed a man wearing a large coat. Even though the sun was blazing, he did not seem to feel the heat. He was talking on the phone with a smile on his face.

“He looks so educated and polite, nothing like a bad guy.”

“Don’t be tricked by his appearance. If you visit the Haunted House-related forums, you’ll realize that the man is on many Haunted House’s blacklists.” Ye Xiaoxin stood to the side so that she would not block the line. “He’s not a normal visitor—there’s something wrong with his mind. He’s a creeper, and the strangest thing is that he prefers to expose himself to others inside a Haunted House. He has made a few female actors inside the Haunted House weep from his actions already.”

“He’s that horrible of a man?”

“Yes, he was even detained several times for his actions, but he doesn’t seem to change.” Ye Xiaoxin sighed. “He understood the rules placed on the Haunted House actors. He knew they could not hit him. He also would not interact physically with them; he would only flash his parts at them to satisfy his perverted desire. The man is clever in a way; he only did his deed in corners hidden away from surveillance. The time that he was detained was because he went so much over the time that the other visitors on the same tour couldn’t resist beating him up.”

“Such people need education, a deep and serious education.” Employees could not do anything, but other visitors could. In any case, Chen Ge saw many solutions to this problem.

“That’s all, I suppose. Be careful, I’ll be going in now.” Ye Xiaoxin followed the rest into the Haunted House. Chen Ge used his Yin Yang Vision to glance toward the resting hall. The man was still on the phone, but Chen Ge noticed that when he was talking, the man’s eyes kept darting about like he was searching for something.

With him as the center, Chen Ge looked around, and he noticed that in the blind spot of the man’s gaze, there was another man on the phone. This man had on a large hat, and his skin was white. He appeared rather soft and feminine.

“He has a partner?” Just as Chen Ge turned to look at that man, the man in the coat hung up and walked out from the hall. Coincidentally enough, so did the other man, accompanied by another three individuals.

The five started to queue. One stood at the front of the line, one at the back and the others at the middle; for all appearances, they did not seem like they knew each other.

“Are they from the futuristic theme park?” However, Chen Ge felt like he had left a deep enough emotional scar on the people from the other theme park that they would not return so soon. Chen Ge paid them special attention. After the three barged into the queue, there was sudden chaos. Three people started to move and gather together. “They came prepared!”

Chaos erupted, and this caused annoyance among the other visitors. One of them yelled directly and angrily, “Why are you cutting the line? Get back!”

He was being very loud and attracted everyone’s attention immediately. The one who spoke was a middle-aged man around 1.5 meters tall. His appearance did not match his temper at all.

“Mr. Shinozaki, please calm down. We’re here to seek inspiration—there’s no need to get into an argument with others.” A woman in her twenties stood next to the middle-aged man; she appeared to be his assistant. The woman seemed used to the man’s explosion, and she apologized to the neighboring visitors.

“Shinozaki? A foreigner?” Before Chen Ge could say anything, the man called Shinozaki started to get into a fight while speaking fluent Chinese. Handing the ticket-selling job over to Uncle Xu, Chen Ge quickly ran over to break up the fight. “Please stop fighting. Who cut in the line earlier?”

Seeing the operator walk over, both parties stopped arguing.

"It was him! He was the line-cutter. I'm telling you, if we're not in a lawful society, I would have punched him in the face already, such lawlessness." The middle-aged man was quite a firecracker.

"Understood." Chen Ge turned to the line-cutter. He stood next to the man with the large cap. Obviously, they were partners. "If you wish to visit my Haunted House, I will need all of you to get to the back of the line and follow the rules accordingly."

Chen Ge left no room for negotiation. The man was obviously not satisfied with this arrangement, but with the persuasion from his friends, he obediently moved to the back of the line.

"Okay, everything's fine now." Chen Ge stayed at the back of the line. For some reason, the middle-aged man felt like he had been ignored and felt a certain way about it. He yelled at Chen Ge, "There's such a long line on such a hot day. Don't you have a VIP lane or something? I'll pay extra!"

"I'm sorry, but I treat all my visitors the same."

"Great! A principled man! Then I shall leave! Everyone's working against me!" For a reason that eluded Chen Ge, the man was angered and turned to leave.

"Wait a minute, Mr. Shinozaki! This haunted House is really unique! We're already here, so we should at least go in for a visit!" The young female assistant tried to stop the man, and then she ran to beg Chen Ge. "Boss, can you make an exception for us?"

The woman looked at Chen Ge with her pleading eyes. "Mr. Shinozaki is a comic artist. He has been lacking inspiration for the past few months, and his temper has worsened because of that. He isn't normally like this."

"A comic artist? Is he famous? How come I haven't heard of his name before?" Chen Ge was instantly reminded of Yan Danian. Perhaps he could use this chance to fulfil Yan Danian's wishes.

The assistant's face flushed. "Mr. Shinozaki bases himself overseas, and he is famed in the industry, but over the past few years, he has started to change his style! In any case, he's a very powerful man!"

Chen Ge nodded and purposely said in a raised voice, "If you don't want to line up, there's only one choice. I just opened a new scenario, and those who wish to visit it can skip the line and join me now."

"A new scenario?" The woman did not dare to make the decision, so she turned to look at the man.

"I just praised you for your principles earlier, but you changed your mind once you heard my name. Fine, I'll give you a chance to impress me today." The middle-aged man walked over leisurely. "The new scenario it is!"

Seeing the middle-aged man jumping the queue, a man stood out from the back of the line. "I wish to visit this new scenario as well."

The man was wearing a coat. The temperature was high, and there was no air-conditioning. His head was pouring with sweat like he was burning. Hearing his voice, the other people in his group wanted to stop him, but it was already too late.

"Okay, come in with me then. Is there anyone else?" Chen Ge accepted his volunteer quickly and took his money, so they had no chance to regret his decision.

The others in the group slowly shuffled out. Chen Ge had Uncle Xu give them the tickets while he used his phone to search for Shinozaki's info online.

The man was not a foreigner—he merely had a foreign-sounding name. However, it was true that he was based overseas. His fans called him the Walking Mosaic 1 and the Father of Saint Light 1.

*Footnotes:*

#### **Ch 683 Footnote 1**

This is referring to how mosaic is often used to censor sensitive parts in erotic comics.

#### **Ch 683 Footnote 2**

Holy Light or Saint Light is more common in erotic animations. When an animated character undresses or is naked, instead of mosaic, light or smoke is used to block key parts. Therefore, animation fans call it the Saint Light.

#### **Chapter 684: Jack the Ripper and Doctor Skull Cracker [2 in 1]**

The artist's pen name was Shinozaki Daisen, and he was very famous overseas. However, few people knew anything about his real name. Chen Ge looked through the search results for a long time before landing on something relevant. Someone who called him Shinozaki's landlord was airing the goods.

He claimed that he had seen Shinozaki's identification card before. This comic artist who was very famous overseas actually had a very local name. He was apparently born as Lee Baofu.

"Shinozaki Daisen and Lee Baofu, it is very hard to imagine that they might be the same person." Chen Ge turned to glance at the Haunted House's entrance. Shinozaki was in a staring contest with the man in the trench coat—they both sensed something unusual about the other person.

There were currently seven people inside the Haunted House's gates. Shinozaki and his female assistant stood on the left side while the man in the trench coat stood alone on the right. The remaining four came together, but they stood in groups of two, pretending like they did not know each other.

"Li Wan City is very big. Even if seven people enter it, I doubt it will raise the smallest of ripple." If these were visitors that had been through the experience of three-star scenario, Chen Ge might have sent them in just like that, but these few were all newcomers. It was one thing for the group to have a negative purpose for being there, but Shinozaki and his female assistant were completely innocent. Chen Ge was a kind-hearted person. He was not going to give them hell simply because they looked down on his Haunted House and claimed that his scenarios were not going to be scary.

After giving it some thought, Chen Ge walked to the gathered group of seven. "The new scenario takes up a large amount of space—it is meant to be challenged by a group of ten. After we get another three people, then we will start the tour."

"The fewer people we have, the more fun it will be. Seven people is more than enough." The man in the trench coat had been beaten up by visitors before. He was not worried about the actors. Instead, he was worried that other visitors might ruin his plan.

“Yes, if there’s ten of us, it’ll only be too noisy and cramped. What’s the point of that?” Shinozaki offered his opinion as well. Due to his temper, there was a lack of filter to his words. The things that came to his mind were the words that escaped his lips.

“I advise you all to practice some patience—the boss is only looking out for you.” There was a young man who spoke from the crowd. The man’s voice was very familiar to Chen Ge. He turned to the direction of the voice and saw Yang Chen frowning as he read the wooden board next to the ticket booth.

“Are you not going to class but coming to my place every day now?” Probably due to the presence of the underground morgue, whenever Chen Ge saw the students from Jiujiang Medical University, he felt so close to them.

Yang Chen was slightly afraid of Chen Ge. When he heard Chen Ge’s voice, he shuffled backward subconsciously. “I still haven’t cleared the underground morgue, so there is no way I am going to attempt a new scenario, so don’t you go making any ideas!”

“Xiao Yang, why would you say something like that? Did you forget the promotional coupons that I gave you?” Chen Ge raised his phone, and the introduction for the new scenario was on the screen. “Are you sure you don’t want to challenge this? Based on my challenge, the people from your school are only missing the underground morgue to have a full clear. After clearing the underground morgue and, of course, this new scenario, the cash prize of 200,000 will be yours. You know that I am a man of my word. I will never go back on my promise. If you clear this scenario, I will hand you the cash prize on the spot.”

The scenarios that were challenged by Jiujiang Medical School would become popular on the internet. In Chen Ge’s eyes, these students were no different from his mascot or lucky charm.

“Just count me out, but I did bring a few people for you today.” Yang Chen turned back and waved. Two guys and a girl walked out from the crowd. The one who walked in front was Wang Dan. Chen Ge had met him before. He was the young man who had accompanied Yang Chen when they challenged Mu Yang High School and the underground morgue.

The boy and girl at the back were happily chatting. The girl wore a loose-fitting t-shirt that showed off her shoulders and a pair of white shorts. It showed off her sexiness and sweetness, accenting the assets that she possessed for a young woman of her age.

The young man was much taller than Wang Dan and had much more defined muscles on his body. He was not overly dressed, but every single article of clothing was branded. He appeared much more impressive than Wang Dan, who seemed to have faded into the background.

“I’m sure you remember my buddy, Wang Dan. The girl behind him is his girlfriend. The male is a student studying Sports and Health at Jiujiang’s Teacher-training Institute. He is also Wang Dan’s girlfriend’s high school friend.” Yang Chen leaned in closer to whisper to Chen Ge, “Apparently, he was voted their high school’s most handsome student.”

“That is Wang Dan’s girlfriend? If you didn’t tell me, I really would not have known.” Chen Ge suddenly realized something. “But wait a minute, why are you telling me all this?”

Yang Chen kept winking and making signs at Chen Ge, and it tickled the latter quite a bit. Before he could react, Wang Dan and the other two had already walked over. "Give me three tickets for the new scenario."

It was clear that Wang Dan was not in a good mood. His voice sounded quite lethargic and defeated.

"Are you sure? The new scenario is very scary. I advise you to not act too recklessly."

"It's fine. I have already challenged so many three-star scenarios already. This new scenario will be a piece of cake for me."

"Okay then. If anything, I feel much better to I have an experienced visitor like yourself accompanying the rest of the visitors." Chen Ge gave the three a ticket each. Then he led them into the Haunted House. "The pens are on the table. Please sign this disclaimer form."

The ten visitors squeezed into the corridor, and it was quite cramped. There were a limited number of pens on the table, so there was some waiting. The man in the trench coat was understandably annoyed. "Is there a need for this? I've visited many Haunted Houses before, and I have never encountered one that went to such an extent."

"That's right. You're making a visit to a Haunted House out to be something like a bungee jump. I'm sure this is nothing more than a trick to create psychological pressure," the student who was covered in branded clothes and shining like a sun said casually. He stood next to Wang Dan's girlfriend and continued to tell the stories about the time he went snorkeling and bungee-jumping. Compared to Haunted Houses, obviously snorkeling and bungee-jumping worked better at attracting girl's attention. Wang Dan's girlfriend hung on his every word and would nod and concur at regular intervals.

"You shouldn't say things like that. This is your first visit to a Haunted House; I advise you to be more cautious with your words." Wang Dan passed the pen that he was holding to the man.

"Thank you." The male student shrugged and signed his name before placing the form on the table.

"Zhang Feng?" Chen Ge read the name on the form and put it carefully away. "You voluntarily signed your name, and I did not force you to do it. I need to make sure that you understand that you are voluntarily entering this Haunted House and are not compelled to do it."

When he heard that this was Zhang Feng's first time visiting a Haunted House, his first challenge being Chen Ge's 3.5-star scenario, that was something that could not be described as seeking death anymore.

"Are you kidding?"

"There is still time for you to bow out now." Chen Ge tried to convince the young man.

"Do you really need to do all this just for a Haunted House visit? You're doing a bit too much. A written form might be just enough, but now you're just being annoying." Zhang Feng regarded Chen Ge's advice with condescension and turned back to chat with Wang Dan's girlfriend.

Since the young man refused to take his advice, Chen Ge could do nothing about it. He put the other people's disclaimer forms away. After making sure that there were no problems, he briefed the visitors about the unique way to enjoy Li Wan City.

“This new scenario is called the Nameless Small Town; it is made up from multiple ghost stories. It spans a very large area, and you are free to do anything you want. After you enter, I will close the path to the small town, and the way to leave will be hidden inside the scenario.

“You need to find the hidden clues while being pursued by murderers and Specters. There are thirty-two clues hidden in this scenario, and they correspond to thirty-two different endings.”

At this point, Chen Ge raised four fingers.

“Since you are the first batch of visitor to experience this scenario, I can provide you with the locations for four of the clues.

“The first clue is hidden inside a water vat in one of the rooms. There is a phone that you can use to communicate with a ghost.

“The second clue is hidden inside a residential home. You will not believe what kind of strange creatures are hidden there at such an unassuming location.

“The third clue is hidden inside an apartment, a music box that will cry on its own.

“The fourth clue is hidden with the boss of the hotel. You can go find him, and he will give you some information.

“Of course, these four clues that I have given you are merely a very small part of the scenario. Feel free to go look for the other clues and find the way to escape this place.”

Chen Ge only gave these four clues because these were the four that were already ready. The thirty-two clues were something that he imagined the scenario could be like, and he was still setting up the rest.

“Thirty-two clues?” Of the four line-cutters, one did not quite believe what Chen Ge said, but he kept his suspicion mostly to himself and did not say any more.

“A completely open Haunted House with unrivalled freedom, here you can enjoy the ultimate experience that you will not get anywhere else.” Chen Ge held onto all the forms and led the group to the door that led underground. “One last piece of advice, after you head in, walk toward the light, and do not wander off on your own.”

“Your acting skills do deserve praise, but in any case, we know all of this already.” Perhaps it was a lack of confidence or some other reason, but the man in the trench coat grumbled softly.

“Each of your choices will lead to a different result; you will see what I mean after you enter the scenario.” Chen Ge opened the Screaming Door, and an extremely cold draft rushed out from the yawning maw. The temperature dropped instantly, and some of the visitors shivered involuntarily.

“Come on, I’ll bring you to the entrance.” Chen Ge walked at the front of the group. He strolled down the creepy path and arrived at the path that led into Li Wan City. A large iron door that was painted black appeared before them. On this side of the door, they could still hear the other visitors screaming and running, but on the other side, it was completely quiet like no living humans had ever stepped on the other side.

“The time for the tour is forty minutes. If you wish to give up, just stand where you are and scream for help. Our workers will come fetch you as soon as possible.” After sending all the visitors into Li Wan City, Chen Ge locked the iron door.

The sound of chains grinding against the door was cutting and sharp. Chen Ge glanced at the ten visitors before him, and the corners of his lips curved upward. “I hope you enjoy this experience.”

He turned to walk out from the underground scenarios and enter the main control room. He changed the background music for Li Wan City to a normal track. There were too many newcomers, so Chen Ge believed that just the scenario alone would be enough to give them a scare.

After he was done, Chen Ge returned to the entrance to sell tickets. After some time, Ye Xiaoxin finished her tour, and she walked out from the Haunted House. The girl’s back was covered in sweat, and her forehead was drenched in cold sweat.

“So, how was your visit?” Chen Ge walked over to greet her.

“No matter how many times I visit this place, there is a sense of authenticity that cannot be shaken. The fear strikes right at your heart; it feels as if the thing that I’ve experienced here is a reflection of real life.” Ye Xiaoxin gave her honest opinion. “I really have no idea how you manage to come up with all these designs—they are seriously horrifying.”

“If they’re not horrifying, how can I call this a Haunted House?” Chen Ge replied with a smile.

“By the way, there is something else that I wish to inform you.” Ye Xiaoxin took out her phone. “Earlier, one of my fans private messaged me, telling me that the largest Haunted House at Xin Hai will be coming to learn from your Haunted House.”

“The Haunted House at Xin Hai?”

“Yes, I hear they’re going out of business, so they wish to come to learn your secret.”

Ye Xiaoxin showed the Haunted House’s information to Chen Ge. Chen Ge did not mind it that much at the beginning, but after a swift glance, he felt something looked curiously familiar. “Wait, can you show me their group picture again?”

Chen Ge zoomed in on the picture, and he realized with a shock that the picture that Ye Xiaoxin showed him contained someone that he was quite familiar with. The soft features and small eyes, this man was currently inside his Haunted House!

“I’ve met this man before. He just entered the Haunted House with that creep.”

“What? That’s impossible!” Ye Xiaoxin was shocked.

“The creep is on many Haunted Houses’ blacklists, but that should be a fact limited to those who frequent Haunted House forums. I can’t shake the feeling that there is something wrong about this.” Chen Ge returned the phone back to Ye Xiaoxin. “Excuse me for a moment.”

Bidding farewell to the reviewer, Chen Ge returned to the main control room to check the surveillance at the Haunted House’s entrance. After some comparison, Chen Ge’s suspicion was confirmed.

*The four obviously knew each other. They have tricked a creep to come to my Haunted House, what are they up to? Could they be here on the futuristic theme park's behalf?*

With the change to the situation, Chen Ge thought about it and decided to change the music back to Wedding Dress and Black Friday.

*Since you're here to learn, then I will definitely not keep my secrets from you. I wouldn't want to be called stingy now, would I?*

He walked out from the main control room, and Chen Ge entered the dressing room to put make-up on himself. Then he took out a costume from the Ghost's Changing Room. He contacted Xiao Gu through the worker's path and put on the Doctor Skull-cracker's costume that Xiao Gu had removed.

*They will never expect two different murderers, will they?*

The shackles dragged on the ground, and Chen Ge put on the human skin mask, held the hammer in one hand, and returned to Li Wan City.

*Since I have friends coming from so far, I can't let them leave without first having some fun, can I?*

...

Once the door to Li Wan City closed, the temperature dropped even lower. Silence, fear, and an indescribable terror washed over them like a wave. No one spoke, and the visitors could even hear each other's heartbeat.

"There is not even a sign board or something? He just dropped us here like that?" Shinozaki himself did not even realize that his voice had dropped lower.

"It has always been like this for Boss Chen's Haunted House. He has his own way that is different from the other Haunted Houses on the market." Wang Dan's tone was unfriendly. He walked to the front of the group and said, "I've cleared three-star scenarios before, but is there anyone here who can claim the same? Only by working together do we have a chance of clearing the mission."

"Have you been brainwashed by the Haunted House? You sound as dumb as that boss earlier," one of the men who followed the feminine guy said. "Who gave him the right to decide the terror level of a scenario inside a Haunted House? If anything, his Haunted House is merely slightly more popular in Jiujiang."

"The reason he splits the scenarios into different levels is actually to keep on earning money from repeat customers like you. We attempted something like this years ago." The other person stretched lazily, and he took out his phone like he was preparing to send message to someone else.

"It is my advice that you do not use your phone inside the Haunted House." Wang Dan looked at the man seriously. "Everyone who uses their phone inside this Haunted House ends up in the worst state and will only burden the rest of the teammates."

"You're an actor hired by the Haunted House, aren't you? Or is there something wrong with your brain?" The man did not care and turned away from Wang Dan.

Wang Dan wanted to say something else, but he was stopped by his girlfriend. His girlfriend seemed to think that the way he was acting was quite embarrassing.

## Chapter 685: Splitting Up

Seeing how no one was taking him seriously, Wang Dan's brows were creased deeply. He knew very well that any visitors who had entered Boss Chen's Haunted House before would not say anything so 'naïve'.

"Is this the first visit to this Haunted House for all of you?" Wang Dan had a bad feeling in his heart.

"Mr. Shinozaki and I have just returned to the country. He is attempting to change his style, to challenge a new type of serial comic, so we're here at the Haunted House to seek inspiration," the female assistant said softly. She was not that courageous. Even though they had not yet officially entered the scenario, her voice had already started to shake. "We saw how high the rating is for this Haunted House online, so we came over here once we got off the plane. Are there any other things that we should have done before attempting the Haunted Houses in the country?"

"Don't listen to his rambling. The only reason this Haunted House is so high on the internet is due to the hype of a bunch of plebs. The only thing the boss is good at is advertisement and promotion," the man who walked in with the feminine man said. "Compared to people like us who poured all of our energy into creating a Haunted House, coming up with our scripts seriously and designing the many mechanisms for the Haunted House, the man by the name of Chen is at most a very good businessman."

"A businessman?" Wang Dan almost had his head blown off from how angry he was. He wanted to clamp his hand over the man's mouth. If Chen Ge happened to hear what he had just said, the difficulty of the scenario would be raised to an impossible level.

"He is only capable of tricking innocent students like yourself. For us who have been in the business for years, this is nothing new. Hell, his tricks are all outdated if I am being serious."

The man wanted to say something else, but he was stopped by the feminine man. "Stop saying things like that. It won't leave a good impression if we're overheard by the actors at this Haunted House. People might get the idea that we're purposely here to create trouble."

Even with his temper, Shinozaki had the experience of age on his side, so he picked up the issue immediately. "Are you all Haunted House operators?"

He soon understood that this was a competition between people from the same field. He did not have a good impression of these few line-cutters.

"The three of us are the employees from the biggest Haunted House in Xin Hai—Nightmare Academy. We've been in the business for seven years already. We were the earliest people on the market to commit ourselves into a physical Haunted House business."

The three made a simple introduction. The man with the brashest attitude was called Wei Jinyuan. He was the youngest script designer at Nightmare Academy. His main job scope was to come up with scary stories as well as mechanisms and plots to go along with them. The smallest of them, the one who had an altercation with Shinozaki earlier, was Li Jiu. He looked fragile and weak. His main responsibility was

making the props for Nightmare Academy. He was gifted with a pair of skillful hands and could work various tools.

The final one, the man with the feminine features, was called Lee Changyin, with the nickname Cold Guy. He was a reticent fella but was the most-praised actor at Nightmare academy. He was one of the core members of the Xin Hai Haunted House. He did not appear that old, but he was the most senior of the three of them.

“Wait, didn’t the four of you come together?” Wang Dan saw the other man squeezed together with the three employees from Nightmare Academy, and he assumed that he too was one of the employees.

“He is one of Xin Hai’s biggest live-streamers. He is very famous online, at least much more famous than this Haunted House’s boss. Rather, I should say, they are not even on the same level.”

Wei Jinyuan wanted to continue the introduction, but the host frowned. “If you wish to continue wasting time chatting, then go ahead, but I’ll be heading in first.”

The man finished talking, and he grabbed his bag and walked alone into the scenario. The man seemed to be very courageous.

“Hey!” Seeing how the male host had wandered ahead, Wang Dan quickly ran over. “Do not wander off on your own. Also, I am not kidding, do not think about starting a livestream here—you will harm all of us.”

The host did not even attempt to acknowledge Wang Dan’s presence. His eyes scanned the surroundings, already wondering how many viewers he would get from starting a livestream there. The host was familiar with Chen Ge’s Haunted House’s popularity online. If he livestreamed inside the Haunted House in a new scenario, the livestream would explode. Whether it would expose the interior of the Haunted House or affect Chen Ge’s business, that was definitely not part of his concern.

After coming to understand the host’s attitude, Wang Dan felt his scalp go numb. Just kind of teammate had he found himself tied to this time?

It was one thing that everyone was a newbie, but more importantly, none of them wished to listen to his advice for self-preservation. It was fine if they wanted to die on their own, but the way that they were acting was going to harm him as well.

“If you want to do thing like this, then go ahead. I’m not going to do this anymore,” Wang Dan said and grabbed his girlfriend to leave.

“Wang Da, what are you doing?” His girlfriend thought that he was being unreasonable. “Let me go!”

“It’s fine if we want to visit a new scenario, but going in with them is definitely not a good idea. I plan to quit.” The reason Wang Dan had come to the Haunted House was to vent his displeasure and to embarrass his girlfriend’s high school friend, but now, the situation had changed. He was going to walk into an endless abyss. Once he fell, there was no getting back up.

“Are all the medical students so cowardly?” the male student mocked. “And I thought that you guys would be braver considering that you come into contact with dead bodies so often. It looks like I was mistaken.”

Hearing that, Wang Dan was so angry that his face turned green. However, he did not know where to unload his grievance. Gritting his teeth, he huffed and allowed his anger to take over. He walked back and said, "Fine, then we'll continue this tour."

"Don't force yourself now. I hear that some might wet their pants during Haunted House visit," the sports student joked, thinking he was being funny.

"That won't happen." Wang Dan sighed softly. He knew how things work here. He would be unconscious before his bladder had the chance to work.

"It's be fine. Don't mind him," Wang Dan's girlfriend said soothingly, and he finally quieted down. He tried to gather his emotions, but as he scanned his teammates, a cold hole opened up inside his heart. There was none that he could trust.

"There is only forty minutes to the tour; we should enjoy this." Wei Jinyuan walked next to the male host. "If you're scared, you can come with us, but it might be boring. I am used to analyzing things from a professional angle. In our eyes, as real Haunted House creators, all the secrets and traps are revealed without a trace. For example, this window here..."

Wei Jinyuan pointed at the glass window a few meters ahead. "The window is left unlocked, and the glass is purposely left shattered. When we walk past it, something scary will pop out from inside. If you don't believe me, you just wait and see."

Wei Jinyuan slid quietly to stand next to the window. He pointed at the window beside him and then jumped up and poked his head into the window. If an actor was hiding inside the window, they would be scared by him.

"Jinyuan, stop joking! If you accidentally scare their workers, they will just blame it on us." Lee Jiu tried to stop him, but Wei Jinyuan did not reply. He was leaning on the window, with his upper body reaching into the room. He was not moving like his body was captured by something or someone.

"Wei Jinyuan?" Lee Jiu jogged over with a frown. He patted Wei Jinyuan on his back. "What are you looking at?"

"Shush, be quiet. I saw an actor running away to hide earlier. I seemed to have spooked her." Wei Jinyuan yelled into the room with a cheery voice, "You can come out now; I've already seen you."

When Shinozaki and the female assistant heard that, they also ran over. However, the room was empty, and there was no one there.

"But it's an empty room, right?" Goosebumps crawled on the assistant's arm. "Are you sure you're not mistaken?"

"It only looks like an empty room. There's hidden pathway in there—they are the routes used by the actors. The person that I saw earlier probably is now cowering in the pathway, too afraid to come out." Wei Jinyuan scratched his neck and continued to move forward. "There are only so many methods to scare someone. It's simple if you want to clear this scenario, just stick to us closely!"

Wei Jinyuan and Lee Jiu walked down the narrow street, and they kept scratching their necks.

“Mr. Shinozaki, should we follow them?” the female assistant suggested. “With more people around, it feels safer.”

Shinozaki nodded absently, and he kept staring at Wei Jinyuan’s neck. “Xiao Xia, look at his neck. Do you see a birthmark there? It looks like a person’s palm print...”

“Birthmark?” The assistant did not have that sharp an eye, and she rarely paid attention to these things. “I’m not sure, but this is someone’s privacy, so you shouldn’t go and ask the man about it!”

“Of course, do you think I’m some kind of unruly kid?”

“Which adult would use a pen name like yours though?” the woman grumbled softly before running to catch up to Wei Jinyuan. The team was stretched apart. The three from Nightmare Academy and the host walked at the front, Shinozaki and the female assistant were at the middle, while Wang Dan’s group was at the back. The man in the trench coat stood alone by the earlier window, like he was looking for something.

“It’s time to go,” Wang Dan reminded the man out of kindness. The man shrugged him off like he thought that Wang Dan was in his way.

“I really do not understand what these people are thinking.” Wang Dan took in a deep breath. As he watched the other visitors wander away, he suppressed the anxiety in his heart and moved to chase after them.

After Wang Dan’s group joined the rest, Wei Jinyuan stopped. “The boss gave us four clues to follow before we entered the scenario. Each clue corresponds to a method to escape. There are ten of us. Moving in a group is a waste of time, and it is very inefficient, so I suggest we split into two groups to explore. What do the rest of you think?”

### **Chapter 686: Something Doesn’t Feel Right**

“The road splits before us, and the four clues must be arranged along the different routes. After splitting into two groups, one team will go to the left and the other to the right. We will maintain contact through our phones and keep each other updated constantly.” Wei Jinyuan quickly assumed the role of the leader—he had real experience designing a Haunted House to back his confidence up. “The interior of the Haunted House wouldn’t be wasted on pointless buildings. Every single building here might be hiding the actors or hidden traps. Just stay close behind me, and do not touch anything inside the building.”

“How about you and Cold Guy lead one team while the host and I go down the other path?” Lee Jiu glanced at Wei Jinyuan. For some reason, he felt that something was off about the man.

“No problem, it’s decided then.” Wei Jinyuan did not even ask for the other visitors’ opinion; it was like his words were the law once they were inside the Haunted House. “You guys are lucky to have run into us.”

“Okay.” The female assistant led Shinozaki and walked over to Wei Jinyuan’s side. “We are visiting a Haunted House back in this country for the first time, so there’re plenty of things we do not understand. Sorry for the trouble.”

Shinozaki did not say anything. However, it did look like there was something on his mind. The female assistant knew how strange his personality was, and since he did get into an argument with Wei Jinyuan earlier, she believed that this was because he felt awkward from being placed into the man’s hands. Either way, she did not ask Shinozaki about it.

“Okay then, the four of us will go ahead.” Wei Jinyuan raised his phone. “Meet you at the exit.”

“Okay.” Lee Jian watched as the other group walked down the left street. He turned to the right. “We have our own business to have come to this Haunted House. If you’re willing, then just follow us. However, if you think we’re not trustworthy, feel free to leave.”

Lee Jiu had a bad attitude toward Wang Dan; he did not like the young man.

“In that case, I’d rather they follow me, and we’ll go our own way.” Wang Dan planned to leave with his girlfriend, but his girlfriend thought that it was safer to stick with Lee Jiu. The two had an altercation, and it was Wang Dan who was isolated. There was no other option. Even though Wang Dan was not a cowardly man, he still would not dare to wander around a 3.5-star scenario alone.

“See, isn’t this better? People have to say some strange things to show off. Doesn’t he realize how childish that looks?” The other male student did not mention any names, and he made it sound like he was talking to himself, but everyone knew who he was referring to.

“Childish?” Wang Dan lifted his head to look at the man, and his first reaction was to argue. The words were already on his lips, but suddenly, he realized that everyone, including his girlfriend, sided against him, and they also thought that he was being childish.

If that was the case, arguing would only make him look worse. Wang Dan cleverly shut his mouth. He might have been childish before this, but with the training from Chen Ge’s Haunted House, he was no longer the reckless young man that he had once been. As if coming to a decision, Wang Dan followed obediently behind Lee Jiu, acting like he had finally surrendered.

“We should have done this a long time ago. Why make it appear like a visit to the Haunted House is so difficult?” The male student stayed at the back of the group with Wang Dan’s girlfriend, and the five of them walked down the street on the right.

After the two groups separated and left, a faded mist rolled out onto the street, and a shadow walked through it.

...

When it was a group of ten, the street had felt crowded, but once half were missing, the area suddenly felt so open.

“There’s no background introduction, no plot, not even a signboard—it is truly a miracle for this Haunted House to have survived until now.” Wei Jinyuan really could not understand how a horrible Haunted House like Chen Ge’s could get so popular.

“Perhaps the visitors are drawn in by the freshness. After all, there are not many Haunted Houses on the market that provide such a large amount of freedom.” Lee Changyin touched the wall of the buildings by the street. “However, there are strange things about this place too. I’ve taken a rough look, and all the buildings here are a perfect replica of the ones outside. The materials are bricks and cement, and they lend the place an air of authenticity.”

“Isn’t it going to be complicated when he needs to remove these decorations if he doesn’t use plastic and wood? Or does he plan to keep this scenario for life? Haunted House visitors always prefer the new over the old, and they will be bored of a scenario after playing it once. It is such a waste of money to build with cement.”

Wei Jinyuan shook his head. “There’s no comparison. He has the whole New Century Park giving him support and providing him with the budget. We, on the other hand, have to depend on ourselves.”

He seemed to have a different meaning behind his words. He seemed to be testing Lee Changyin as he added, “Didn’t the people from the futuristic park come to meet our boss recently? How did their negotiation go? Do you think we have a chance of opening a branch at the futuristic theme park in the future?”

“They have a different ideology from us; they do not plan to open a physical Haunted House. Contacting our boss was merely to get us to provide them with our experience and scripts. After all, they do not have anyone with them that specializes in producing a Haunted House.” After Lee Changyin said that, Wei Jinyuan’s mind started to work.

The number of visitors going to Nightmare Academy was dropping day by day, and there were so many negative reviews on the internet. The pay for the employees came from the share of the tickets, so without any visitors, they had no pay. From how Wei Jinyuan saw it, instead of staying at Nightmare Academy, why not jump over to the futuristic theme park? They needed someone who had the expertise in designing a Haunted House, and he could provide that.

“Looks like I’ll have to work hard today.” Only by proving his value would he be able to gain a better hand when negotiating with them.

Seeing the rise in his colleague’s passion, Lee Changyin merely twitched his lips. Perhaps because he had been an actor inside a Haunted House for too long, his every single motion was strange and inscrutable. In any case, he was different from a normal person, but it was hard to pinpoint what the difference was.

The female assistant had been walking next to Lee Changyin. She accidentally glanced at the man’s expression earlier, and she subconsciously slowed down like she was scared.

Wei Jinyuan noticed this, and he said in an attempt to console her, “Gorgeous, Cold Guy is our Haunted House’s most professional actor. If you have a chance, you should come to visit us. He will show you the true meaning of terror.”

“Thank you.” The female assistant smiled awkwardly. She slowed down even more and joined Shinozaki at the back.

“It’s not that I’m bluffing. This one time, Cold Guy visited another Haunted House, and even without any make-up on, he managed to scare the actors from the other Haunted House. Be it a ghost or a cold-blooded killer, he would be able to assume the role, and every expression felt truly authentic.”

Wei Jinyuan appeared so relaxed. However, when he turned around, Shinozaki’s eyes twitched, and he asked, “Have you put on make-up before visiting this place? I don’t care about the history between you all and the boss, and I don’t care about the real reason you’re here. I simply wish to know.”

“Do you think we’re here to create trouble? To put on make-up to scare the actors here?” Wei Jinyuan scoffed with derision. “You are giving this place too much credit...”

“That means you don’t have any make-up on.” Shinozaki wiped the sweat from his forehead. “Okay, thank you for answering my question.”

After Wei Jinyuan walked ahead, the female assistant took out the wet napkin from her bag and handed it over to Shinozaki. “Sir, there is air-conditioning inside here, and the temperature is so low—why are you sweating so much? Are you not feeling well?”

“Remember this route that we’re taking. If there’s a chance, we need to go meet up with the other team.” After wiping away the sweat, Shinozaki gripped the napkin tightly, and he appeared quite shell-shocked. “We need to stay away from these two.”

“But why? They’re professionals, right?” The female assistant was confused by Shinozaki’s order.

“The man who poked his head into the window earlier, there are two purplish-black stains on the back of his neck. It looks as if someone has gripped him there. You heard his answer earlier—he isn’t wearing any make-up.”

“Perhaps those are birthmarks?” The woman felt like Shinozaki was making a mountain out of a molehill. “Plus, haven’t we been through this before? We shouldn’t intrude on people’s privacy.”

“Those are definitely not birthmarks.” Shinozaki glanced at Wei Jinyuan. “I remember very clearly that the stain on the back of his neck was only one single palm print earlier, but as we walked down the street, it grew, and another print appeared!”

Shinozaki raised both of his hands and gestured around his neck. “The two hand prints appeared on both sides of the neck. It feels like there is something riding on his neck and hugging him with their arms...”

## **Chapter 687: Hard to Understand [2 in 1]**

A light fog started to roll over the abandoned small town, and the buildings by the sides had shadows flitting through them. The temperature dropped some more, and the whispering of women and children could be heard. However, whenever the female assistant tried to focus on the sound, she discovered that there was nothing but silence, and all she could hear was the frantic beating of her own heart.

“Sir, you’re kidding me, right?” It was dim inside the scenario and the combination of the light fog meant that the female assistant had a hard time identifying the hand prints on the back of Wei Jinyuan’s neck.

“Perhaps it was the doing of the workers inside the Haunted House? When Wei Jinyuan poked his head

into the window earlier, could the actor have slathered some kind of unique paint on his neck? We have seen similar paint overseas before. The original color is very light, but once it mixes with human sweat or water, the color will instantly deepen.”

“Honestly, I don’t quite understand what is happening just yet, but I have a feeling this Haunted House is different from the ones we have visited overseas. Whenever I visited Haunted Houses in the past, there hasn’t been this feeling of nervousness.” Shinozaki held his hand over his heart. “There isn’t anything overly gory like blood or fake limbs at this place, but walking down the path, there is a strange sense of suffocation. It feels as if right at this moment, there are endless pairs of eyes studying and observing our every move.”

“In any case, I would not believe something as preposterous as an invisible person riding on the man’s neck, but it is undeniable that this is very good material for inspiration. You can draw it into your own work.” The female assistant believed that Shinozaki had been under too much pressure lately, and he had been in the artistic business for too long, so it was easier for him to make this kind of horrifying connection.

The mention of his own comic caused Shinozaki’s eyes to brighten. “On that front, you are absolutely right. Whether it is real or not, this is perfect for my next project. For now, let’s follow the two of them. With them scouting ahead, it will be much safer for us.”

That was Shinozaki’s personality, a mind that was only able to focus on one thing. He could reach an obsession-like focus on the thing on his mind, and this was how he managed to transform himself from a homeless guy, Lee Baofu, to become one of the brightest stars in the comic business, Shinozaki Daisen.

It was very dark underground with very dim lighting coming out from the nearby buildings, but once people got near, the lights would go off on their own. Only after the visitors had wandered away would the lights come back on.

“This is quite interesting. Looks like this Haunted House has made use of a lot of new technology, sensory lights, mist-creators...” Wei Jinyuan tried to use his knowledge to break down the Haunted House, and his analysis sounded quite sound and logical.

When he planned to move forward, his phone suddenly rang. He lowered his head and saw that it was Lee Jiu who was calling him. He picked up the phone because he was interested in finding out how things were going with the other team. “How are things over there? Did you find any useable clues?”

Lee Jiu’s voice came from the other end of the line. “This Haunted House is much more boring than we expected. We’ve looked through a few rooms, but they are all empty. There were no hidden pathways or actors.”

“I asked around before coming over. This Haunted House has unlocked many new scenarios within a short period of time, so it’s a given that not all of the scenarios will be perfect. Furthermore, I’m not sure if you have noticed this or not, but this scenario is supposed to have a 3.5-star difficulty. That itself sounds like this scenario is incomplete. That Chen fella was probably forced to open this incomplete scenario to the public due to the pressure from the futuristic theme park.” Wei Jinyuan walked down the street, and the number of rooms on both sides grew.

“Alright, I’m going to hang up now. I’ll call you in ten minutes; we’re going to focus on searching for the clues now.” Lee Jiu said that and hung up immediately.

“What’s wrong with him? The call lasted barely a minute. In that case, why waste time calling in the first place?” Wei Jinyuan put the phone away and scratched his neck. He kept feeling that there was something itchy on the back of his neck like he had been bitten by a mosquito there.

The road ahead narrowed even further, and they walked another ten meters before Lee Changyin saw a wooden plaque hanging on the wall beside them. A sentence was written in blood. “I am one of you.”

“Now he’s starting to play psychological games, huh? Such tedious trick.” Wei Jinyuan aimed his phone’s camera at the wooden plaque and snapped a picture. He saved the photo. “This is the first thing that is relatively scary I’ve encountered since entering this Haunted House. It is so unbelievable that a Haunted House with such unreasonable pacing would get so popular.”

“Don’t treat this too lightly. The warning on the plaque might be real.” Lee Changyin was still expressionless. “Based on the analysis I’ve read online, people suspect that the Haunted House boss once had his actors mix into the visitors to disturb their judgement. Of course, this is mere speculation; no one has any concrete proof.”

“It does not matter either way.” Wei Jinyuan moved the plaque around, and the term ‘Dong Zi Residence’ was written on the back of the board. “This place should be the residential area. The boss said that the second clue is hidden inside the residential area, so things should finally get more exciting once we enter this place.”

Lee Changyin nodded, and the two headed into the small yard immediately.

“Sir, now is not the time to space out. We need to hurry to catch up to them,” the female assistant urged, but Shinozaki stood outside the yard and studied the wooden plaque on the wall like he was putting the warning on the board into serious consideration.

“By the way... do you think that there really might be something that has slipped into our ranks?” Shinozaki croaked as he looked around. “This Haunted House has such a perfect handling of its created atmosphere that I cannot shake the feeling that something sinister is going on.”

Shinozaki and the female assistant later shuffled into the residential area. Almost as soon as they all entered the area, a few black shadows flashed behind them. There were three squat buildings that sat next to each other inside the residential area. They were numbered one to three, and strange noises kept coming out from the buildings. It sounded like children using some small objects to hit against glass.

“Other than the decrepit appearance, this place does not look that different from our town’s old city.” Wei Jinyuan looked at the peeling paint on the wall, and he stopped before the first building. “Should we move together or separately? I suspect that there are different things hiding inside each of these hovels.”

“I’ll go alone, and you can lead the two of them.” Lee Changyin walked into the third building alone, and he soon disappeared out of sight. Only the sound of his footsteps remained.

“Such an impetuous person. I hope he won’t scare the actors working at this Haunted House.” Wei Jinyuan turned his head back and realized that Shinozaki and the female assistant were still standing in the middle of the yard. “What are you two doing there? Stop wasting time!”

“I’m so sorry, we’ll be there in a minute.” The female assistant pulled on the corner of Shinozaki’s shirt. “Sir, it’s time to go.”

“Okay.” Shinozaki stared at the bush that reached his waist lining the edges of the yard. There was no wind at all, but the bush kept moving like there was someone or something hiding inside it.

Without getting closer to the bush, Shinozaki, the female assistant, and Wei Jinyuan entered the first building. There were water stains left on the ground, and the walls had cracks running down them. In the darkness, they looked like smiling lips. The stairs led downstairs, and the place was dim. The only things that they could see were the half-open doors.

“How far does this go down?” Wei Jinyuan took out his phone and activated the flashlight function. The light pierced through the darkness, but it failed to bring them any sense of security. If anything, the more they saw, the more unsettling it felt.

White powder kept falling on their heads, palm prints were left on the rusted banister, and that feeling of asphyxiation grew; it felt like there was a heavy boulder pressing on their hearts. Scratching his neck, Wei Jinyuan pushed open the door to the first room. There was some assorted old furniture littered inside the room, and it could not have looked more normal.

Even though he had claimed that he was not afraid multiple times, as he entered the room, he was observably more cautious. He examined every corner that might be used to hide a trap, but he looked for a long time and found nothing. This was a normal room.

“The Haunted House boss wishes to use this method to disrupt us?” Wei Jinyuan checked a few other rooms on the same floor. There was nothing remotely scary and definitely not a Haunted House actor hiding behind the corner waiting to scare them.

“Is there something wrong with the boss? He built these empty rooms to use as mere decoration?” If it was not built inside a Haunted House, Wei Jinyuan believed that these rooms would actually have been rentable as cheap housing.

He walked down the stairs and came to the second-floor basement. The layout was almost the same with only one difference. There was a dark corridor, one that connected all three adjacent buildings underground. Wei Jinyuan walked to the end of the corridor and shouted, “Cold Guy, can you hear me?”

The response was a series of footsteps, but no human could be seen.

“Has Cold Guy gone down to the third floor basement? That’s impossible! We’re so close to each other, so if he heard me, he would have responded.” Wei Jinyuan’s forehead was slick with sweat. All the buildings aboveground might be a red herring—the real terror was all hidden underground. “All the buildings are connected underground; this place is like an underground maze.”

He looked down the corridor, and the chilly air overwhelmed him. This was a completely different sensation from when they were outside. He opened the door that was closest to him, and Wei Jinyuan looked into the room with the light of the phone while standing outside. “The layout of all the rooms on

the second-floor basement is the same as the ones above it. What is the purpose behind such a design? I cannot understand what his aim is!”

Wei Jinyuan had been trying to perceive the secret behind Chen Ge’s Haunted House’s popularity, how he managed to attract so many visitors. However, until now, he had come up with nothing. He opened door after door, and just as Wei Jinyuan was about to give up, he realized that one of the doors was different from the others. The edges of the room were pasted with tape, and even the peephole was covered with tape.

“Something’s not right.” Wei Jinyuan pulled off the tapes on the door and slowly pushed the door open. The room behind this door was indeed different from the others; all of the furniture was covered with tape.

“Looks like the clue should be hidden inside this room.” Wei Jinyuan pulled off the tape around the shoe rack. He looked into it, and five pairs of shoes sat inside. There was a pair of female open-toes slippers, a pair of old lady cloth shoes, and three male sneakers, each a different size.

“Are these pairs of shoes part of the puzzle?” Wei Jinyuan picked up the shoes and studied them one by one. But after a while, he gave up. “Is something wrong with the boss’ brain? How come he keeps wasting resources to design these things that are completely useless! Does he even know how to design a Haunted House?”

The more he looked at them, the more agitated he became. Wei Jinyuan noticed that most of the furniture was covered in tape, and he was not going to go through them alone. “Hey! Come over here and help!”

“Did you discover anything?” The female assistant and Shinozaki ran over to him. When they saw the tape-filled room, they were given quite a shock.

“Help me tear off all of this tape. The clue should be hidden here somewhere.” With the orders from Wei Jinyuan, the group started to undo the tape pasted on the drawers, cupboard, under the bed, and on the door. They ransacked the place but still failed to find anything of value.

“Is the boss toying with me?” Wei Jinyuan became more and more annoyed. The frequency of him reaching behind his neck to scratch also increased. The itchiness grew more and more pronounced. “You two stay here and continue tearing down the tape. Do not leave any stone unturned. I will carry on to the lower floor.”

Wei Jinyuan left Shinozaki and the female assistant behind, and he departed alone. The lowest floor was even dimmer than the floors above. One could not even see clearly without a flashlight. This floor was different from the ones above; there were two corridors, leading left and right.

One of the corridors connected the other two buildings, but no one knew what the other corridor led to. Wei Jinyuan took a deep breath. He gripped his hands tightly, and without even realizing it, his palms were filled with sweat. He looked down the corridor on his left, and he saw a vague shadow of a man standing against the wall.

“Lee Changyin?” Without using the man’s nickname, Wei Jinyuan called Lee Changyin’s full name instead. He raised his flashlight to aim at the spot where the shadow was standing. There was no response—it was clear that the shadow did not belong to Lee Changyin.

“How come it feels like Cold Guy disappeared completely once he entered the building? But how is that possible? There were only several meters between us!” If it was not Cold Guy, then it had to be one of the workers. Wei Jinyuan raised his phone and ran ahead. “Normally speaking, the actors at a Haunted House will hide near the corner or something hidden so that they can jump out to scare the visitor when they passed. But what is up with this guy? He just stands there on the corridor, isn’t he afraid of being exposed by the visitors?”

No matter how loud the commotion Wei Jinyuan made, the shadow refused to budge. After he got closer, he slowly realized the strangeness about the shadow. The shadow’s body was slowly shifting until it matched his own body shape. This was a strange experience; it was like he was looking at his own body from the back. Wei Jinyuan’s Adam’s apple shook, and he was finally within three meters of the ‘man’.

After adjusting his breathing, Wei Jinyuan was about to speak when the phone that he held before his chest suddenly vibrated!

“F\*ck!” After cursing out loud, Wei Jinyuan lowered his head to press the accept button. Before he had a chance to glance at the name on the caller ID, when he lifted his head again, the shadow before his eyes had already disappeared. “Where did he run off to?”

“Hey, Jinyuan, I’ve found a map for this town. There is an area that is crossed off with red paint on your side...”

“I’ll talk to you later!” Wei Jinyuan ended the call immediately, and he used the flashlight to quickly scan around him. “Didn’t he just call me earlier and now he’s calling me? What’s wrong with him?”

“Where did the man disappear to?” It took less than one second for him to lower and raise his head, and the shadow had already disappeared. Furthermore, Wei Jinyuan did not hear any sound—it was as if the man had evaporated into thin air.

“I didn’t hear any footsteps, and the doors on both sides are still open. So, he should have sneaked into one of the rooms.” Wei Jinyuan walked to the spot where the shadow was standing earlier. “The closest room to him is one meter away. Just how many times he must have practiced this to be able to slip away in the blink of an eye.”

Wei Jinyuan looked into the room. The structure inside was no different from the other rooms, but there were many blood trails left on the ground.

For the sake of visual effects, most of the fake blood used by a Haunted House was intensely bright, but the blood in this room had a brownish color. It felt as if a real murder had happened and the blood was left from years ago. It had seeped into the building itself and could not be cleaned no matter what.

“Did he run into this room?” Certain rooms were filled with a liveliness and warmth that would blanket one upon entry, but there were some rooms that would cause one intense discomfort once one stepped into it. Goosebumps rose, and there was no logical explanation for this phenomenon. That was exactly

what Wei Jinyuan was feeling. There was no sense of liveliness inside this room; it was no different from a morgue used to store dead bodies.

“Come out now! I’ve already seen you!” Wei Jinyuan screamed into the room, but he could only hear his own echo in reply. He nudged further into the room, and he saw more blood stains. “All the blood has dried into the ground; it is not just slathered on the surface. How did he manage to do this?”

Walking through the living room, Wei Jinyuan stopped at the door to the bedroom door.

“The blood trail leads here, so the secret should be hidden inside the bedroom.” Pushing the door open, Wei Jinyuan grabbed his phone tightly. Cold sweat was pouring then.

Eye-grabbing blood stains were splattered all over the room, and standing in the middle of this sanguine piece of art was a woman in a red dress. She was standing, facing away from Wei Jinyuan, and knocked her head lightly against the wall repeatedly, creating this strange persistent echo.

### **Chapter 688: Lose the Head! [2 in 1]**

Running alone to the third-floor basement, standing inside an enclosed room that looked like a crime scene, being in the company of a strange woman covered in blood—anyone would feel fear being placed in that situation. Wei Jinyuan scratched the back of his neck like it was his habit to do so. His back was soaking wet, and his Adam’s apple quivered as cold sweat slithered down his face.

He had been searching for the actors employed at Chen Ge’s Haunted House to find out what the secret behind its popularity was, but now that he had run into the real actor, he felt weirdly unsettled and uneasy. For a reason that he could not explain, the woman was standing several meters away from him, but his heart was shaking like a leaf.

“Is this the influence of the environment, or is it the make-up?” His heart skipped endlessly like a frantic rabbit. He needed a full minute before Wei Jinyuan felt more like himself again. Throughout this process, the woman in the red dress just stood at the corner of the wall, showing no intention of getting closer to him.

“This is similar to the black shadow I met in the corridor—they do not actively go and scare the visitors, and they do not plan to hide. Is it because of the actor’s overconfidence, or are they worried about something else? Is it because they are afraid that they might be too scary for the normal visitors, so they use this kind of method to ‘stun and frighten’ the visitors?” Wei Jinyuan’s brain was thrown for a loop as he slowly nudged his feet forward. The hairs on his body were standing on end, and every cell in his body screamed for him to leave. Every single step that he took required a large amount of courage.

“Hey, are you one of the actors at this Haunted House?” His voice was shaking involuntarily. Wei Jinyuan kept cheering for himself internally, reminding himself that there was no reason for him to be afraid. This was merely a female actor hired by Chen Ge. Perhaps after she took off the make-up, she would be a cute little girl.

The woman in the red dress did not answer. She had her hands crossed before her chest and showed her back to Wei Jinyuan. Her head was leaning weakly against the wall, and she maintained this strange posture.

“You’re not going to answer, huh? Fine, I’ll come and see what you’re really up to!” Walking into the blood-stained room, the carpet underneath his feet rustled with each step. It was a distance of several meters, but Wei Jinyuan took more than ten seconds to traverse the distance. He stopped next to the woman, and he poked his head forward to look at her.

Her dress was dripping with blood, and the resentment was heavy. With just one glance, the female ghost sent tremors down his spine. He noticed that her hands were placed before her chest, and they looked like they were holding something...

“The clue couldn’t be in your grasp, could it?” Wei Jinyuan’s eyes widened. “The boss really is such an immoral character to have placed the clue somewhere like this.”

If the clue was in the woman’s grasp, then the visitor would have to get close to her to obtain the clue. If the visitor was too afraid to get any closer, then he would be forever trapped inside the scenario, or he would have to surrender and go and find other clues.

“Thankfully, it was me who ran into you. I am the bravest of the bunch, and this is not going to scare me.” Wei Jinyuan summoned his courage and reached out to grab the few pages of paper that the woman was holding in her arms. When he was about to reach back, the woman’s head that leaned against the wall slowly turned. Her body maintained the same posture. In fact, her neck did not even move. It was merely her head that was turning and turning...

A pale white face that was drained of blood. The features could be called beautiful but the two dark hollows where the eyes should be were quite scary. The female ghost did not seem to understand what Wei Jinyuan was doing. The resentment in her eyes was boiling, but as her gaze landed on the strand of black hair around her wrist, she calmed down once more.

“You’re even wearing pure black contact lenses? If I was not working at the Haunted House and thus privy to these make-up skills, I probably would have been scared by you.” Wei Jinyuan pulled the pages away from the woman. He shone the flashlight on the paper. “The basic rules for Haunted House workers? Do not have any physical contact with visitors? Do not harm the visitors? If you come after any fainted visitors, send them to the underground morgue immediately?”

Wei Jinyuan looked over the pieces of paper again and again. The question mark in his mind grew.

“What is this? Where is the clue?”

He raised his head to look at the woman in the red dress. She still kept her strange posture. Her body was half a meter away from the wall, and only her head leaned against it. Her eyes were focused on the papers that he was holding as if she was waiting for Wei Jinyuan to return them to her.

“Is this everything?” Wei Jinyuan held the pieces of paper. “You are one of the actors here, right? Is there a secret that I should understand from these words?”

The woman had no idea what Wei Jinyuan was talking about, but there was one thing that was certain—her patience was slowly being worn down by this man. The red dress started to flow with blood, and the thin scent of blood suffused through the bedroom.

“Oh, ho! There’s a second transformation as well?” Wei Jinyuan studied the blood that dripped down the woman’s dress, and he observed in forced calmness, “There are blood bags hidden inside the dress,

aren't there? But you are being too unprofessional. The requirement for a Haunted House actor is fast, quick, and accurate. With how slow you're moving, the visitors will have time to prepare for this not so sudden transformation."

Wei Jinyuan actually had no concrete idea how the woman managed to do something like this. His endless rambling was merely to cover up the uncertainty that crawled through his heart.

"Looks like finding the clue alone is not enough—we'll have to solve the puzzle in it." The back of Wei Jinyuan's neck was becoming increasingly itchy, like there was something on his neck that was shivering. He could even feel a small force from behind him trying to pull him away, like some mysterious force was urging him to leave this place immediately.

"Is this some kind of mind trick? But what is theory behind it? Before we came, I saw on the internet that many visitors claim the boss is a master at psychology. Looks like I have fallen into his trap without even realizing it myself." Wei Jinyuan held the phone in one hand, the light from the phone shining on him and the woman next to him, while his other hand held the few pieces of paper. "Where did I go wrong? This place is not even that scary, but how come my heart is racing so fast?"

Being cast in the light, her own sheet of worker rules had been taken away, and trails of blood vessels started to form on the woman's face—she felt like she was being humiliated. The scent of blood in the air thickened, and the sticky blood slid down her dress, causing a dripping sound as it landed on the ground.

Wei Jinyuan was still caught in his thoughts. He felt like he had walked himself into a trap. "Since entering the Haunted House, there's been nothing but empty rooms. There was no set-up and definitely nothing scary. There was not even blood. How did a Haunted House like this manage to make me feel fear? What kind of thing is behind this kind of indescribable feeling of suffocation? I seem to smell the blood in the air, but is this some kind of illusion, or has he managed to play some mind trick on me when I was not paying attention?"

There was no answer to any of the questions; everything was wreathed in mystery. Wei Jinyuan scratched his neck, and his brows creased. "The environment is too complicated, and it speaks of an unspeakable horror. The clues given are impossible to understand."

When he was still thinking, a pale hand reached out to grab the papers from him.

"What are you doing?" Wei Jinyuan turned his head to look. His lips were left hanging open, and the expression froze on his face. The woman who was standing next to the wall had moved further into the room, but her head had disappeared!

There was a rough cut around the neck, and the gaping wound was dripping with blood. This scene smashed Wei Jinyuan's brain like a heavy blow from a hammer. He felt as if he had been struck by lightning, and electricity surged through his capillaries!

"Where is the head?" He could confirm that the actor standing in the room with him was a living woman. That exquisite face, the fresh expressions, even the condescension-filled gaze that felt like she was looking at garbage was not something that could be replicated by a mannequin. However, the head of the living human disappeared in the blink of an eye!

“Give me back my stuff.” A woman’s voice came from behind his shoulder. Wei Jinyuan’s neck turned stiffly around, and soon, he was greeted with an impossible scene. The woman’s head was linked by blood vessels, and it was floating just above his shoulder. When the four eyes met, Wei Jinyuan felt like his heart had stopped beating, and all the blood inside his body rushed to his brain at the same time.

“Help!” he screamed at the top of his lung. With one hand on the phone and the other on the worker’s rule sheets, he charged out of the bedroom at the fastest speed he had ever accomplished in his life!

“Give me, give me!” Resentment circulated around her body, and the Specter was out for blood. The blood dripped onto the ground, and the woman in the red dress followed Wei Jinyuan out of the room. The blood mixed with the black hair. The woman hugged her head and chased after Wei Jinyuan.

Running down the dim corridor, Wei Jinyuan did not have the luxury to analyze anymore. There was only a simple thought in his mind.

*Run!*

He did not check where he was running; he simply rushed down the corridor that was before him!

After who knew how long, he stopped to gasp for air. The vibrating phone in his hand snapped him out of it slightly. With his heart almost jumping out of his chest, Wei Jinyuan turned to look at the phone. The caller ID said that it was another call from Lee Jiu. Like a drowning person being given a lifeboat, he grabbed onto it and hit the accept button madly!

“Jinyuan, I need to talk about the same thing as before. We found another map piece, and after we joined them together, we realized that you and Cold Guy are heading toward an extremely dangerous location...”

Before Lee Jiu finished, he was cut off by Wei Jinyuan. “Jiu! Please come save me! Save me!”

“Slow down, what is going on?” Wei Jinyuan also wished to slow down, but once he turned around, he saw the woman in the red dress running toward him. The head was cradled in her arms, and the head guided the body as she charged down the corridor to capture her prey!

“Come over here now! There’s a mad woman here! She has no head! Do you understand that!” Wei Jinyuan screamed into the phone, and his face was distorted from pure fear.

“She has no head? Is she some kind of special effect? Clarify yourself, you are not making sense. Do not lose your head, calm down.”

“It’s not me who has lost my head! It’s her! Yes, she has lost her head!”

Wei Jinyuan’s voice travelled down the dark corridor.

And then the call was ended.

...

“That’s strange.” On the other end of the line, Lee Jiu stood where he was, holding the phone. Wei Jinyuan’s ear-splitting scream from before had been heard by Lee Jiu and everyone else through the phone.

“What’s wrong with Xiao Jin?” Through the terms he used, it sounded like the streamer was close to the employees from Nightmare Academy. However, there was not much concern in his question, more of an open curiosity. “Xiao Jin is not really that easily scared. To be able to scare him until he screamed like this, it shows that there is more than meets the eye at this Haunted House.”

“We should be more careful. I don’t think I heard Jinyuan correctly earlier, but I believe he mentioned a headless female ghost.” Lee Jiu felt quite embarrassed that his colleague was being scared to such a state. “Regardless, we should not pay him too much attention. Wei Jinyuan is on the design team, and he does not enter the Haunted House often, so he is actually the most easily-scared among all of us.”

“This condescension is going to be your downfall.” Wang Dan also heard Wei Jinyuan’s cry for help earlier. His words were actually more cutting than he meant. “I advise you listen to me and stop using your phone inside the Haunted House. Then we shall take the same route back. There is no way we are clearing this scenario with a bunch of rule-breakers.”

“If you talk so much big talk, why don’t you go off on your own and stop following us so shamelessly?” Wang Dan’s advice fell on deaf ears. In fact, the streamer challenged him rudely. After the incident with Wei Jinyuan, he felt weirdly uneasy.

Wang Dan did not take up the argument. He shrugged and uttered in a voice reserved only for himself, “If I leave, who is going to help collect your bodies?”

“Stop arguing, I have to admit that there is something praiseworthy about this Haunted House if it is able to scare Jinyuan to such a state. Now that we have found two pieces of the map, I believe we will be able to escape soon enough.” Lee Jiu was responsible for the prop and item design at Nightmare Academy. He had been in the business for five years already, and with his experience, he could discern the mechanism set up inside the Haunted House with a glance. It was because of his experience that he had been able to find the clues hidden by Chen Ge in Li Wan City easily.

The scenario could be very difficult, but there had to be a chance for the visitors to win. That was the only way that the visitors would think that the experience was fun. And the clues were the chances provided by Chen Ge to the visitors. With the map, they could avoid the extremely dangerous locations like the woman in the red dress in the third-floor basement.

The man who had been so confident earlier only needed a few minutes to be transformed into a sniffling baby. That had placed an invisible pressure on the other visitors.

“Come on, let’s keep moving and see if we can come up with anything else.” Lee Jiu put his phone away and studied the two pieces of the map.

“It feels like this place is a trial of patience. The actors will wait until we put our guard down and start to get agitated, then they jump out to scare us. That is probably how they got Xiao Jin.” The streamer looked at his watch and then exchanged a look with Lee Jiu. Lee Jiu got the message and nodded. Then he said, “After entering the next building, we should temporarily split up. We are moving too slowly at the moment. After we’ve searched the entire building, we should meet up at the entrance.”

Without waiting for the other people’s response, Lee Jiu and the streamer strode into the building in front of them.

“Wait, I think we should stick together.” The student Zhang Feng suggested, but Lee Jiu and the streamer walked away from him like they could not even hear him.

“We should join them,” Wang Dan said lightly. He had a feeling that there was an ulterior motive behind Lee Jiu and the host’s visit to the Haunted House.

“Are you sure?” Zhang Feng had not been that afraid in the beginning, but after hearing Wei Jinyuan’s voice from the phone call earlier, he was feeling quite panicky. “This building before us looks like a small hospital. They always place the scariest stuff inside the hospital at the Haunted Houses, don’t they?”

“Are you scared?” Wang Dan barely glanced at Zhang Feng as he headed into Li Wan Hospital.

“Who’s scared? Are you looking down on me? Let me tell you, a Haunted House can never be scarier and more exciting than bungee jumping.”

Zhang Feng glanced at the wooden board that announced the building to be Li Wan Private Hospital. He suppressed the anxiety in his heart and followed Wang Dan and his girlfriend into the building.

### **Chapter 689: Setting a Trap [2 in 1]**

Li Wan Private Hospital’s main color palette was white. It was the most eye-catching and the most unique building in the small town. As they pulled open the rusted iron door, they saw a darkened corridor, littered with yellowed patient’s list. If they picked up any single one, they would see that the patients had mostly died from untreatable diseases and infections from the epidemic.

The glass windows creaked in the wind even though there should not have been a draft blowing underground. The doors of the rooms were all left open like the dead patients had all returned to this place and would come out at any moment.

There were striations that looked like nail marks left on the doors, and an unknown plant climbed all over the walls. The ceiling was peeling at places, which exposed patterns on the cement that looked suspiciously like human faces.

This hospital was one of the scariest locales at the small town, and it was using its own unique charm to welcome the new batch of visitors. The floor was cracked, and walking on it would create this screeching sound. In the complete silence, any sound could make people jump.

“Where is that guy, Lee Jiu? He came in here at most ten seconds earlier than we did. How did he manage to disappear in the blink of an eye?” Wang Dan looked around with a severe look in his eyes. He stood in the lobby and stared down the two corridors that led down his left and right sides. He wished to discern the direction that they had gone in based on the pattern of the broken tiles on the ground. However, much to his consternation, both corridors had signs of travel, and he could already pick out around eight footprints in the dark.

“There are some other people in this building other than us.” Wang Dan studied the foot prints on the ground, and he hesitated. He knew full well how good at scaring people the actors at this Haunted House were. Running into anyone of them could push an unsuspecting visitor over the brink, and this building might be hiding more than a handful of those scary actors.

“Which path should we take?” Wang Dan’s girlfriend asked. She was wearing quite thin clothing as was the fashion. Her body was shaking involuntarily, but it was unclear whether it was due to fear or merely the cold.

“I remember that both Lee Jue and the male streamer are wearing sneakers. From the footprints on the ground, they should have headed down the left corridor, but...” Wang Dan lowered his head to think.

“But what? Can’t you just finish the sentence instead of letting it hang like that?” Zhang Feng complained with annoyance. When a person was placed in a completely new environment, they would often feel agitated and unsettled.

“Why don’t you come and see for yourself?” Wang Dan aimed his phone on the ground. The corridor on the left had two pairs of footprints that were arranged parallel to each other.

“The footprints in front looks like they were left behind by sneakers, but the footprints at the back doesn’t have any pattern to them. Therefore, we can assume that it was one of the visitors who walked ahead, and it was not a second visitor but something else that was following behind him.” Wang Dan was not trying to scare anyone—he was merely telling the truth. “There is about thirty centimeters between these two footprints. Do you really not see the problem here?”

Seeing the confusion on Zhang Feng’s face, Wang Dan decided to make the demonstration himself. He walked to stand behind his girlfriend and moved to about thirty centimeters behind her. “The visitor is walking ahead, and there is something unknown trailing behind him like this. The two walked down the whole corridor in this manner. Look at the footprints left on the ground; the patterns are very uniform. In other words, this means that, even at the end, the one who was walking in front did not realize that there was something following behind him at a constant thirty-centimeter distance.”

“The actors here sure are something else.” This was Zhang Feng’s first time visiting a Haunted House. Just hearing Wang Dan’s description, he was feeling quite unsettled.

“Lee Jiu and the streamer should have gone down the left corridor, and the actors at the Haunted House made to follow them, so the path should be safe now.” Wang Dan walked down the left corridor alone.

After Wang Dan left, the hospital lobby became scarier. The paper on the ground lifted up, and it rustled noisily as it scratched the floor. This was nothing short of torture for the visitors who visited the Haunted House for the first time.

“Wait for me.” Wang Dan’s girlfriend and Zhang Feng hurried to catch up to Wang Dan. There was no one touching them, but the doors on the sides of the wall creaked on their own. It gave the impression that there were some monsters hiding inside the dark rooms. With absolute caution, the group of three moved slowly down the corridor. They were almost squeezed together.

“This looks like a normal sickroom, albeit a little old and abandoned. It looks like no one has stayed here for a long time.” The decoration inside the sickrooms was very real, so real that one could easily forget that they were inside a Haunted House.

“Be careful. The actors here have undergone the best training—they are able to follow behind you without making any noise, and they have many different methods to scare you. You are never going to see it coming.”

The danger could come from any direction. Wang Dan's group not only had to be cautious of the doors that were left half-ajar, they were also watching the cracked walls and floor cautiously. They did not forget about the ceiling either.

With how tense they were, if anyone screamed, their souls probably would have escaped from their bodies. They took a whole minute to walk down the corridor that was only ten meters long. When they reached the corner of the staircase, the group realized that their backs were already wet with sweat.

"What? That's all? I thought that there would at least be actors playing the ghosts coming out of the rooms to scare us." Zhang Feng sighed in relief. "Actually, it is not that scary. If anything, I think that your analysis at the start was scarier. I suspect that you did it on purpose to make this whole experience feel more horrifying than it should be so that you can scare us."

The male student was more courageous than a normal person, but the crucial reason he was putting on such a brave front was because he did not want to appear weaker than Wang Dan.

Actually, he looked down on Wang Dan even though he did not let it show that openly. Wang Dan was a medical student who only knew how to deal with dead bodies; he was boring, had normal looks, was not even that tall, and did not come from a good family. Zhang Feng failed to find any hint of a positive point when it came to the young man.

Just the thought of that dispersed the fear slightly in Zhang Feng's heart. He stole a glance at Wang Dan's girlfriend. As mentioned earlier, Wang Dan's girlfriend was his high-school classmate. However, back then, he would not have predicted that how beautiful his friend would become once she learned how to take care of her appearance. After he came across her profile on the internet, Zhang Feng had a hard time believing it was her that he was looking at.

Wang Dan was slighted by Zhang Feng's words. He was being kind to provide the analysis, but all he got in return was suspicion. This kind of person really did not deserve his help. He worked hard to suppress the annoyance in his heart. Even though Wang Dan had possessed a temper in the past, visiting Chen Ge's Haunted House had smoothed down his edges a lot.

He could not tell for sure what had initiated this change. Perhaps because he had seen real demons, in comparison, everyone else appeared more kind-hearted and approachable. Or perhaps when he had fainted and been revived repeatedly in the underground morgue, the teachings of the old professors at Jiujiang Medical University had really made an impact on this young man. In any case, Wang Dan was no longer the man he had been in the past; he had witnessed plenty of growth.

Facing the multiple challenges from Zhang Feng, Wang Dan did not rise to the bait and get into an argument. He understood how meaningless an argument was—the main reason he had come to the Haunted House this time was to share the 'joy' with Zhang Feng, and to achieve that goal, he could stomach any number of complaints and grievances.

"Why aren't you defending yourself? It's because I'm right, aren't I?" Zhang Feng assumed that he had seen through Wang Dan's ploy. "Coming to a place like a Haunted House to prove who has a bigger heart, don't you think that is a very childish thing to do?"

After nodding, Wang Dan walked silently away.

The atmosphere in the hospital turned stranger. Lee Jiu and the male host had walked in before him, but they did not hear anything to signify their presence. There was not even the sound of footsteps. It felt like the two had disappeared into thin air.

All the buildings in the small town led underground, and Li Wan Private Hospital was no exception. Wang Dan looked at the stairs that led underground, and a strange thought appeared in Wang Dan's mind. The only reason that they had not come across any actors so far was most likely because they wanted to wait for the visitors to head underground before showing themselves. This way, the visitors would not escape from the building so easily when they were scared.

The light dimmed, and the three became more cautious.

On the stairs between the first and second floor basement, Wang Dan's girlfriend suddenly yelped in shock, "There's someone down there!"

"Where?" Both Wang Dan and Zhang Feng turned to the stairs in unison.

"It was just around the banister going down to the second floor! I saw it! It was a pair of gray legs!" Wang Dan and Zhang Feng looked in the direction that Wang Dan's girlfriend was pointing, but they did not see anything.

"I swear they were there earlier, but they disappeared soon after!" Wang Dan's girlfriend claimed nervously as she nudged backward, moving from the middle to the back of the ground.

"Probably the actors heard our footsteps and were hiding there, but you saw them on accident," Zhang Feng said to console the girl.

"Okay... But wait!" Wang Dan's girlfriend suddenly pointed at Wang Dan's back. "There is something stuck on your shoulders!"

"Me?" Wang Dan reached out to touch his back, and he noticed that there was a patient's record stuck on his back. The front of the record was printed with the black and white picture of the supposed patient, and on the back of the paper was written in unkempt handwriting "Come and find me."

"Who stuck this on me?" Wang Dan felt like he had been targeted all of a sudden. He knew that it would not have been Zhang Feng or his girlfriend. Neither of them carried a pen on them, and it was quite clear that the words on the paper had been written a long time ago.

"Do you think I'd do something this boring, like you?" Zhang Feng was the first to shrug. Wang Dan's girlfriend thought that it was quite weird. They had been walking together in a group, and they did not see anyone pass.

"Is there anything on your back?" Wang Dan looked at Zhang Feng and his girlfriend in a panic, and he realized that only he had the paper pasted on his back. "Was it because I was the one who walked at the front of the group?"

Looking at the paper that he was holding, the man in the black and white picture seemed to be smiling at him. Cold sweat poured out of Wang Dan's forehead; he knew that the real horror of this scenario was going to begin soon.

“What are you doing, grumbling to yourself?” Zhang Feng could not hide the grin on his face, seeing how scared Wang Dan was. “The same trick is not going to work on me twice.”

Like he had uncovered a great secret, he leaned close to Wang Dan’s girlfriend and said, “Old friend, your boyfriend sure is an interesting fellow. We have been moving together, and along the way, we did not run into anyone else. Since neither of us stuck the paper on his back, who do you think the culprit could have been?”

Wang Dan’s girlfriend was slowly led to his conclusion. “He did this himself? That’s impossible, Wang Dan, he...”

“If it was not him, are you telling me that it was a ghost who did this? He wanted to use this to scare us and then act like he is not afraid. I would be angry if I didn’t see how sad this is.”

“No way, he wouldn’t do something like that... right?” With the persuasion from Zhang Feng, Wang Dan’s girlfriend started to doubt herself.

Holding the patient’s record in his hand, Wang Dan’s pupils darted about as he observed his surroundings cautiously. He understood that danger was imminent—this patient’s record was, in actuality, a death notice!

“Since we’re already targeted, tossing this away will not change anything.” Wang Dan heard the two’s conversation clearly. He took a deep breath, bit on his lips, and turned around. Seeing the trace of suspicion and disappointment in his girlfriend’s eyes, Wang Dan’s tensed expression slowly relaxed. With some unwillingness, he relaxed his tightened hands and then turned to Zhang Feng and stated rather openly, “Fine, I admit it was me who pasted this on my back.”

“But why would you do something like that? You aren’t someone like this when I first met you.” Wang Dan’s girlfriend’s voice was rising.

“I just want to prove that I still have some positive qualities about me.” Wang Dan’s pupils were quivering, and goosebumps were crawling on the back of his neck, but he forced himself to maintain his composure. “There is a legend at this Haunted House. Once you put down something like ‘come and find me’ on a piece of paper, there is a chance that you might run into a real ghost. I just want to prove that I might have more courage than you.”

“That’s so childish. If you want to hear urban legends, I can share about one hundred of them with you.” The condescension that Zhang Feng had toward Wang Dan surfaced, and it grew.

“I admit that I am envious of you. I am not as handsome as you, I do not dress as well as you, my family is not as rich as yours, and I cannot even beat you at basketball. Compared to you, I could not appear more mediocre, so I desperately wanted to prove that there is something that I am better than you at.” Wang Dan’s voice started to shake. In the corridor that they came from, he saw a pair of gray legs walking out from one of the rooms.

“So, you use this kind of method?” Zhang Feng’s sense of conceit was satisfied, and it was made much better since it was in the presence of Wang Dan’s girlfriend. “I cannot believe that a medical student like yourself believes urban legend like that. Don’t you know that it’s merely bullsh\*t created by people who have nothing else to do?”

“Then, would you dare to give it a try?” Wang Dan had been waiting for Zhang Feng to say that. He interrupted quickly, so fast that Zhang Feng could barely react.

“What?” Zhang Feng was still submerged in his joy, so he did not expect Wang Dan to suggest something like this.

“Since you believe these urban legends are all bullsh\*t, then I’m sure you wouldn’t object to giving it a try,” Wang Dan said as he moved to place the patient’s record on Zhang Feng’s back. “Actually, I realize now that there are people who are better than me in the word. I just have to keep running, and even then, I might not be able to catch up to someone as perfect as you.”

Wang Dan’s words confused Zhang Feng. His pride was satisfied, but at the same time, he felt like something was out of place.

“Now that I have voiced the words in my heart, I feel much better. Thank you for everything, I swear to live my life more honestly in the future.” Wang Dan patted Zhang Feng’s back to make sure that the paper was stuck securely and would not shake loose. “Come on, we should continue exploring, and I will stop with the boring ghost stories.”

Wang Dan pushed Zhang Feng to the front of the group, and he said in an apologetic tone, “Actually, this Haunted House is not as scary as they say. We told other people that because we merely wanted to hide how easily-scared we are.”

Zhang Feng was still quite confused, but once Wang Dan said that, he actually did not feel that afraid anymore. “It’s really not that scary?”

“Indeed, this Haunted House is not that scary at all. When I visited this place last time, it was so boring that I almost fell asleep.”

It appeared like this lad had been taking acting lessons from a certain Haunted House’s boss because there was no flaw to the sincerity on his face as he pushed Zhang Feng to head down the stairs.

Chapter 690: Danger Scale Off the Charts [2 in 1]

“You fell asleep during your previous visit? How is that possible?” Zhang Feng was still considering Wang Dan’s words when he was pushed ahead by the latter. However, after hearing that Wang Dan had made up all those strange rumors, it was true that Zhang Feng did not feel as afraid as before. He had a liking for extreme sports and could suffer a great deal more than normal people. On top of that, he never did believe in the existence of the supernatural in the first place, so how could he be afraid of something that was not real?

The things inside the Haunted House were not real. Compared to scuba-diving or survival in the wild, a Haunted House had the lowest inherent danger. He knew fairly well that a visit to the Haunted House would not put anyone in mortal danger.

Since there was no possibility of danger, what was so scary about it?

After clarifying that in his mind, Zhang Feng became more confident, and even his gait was different from before. He was no longer that cautious. “There is nothing to be afraid of. We should move faster

and finish this tour as soon as possible. This Haunted House, in fact this entire theme park, is so damn boring. If there is a chance, I will invite you guys to come with me to the newly open fifth generation high-tech theme park in Eastern Jiujiang.”

When Zhang Feng said that, he did not forget to turn back to smile at Wang Dan’s girlfriend, like he was trying to toss her some signal. With the patient’s record pasted on his back, Zhang Feng was the first to arrive at the second-floor basement. The light became even dimmer. Without the aid of a flashlight, they could barely see the environment around them.

“Have Lee Jiu and that male host left already? How come we did not hear anything from them at all?” Zhang Feng pushed open the door that was closest to him. It opened to another sickroom. A dirty bedsheet was crumpled on the bed, and there were traces of blood and broken chips of plaster left on the ground.

“This sickroom looks rather different from the others; it feels like someone has recently been here.” Zhang Feng wished to start analyzing, following Wang Dan’s lead, but he could not really see the reason, so he could only rely on his instinct.

“Shall we go in to take a look?” Wang Dan’s girlfriend was acting rather jumpy. She was still thinking about the pair of gray legs that she saw earlier.

“Since you believe that someone has been here, it was probably Lee Jiu and the male streamer. They probably discovered something in there. We should go in to check then,” Wang Dan said as he urged Zhang Feng into the room.

A faded scent of disinfectant filled the air, and it was pungent. Zhang Feng placed his hand over his lips, and his brows were creased in a deep frown. Suppressing the disgust, he pulled the bedsheet back. Under the sheet was a human-shaped blood stain and a selfie stick.

“Why is this thing here?” Zhang Feng picked up the selfie stick. “This does not look like a prop inside the Haunted House. Could it have belonged to the male streamer?”

When he spoke, a light thud came from the dresser next to him. It felt like someone had accidentally knocked into the furniture when they were in a rush.

“What was that?” Even though he kept telling himself that there was no reason for him to be afraid, when there was a real dangerous situation, Zhang Feng could not stop his heart from racing. He walked toward the dresser slowly and pulled open the dresser door with the slowest speed possible. Inside sat an old, tattered patient’s garb and a worn diary.

“This is too easy! I have found the clue!” Zhang Feng was extremely excited. Finally, he had an inkling as to where the fun in touring a Haunted House was. It was the rush of exploration in the depths of fear and despair. When one struck gold when one’s nerves were highly strung, it would bring forth an indescribable and unassailable sense of pleasure.

He flipped through the diary, but Zhang Feng knew that his analytical power was not as good as Wang Dan’s, so he called the latter over to study it together. The diary detailed the patient’s slow discovery of the strange phenomenon happening at the hospital. Every night, there would be a little boy who came to play hide-and-seek with him. The sentences were easy to understand, and they were the writing of an

everyday man, not a writer. However, these simple words managed to elicit the fear in the few readers' hearts.

"A game of hide-and-seek?" Zhang Feng was not really a brainiac, but it did not mean that he was a fool. When he saw the game mentioned in the diary, he was immediately reminded of the patient's record that was originally stuck on Wang Dan's back. If the patient's record was as Wang Dan said, a harmless prank, then how did he know beforehand that a dangerous game of hide-and-seek was underway in this strange hospital?

The nameless town had opened to the public for the first time, and they were the first batch of visitors. Wang Dan would not have been able to prepare this beforehand. Unless... Wang Dan was in cahoots with the Haunted house's boss!

The anxiety that Zhang Feng had suppressed earlier returned in full force because he realized that the patient's notice was now stuck on his back. Understanding the negative implication that this might bring, Zhang Feng snapped the diary shut. "The details of this Haunted House are quite well-done. We have been in here for quite some time already, so we should prepare to leave. After all, I am feeling quite tired already."

"But we have barely done anything? And how can a sports and health education student feel tired so soon? Is it because you're not feeling very well? Do you wish to sit down and rest?" Wang Dan asked in extreme concern, and that only made Zhang Feng want to punch the man in his face.

"It's not that, yes, right!" Zhang Feng picked up the selfie stick left on the bed. "The male host will be worried that he is missing this. We should take this with us and wait for him outside."

He held the selfie stick with one hand, and his other hand reached behind his back. Zhang Feng wished to remove the paper from his back, but something surprising happened. His hand searched about, but the patient's record that was supposed to be on his back had disappeared!

"What the f\*ck?" Looking back over his shoulder, he saw a pair of bruised arms reach out from inside the dresser. A man wearing a tattered patient's garb with no legs was in the middle of sticking a number of yellowing patient's records on Zhang Feng's waist and legs!

Every single patient's record had the same message written on it. "It is my time to be the ghost to come catch you!"

It was unclear when the many sheets of patient's records were stuck on his body. Zhang Feng's mind was drawing a blank, and his brain that was lacking in training was squeezed to the brim by endless questions!

Where did this man come from? Why is he wearing the patient's garb that I saw earlier? What does it mean by 'it's my turn to be the ghost'? When did I promise to play the game with you?

The expression on his face distorted, and Zhang Feng's heart leaped to his throat. His brain shut down for three seconds before his body reacted. He screamed in fear and leaped into the air. At the time, his brain was still as blank as it could be. After he landed, he tried to knock Wang Dan out of the way and run out the door. However, Wang Dan and his girlfriend had already left the room.

When Zhang Feng was reading through the diary, Wang Dan had already noticed something was wrong. From the corner of his eyes, he had seen that the patient's garb inside the dresser had started to move on its own. Different from Zhang Feng, Wang Dan went into high alert immediately. He understood how dangerous a 3.5-star scenario could be.

By then, he had already made the preparation to run. When Zhang Feng turned around and said something, Wang Dan saw two arms reach out from inside the dresser, but out of respect to Zhang Feng, he did not interrupt the young man when he went through his 'analysis'. He knew that it was very disrespectful to disturb the man, so he listened to Zhang Feng's analysis patiently.

When Zhang Feng made the discovery, Wang Dan already had his hand around his girlfriend's wrist. They were out the door and ran for several meters. He felt like he had learned many life lessons in Chen Ge's Haunted House.

I am not as perfect as you, so the only choice to ever beat you is to run faster than you.

This was not some Chicken Soup for the Soul cr\*p; Wang Dan understood that the slowest running might really end up at the hospital.

Bang!

The sickroom door slammed heavily against the wall. When Wang Dan and his girlfriend exited the room, they realized that there was a pair of gray legs standing at the corner to the staircase. To intensify the fear in his heart, in almost an instant, another pair of legs appeared, and in less than 0.1 seconds, the third pair of legs appeared.

With the way to the stairs blocked, Wang Dan and his girlfriend could only run deeper into the hospital. By then, Zhang Feng had rushed out of the sickroom as well. He was running so fast and so blindly ahead that he almost ran into the wall. Before he even recovered from the near miss, he saw many patients with grayish skin appear near the stairs.

Due to his good looks and rich family background, Zhang Feng had never had any real trouble in his life, and he would be the center of attention wherever he went. At this moment, in the Haunted House, he was the star of the day as well. The many patients with twisted limbs all looked at him with great interest.

His back was pasted fully with the patient's records. Tears were swirling in Zhang Feng's eyes. He was finally reminded of Wang Dan's kindness, and he ran toward the man. Hearing the footsteps coming from behind him, Wang Dan ran even faster. They rushed down the corridor and came to the stairwell on the right side of the hospital.

At the end of the day, Zhang Feng was a sports student, and it did not take long for him to catch up to Wang Dan. The horde of patients were still following them, and they were not going to be so easily deterred.

"We cannot run together like this! We'll all be captured!" Wang Dan claimed in an urgent voice. At this crucial moment, he stepped onto the plate and assumed responsibility. "Quick! At the next corner, when we are no longer in their sight, the two of you go and hide inside the sickrooms on both sides of the wall, and I will try my best to lead them away!"

“Wang Dan...” His girlfriend looked at him with worry, and there was something on her lips.

“There’s no time to waste, quick!” Willing to sacrifice, selfless to the end, Wang Dan appeared like a hero with no parallel. Zhang Feng was also surprised at how macho Wang Dan was because he would never volunteer to do something like that.

After turning the corner, Zhang Feng crawled into one of the sickrooms without wasting a moment. Just as he was about to close the door, he saw through the gap that Wang Dan held his girlfriend and kept running. They rushed toward the exit and did not show any sign of stopping.

To make matters worse, the patients with contorted bodies and a strange pall over their faces did not even feign interest toward Wang Dan and his girlfriend. Instead, they all crowded in front of his room!

The many eyes focused on the patient’s records stuck all over his body, and the reality of the situation finally dawned on Zhang Feng. When the pale faces swarmed into the room, a blood-curdling scream echoed through Li Wan Private Hospital.

“Wang Dan! You f\*cker, you set me up!”

...

At the third-floor basement of Li Wan Private Hospital, the male streamer held his backpack, whose zipper was already open, with one hand, and his other hand grasped his phone. “This is strange, where is my selfie stick? Without it, the camera angle will be all over the place, and it will disturb the viewing experience if there is any running.”

“Did you forget to bring it with you?” Lee Jiu walked next to the man. They seemed to have another motive for entering the Haunted House.

“That’s impossible.” The man continued rummaging through his backpack.

“Stop searching, we need to start soon. I heard another scream earlier; I believe those students have been captured by the Haunted House actors already.” Lee Jiu kept turning his head to look at the sickrooms lining the walls. “We are going to do a livestream inside his Haunted House to conduct an exposé. If we’re seen by the workers, they are definitely going to stop us.”

“Let them do it then. What can they do? Can they afford to be physical before the camera?” The male host’s expression was dark, and it was completely different from how he was on camera. “Furthermore, I hope that they will turn physical. That way, we will have evidence to use against the boss.”

“The futuristic theme park wants to know the secret behind this place’s popularity, but I feel like there is a hidden purpose behind that one boss,” Lee Jiu whispered conspiratorially.

“I’m going to start streaming soon. You need to stop with that baseless speculation.” The male host took out several jade pendants with horrible quality out from his backpack. The pendants all looked the same, but some of them had cracks running down the surface. The host thought about it and decided to pick out a pendant with nine cracks like it was about to fall apart, and wore it around his neck.

After the preparation was ready, he logged into his streaming account. “We will carry this out according to our plan. We will conduct the Haunted House exposé, and you will cooperate with me from behind

the scenes to come up with some scary effect. With the popularity that this Haunted House enjoys on the internet, I'm sure the stream will attract many viewers."

"Don't worry, I have the script memorized in my brain—there won't be any problems." Lee Jiu gave the host an okay sign and walked into the shadows. He had to maintain a five-meter distance from the host. Opening the app, the host turned the camera to face himself. When the stream was connected, the man basically transformed into a different person.

The clouds over his face disappeared, and he acted like he was panicked and worried. After the stream stabilized, he uttered in hurried tone, "Hello everyone, this is Yellow Wolf, your Big Brother Wolf. Those that know me realize that I come from a proud line of powerful diviners. I've spent a few years learning the tricks of the trade from my grandfather, so I know quite a bit about Feng Shui, Ba Gua, and so on.

"We have been to many Haunted Houses in the past, and we have run into some things that cannot be explained with scientific reasoning, but nothing is comparable to what has happened today."

The male host who called himself Yellow Wolf had everything prepared. After he was done with the introduction, he pulled the camera further and continued. "I am currently at Western Jiujiang New Century Park's Haunted House. Yes, the Haunted House that is known as the scariest experience on the internet, the place that no one has been able to conquer!"

There was thinly-veiled pride in the man's voice. "The current scenario that I am in might be unfamiliar to most of you because this is a 3.5-star scenario, the scenario with the highest difficulty at this Haunted House! Many of you might ask, why would I be given the privilege to challenge a 3.5-star scenario directly? That is for me to know and for you to find out."

With a mysterious smile on his lips, Yellow Wolf adjusted his tone, and his face turned serious again. "If we're being serious, this Haunted House is indeed different from the rest. When I first stepped into the place, something happened to my jade pendant, a family heirloom. Friends, come and take a look at this."

Yellow Wolf fished the planted pendant out from his collar. "When we visited the Nan Ling Cemetery in Xin Hai last time, the pendant had seven cracks, but look at this! When I entered the Haunted House, I counted nine cracks running down the pendant! This is a warning given to me by my ancestors! This Haunted House is very dangerous!"

Then, he put the jade pendant away and continued with the show. "But even if the danger scale is off the charts, I will take this risk and provide all of my dear friends with the most authentic Haunted House exposé!"