

Horrors 711

Chapter 711: Another Special Mission!

"It's not even locked?" Chen Ge pushed the iron gates open further. Before him was a two-story building with a strange architectural design; it was hard to imagine that such a place existed in the middle of the forest. "A new mailbox is hung on the gate, and behind the gate are some red buckets filled with drinking water. There is also laundry left to dry at the back, so someone must be staying here."

Afraid of scaring the local 'citizen', Chen Ge waved his phone in the dark, knocked on the door, and called, "Is anyone home?"

The only response was silence. He waited ten seconds, and when Chen Ge was about to give up, the door of a nearby building was pushed open. No one spoke, and after a silent communication, a rusty voice croaked from behind the door, "Who are you looking for?"

Based on the voice alone, it was impossible to tell the person's age. Chen Ge studied the building from afar and did not just go toward it recklessly. When a normal citizen saw a stranger in the vicinity of their home in the middle of the night, their first reaction would be to switch on the light and not to open the door. However, the voice's owner acted abnormally. After ten seconds of hesitation, he pushed the door open a little further.

"I'm sorry, but is this Yong Ling Mountain Holiday Villa?" Chen Ge was very polite. No matter the time, no matter what he ran into, he believed that politeness could open many doors.

"How can I help you?" The person did not answer Chen Ge directly, but from his tone, he had already confirmed the answer.

"It's like this. My friend said that he's staying at Yong Ling Mountain Holiday Villa and told me to come find him tonight. However, my GPS cannot find a location with that name, so I came to ask for direction." Chen Ge was not lying. He was indeed looking for a friend, but once the person behind the door heard Chen Ge's answer, there was an audible gasp. "Your friend is staying at Yong Ling Mountain Holiday Villa?"

The man's voice was strange. He sounded like his throat was parched, and he mumbled over his enunciation.

"Yes, do you know where Yong Ling Mountain Holiday Villa is?" Chen Ge took a few steps forward, interested in the man behind the door.

"Of course I do because you are at Yong Ling Mountain Holiday Villa." When the man heard Chen Ge's approaching footsteps, he closed the door again. "Yong Ling Mountain Holiday Villa is constructed from the villas at Yong Ling Mountain. Back then, something happened here, and most of the citizens chose to migrate. Later, due to certain reasons, the management was forced to abandon the holiday villa as well, and I am the only one who remained to look after this place."

The man paused before continuing through the door. "I am the only resident here. You should have been lied to by your friend; he couldn't be staying here."

“That shouldn’t be.” Chen Ge continued casually. “Some time ago, there was a film crew that came here for a shooting, and he was one of the film crew. He invited me here tonight because he said that he chanced upon an important discovery.”

“Stop, it’s dark already, please watch your words.” The man cut Chen Ge off quickly; he did not want Chen Ge to speak further.

This strange reaction was what Chen Ge was waiting for. Instead of stopping, he continued to mumble to himself, “I’m afraid it was because of his film crew that this place was turned into a holiday villa. I heard that many strange things happened when they were shooting the movie. The movie, I believe, is called... Left Oculus?”

“Stop it!” The man shoved the door open, and he was looking quite agitated. Now that the door had opened fully, Chen Ge got a better look at the speaker. The man before him was around forty with a short body and a severe hump. His face was white, and the most conspicuous feature was that his eyes were both closed—he appeared to be a blind man. Chen Ge waved his hand lightly before the man’s face, and the latter did not react in any way. “I’m so sorry, I don’t mean any offense. I was merely repeating what my friend told me.”

“Your friend said that he’s part of the crew? What does he look like?” The man seemed to have calmed down.

“What does he look like?” Chen Ge was confused. A blind man asking for a person’s appearance, that did not sound quite right. After a moment’s consideration, Chen Ge provided Lee Changyin’s appearance.

The man frowned before waiting for Chen Ge to enter the building. “Don’t just stand out there, come in.”

The building was dark. The light switch on the walls had been removed, and only an exposed base remained. The man seemed to have gotten used to the darkness. He strode into the living room and sat on the sofa; he did not bump into anything along the way. Running into a strange-looking blind man in the middle of nowhere, another person would not have dared to follow, but Chen Ge was an exception.

“I don’t know what your friend told you, but there is one thing that I can be sure of—you have been lied to.” The man reached out his hand to search for a plastic cup on the table. He picked it up and took a sip.

“Why do you think I will trust you and not my friend?” Chen Ge noticed that the man’s hand was shaking slightly when he picked up the cup.

“The crew for Left Oculus will not return; this place is the source of their nightmare. After escaping with their lives barely intact, why would they return?” The man’s voice had returned to normal and calmed down.

“Brother, it sounds like you know some inside details.” Chen Ge sat across from the man. There was little light in the room; moonlight streamed in from the window, casting a white pall on the coffee table.

“I am just a guard. I have no exact clue what happened with the crew, but I know that House 744 at Yong Ling Mountain was mowed down completely because it was used for their movie set.” The man

had his eyes closed, but his face was turned toward Chen Ge. “After this place was turned into a holiday villa, the boss built a private showing theater on the site where House 744 once stood...”

When the man mentioned a theater, the black phone in Chen Ge’s pocket suddenly vibrated. Chen Ge was curious, why would a message arrive on the black phone at a moment like that?

He took out his phone and clicked open the new message.

“Congratulations, Specter’s Favored, for triggering two-star special mission—The Story of the Left Oculus!

“This mission is made up of three parts. Please arrive at the dead’s showing theater in the next half an hour and enjoy the full-length movie!

“After this task is completed, the next task will be given!”

Looking at the words on the screen, Chen Ge’s eyes narrowed. “There’s a mistake, right? Shouldn’t it be the private showing theater?”

“Hey, are you listening to me?” The man called after Chen Ge.

“Sorry, I was merely stunned, please continue.” Chen Ge glanced at the time and put the phone away.

“What happened later is quite scary. Be it morning or night, the theater feels weirdly eerie whenever you enter it. Many visitors also said that when they were watching their movies, they would see figures that were not related to the movie in the films.”

Chapter 712: Private Showing Theater

“What do you mean by that?” Chen Ge was going to the private theater in a bit, so he wished to get to know as many things as he could about it.

“Many tenants chose to use the theater at night, and they all encountered this extra scene in the movies. It was that of a girl. She was around twenty with long black hair and a blurry face.

“Initially, the tenants didn’t mind it that much, thinking that it was the shadow of the worker or something wrong with the tape. That continued until a family of four came to stay here. Once their youngest daughter stepped into the theater, she started bawling. Left with no other choice, the wife carried the daughter away, leaving behind the husband and the son.

“They were watching an animation movie that day, but halfway through the movie, the boy suddenly turned to his father and asked, ‘Why is there a big sister standing at the corner of the stairs?’

“The man did not think much of it, but after a while, the boy asked again, ‘Why does the big sister keep looking at us?’

“The endless questions from the child managed to annoy the man, but since they were in public, he suppressed his fury and warned his son to stay quiet.

“The son felt wronged, but he did keep quiet after that. However, that did not last long. About twenty minutes later, the boy suddenly cried for no reason. This threw the man for a loop; he tried his best to console his son, but the boy cowered with his face buried in his chest, and he refused to stop crying.

“The boy’s father started to notice that something was wrong. He realized that his son seemed to be afraid of lifting up his head like there was something very scary on screen.

“He made a mental note of this, and after the movie was over, he carried his son back to his wife and then returned to theater to get to the bottom of the matter...”

The story drew Chen Ge in, but suddenly, the man stopped. “What did the father find?”

“The boy’s father disappeared. The surveillance showed him enter theater alone, but he never walked out.”

“How could a person disappear just like that? You’re not pulling my leg, are you?” Chen Ge stood up.

“Where is this theater? I wish to take a look for myself.”

Hearing that, the man’s lips quivered. His intention was to scare Chen Ge off, but the man seemed to be more interested after hearing the ghost story.

“No, absolutely not!”

“If you’re unwilling to lead the way, then I’ll go on my own. After all, this place is only so big.” Chen Ge grabbed his backpack. He studied the man before him. Whether the villa was abandoned or not, he did not think that the management would have a blind man act as the guard.

“I really don’t understand. Why do you insist on going there? Didn’t you say earlier that you’re here for a friend?” The man was anxious as he tried to stop Chen Ge.

“Yes, I’m here to find a friend. Before he disappeared, the last message he sent me said—I am at Yong Ling Mountain Holiday Villa.” Chen Ge said that with such sincerity and affirmation that one could not tell that he was lying.

“Your friend went missing around here?” The man went silent. His hands gripped together, and he came to a decision after some hesitation. “Okay, I’ll show you over there, but if your friend is not there, we’ll leave immediately.”

“Thank you.” Chen Ge went to help the man, but as his touch landed on the man’s skin, the man shoved his off harshly. He was like a scared pigeon. Chen Ge did not expect such a huge reaction. “I’m sorry, I just wanted to help you up.”

“It’s okay, I can walk on my own.” The man stood up in the dark. Even though his eyes were close, it somehow felt like he could see his surroundings perfectly. He navigated the room expertly, grabbed the blindman’s cane next to the door, and left. Chen Ge followed behind him. The two walked past the many strange buildings.

“The people who designed these probably haven’t considered how to make use of the land optimally, right?”

“What do you know? This is art.”

“I really don’t understand that. Mind sharing your explanation with me?”

The man was not in the mood to chat. He hurried away. He was familiar with the terrain and moved faster than Chen Ge anticipated. A few minutes later, the two stopped before a two-story building that was sealed.

“This is the private showing theater. The entrance is locked, and I don’t have the key, but there is a small window on the second floor. You can look in from the outside.”

“Okay, thank you, I’ll have a look around then.” Chen Ge walked to the door. He turned and saw the man was still standing there. “Do you have something else to do? Do you need me to walk you back?”

“That’s alright.” The man had this feeling that something bad was about to happen. He stood where he was for a long time before turning. However, before he took the first step, a loud crash came from behind him.

BANG!

The quiet night was shattered. The sudden boom almost cracked the man’s eardrums. He jumped from the shock, and the cane slipped from his grasp.

“What is going on? What happened?” His hands searched blindly in the dark. He was panicking. Right then, a pair of warm hands held him in place, giving him support.

“There are other people here!” Chen Ge helped the man up, and his voice was slow and comforting.

“That’s impossible! No way!” The man staggered backward. He was flustered, and his body was shaking. The cane was kicked away, and his lips were turning purple.

“How would you know that since you can’t see anything?” The dark clouds blotted out the moon. Chen Ge held the man in one hand, and he carried a scary-looking hammer in another. He stood next to the man and stared at the eyes that were squeezed shut. If another person stumbled across them, they would create a scary scene.

“If there is another person here, then it’s worse! It’s midnight, which means that it has probably returned!” The man wanted to hurry immediately. From his tone and expression, Chen Ge believed that he was not lying.

“Don’t panic, calm down.” Chen Ge looked at the phone. The trial mission only gave him half an hour to prepare. If he allowed the man to walk back on his own, it might lead to another accident. “The two of us had better stay together, just in case.”

Chen Ge picked up the cane and handed it back to the man. Supporting him, the two entered the private showing theater. One would not have imagined it from the decrepit exterior, but the interior was surprisingly clean like it was still cleaned daily.

Chen Ge studied the equipment on the projection table. There was barely a speck of dust. To be able to maintain such a degree of cleanliness, it was not the work of a blind person.

Staring at the man’s eyes that had not opened since they met, Chen Ge tightened the grip on the hammer.

“Now that we are inside theater, do you know how to operate this equipment?”

Chapter 713: Deskmate

“Why would you be asking that?” The man held the cane and wished to maintain some distance from Chen Ge, but he was too weak and unable to struggle away.

“My friend disappeared at the theater, so I wish to retrace his steps and see if there are any clues.” Chen Ge employed a casual tone as he stood in the darkness and scanned the whole theater. The rows of seat had uneven heights, looking more like shadows that were standing or squatting.

“Have you lost your mind? You come here at 2 am and want me to play a movie for you?” Even without those scary rumors, the man did not believe that any normal person would act like Chen Ge, which was to come to an abandoned theater at night to watch a movie.

“I have not lost my mind and know full well what I’m doing.” Chen Ge shone the flashlight on his phone on the various equipment. “If it’s that inconvenient to you, why don’t you teach me how to do it, and I’ll do it myself?”

Chen Ge was a hard learner; he would not waste the opportunity to learn new knowledge, and that was why he possessed so many ‘skills’.

“You seriously need to consider what you’re doing. The things that I told you earlier aren’t just a tale—they’re real.” His eyelids trembled—the man was conscious of his situation. He placed the cane to the side and started to search blindly on the table. The man moved very slowly, and no one knew what he was doing. Chen Ge stood to the side to watch him, and the more he studied the man, the more he felt like there was something off about him.

His hands were too agile. His eyes were closed, but he knew where all the equipment and buttons were. There were only two explanations to this situation.

One was that before he went blind, or even after he went blind, he went to the theater often to repeat those operations, and over time, the actions became muscle memory, and he was able to operate the machines smoothly even with his eyes closed.

The second possibility was that he was never blind to begin with.

After the man connected all the circuits, he sought out the power source for the power box. He tried it several times, but it failed to activate. “The lever for the main power switch is on the second floor. Do you mind activating it for me?”

“The second floor?” Chen Ge lifted his hammer and walked out from theater. He walked up the stairs to the second floor. However, he did not enter it but stood at the top of the stairs and looked at theater entrance.

About five seconds later, a man’s face poked out from inside theater. He listened for the sound, and after realizing there was no strange activity, he immediately ran into the darkness. Two footsteps echoed in the dark, and before the man managed to get away, someone pressed on his shoulders.

“How can you leave me here alone?” Chen Ge’s voice entered the man’s ears, and the latter jumped from fright like he had been struck by lightning. “I was unable to find the location for the main power switch. Let’s go together.”

Chen Ge helped the man get up to the second floor and flipped the switch on.

Following a boom, all the lights in theater flickered for a moment.

“I just want to see a movie here and find my missing friend. That’s all. If you insist on standing in my way, I will have no choice but to believe that you are somehow related to my friend’s disappearance.”

After the power was switched on, the projector started to move on its own. The man opened the reel slot. After everything was loaded in place, he lifted his head to say, “You can choose which movie to watch yourself, but I have to give you one last warning—do not pick a horror movie, or there will be serious issue.”

Watching a movie at the theater was the first part of the Left Oculus mission. It was already 2 am. If he did not finish this part of the mission soon, he might not be able to complete the succeeding missions that night. With that in mind, Chen Ge scanned the list of titles, and he aimed to pick the one with the shortest screen time.

The black phone only requires me to sit through a movie here, and it did not specify what type of movie.

Chen Ge was not going to purposely increase the difficulty of the mission. He looked for a warm, artistic film or animation, but as he clicked on the movie list, he realized that none of them could be played, saying that the movies lacked the source and needed to be downloaded again. After a long time of browsing, Chen Ge realized that only horror movies could be played.

Connecting that to what the man said earlier, Chen Ge became suspicious. *Is someone behind this, or has something else ruined the source for the other films?*

Looking through the list, he discovered yet another strange point. Chen Ge ran a Haunted House, and to seek inspiration, he often watched scary movies, but he did not recognize any of the movies on the list.

These horror movies are different from the ones on the market. Both the producers and the directors of these flicks have the same name.

Chen Ge clicked on one of the titles and memorized the director’s name.

Chang Gu? Is that a fake name or a real name?

“Have you picked your movie?” The man’s hands kept shaking. The surroundings had not changed, but he looked more unsettled, like the more he stayed here, the more likely something would follow him home.

“Alright, I shall pick this one with the shortest screen time.” Most horror films were around one and a half hours long, but Chen Ge spotted one that was only twenty-five minutes long. The name of the movie was ‘Deskmate’.

There was five minutes until the end of the mission. The movie started to play, and the lights in theater dimmed as a blurry picture appeared on-screen.

“I can’t see anything anyway, so I think I’ll leave. This is my phone number. After you’re done, give me a call, and I’ll come back to clean up the place.” The man rattled off a number. After Chen Ge keyed in the number, he gave it a call. The sound of vibration came from the man’s pocket, so he was not lying.

With his experience of dealing with scared visitors, Chen Ge could discern that the man’s fear was not faked. After knowing that, he was even more unwilling for the man to leave. He must have known some insider details, but he was unwilling to share them with Chen Ge.

“There’s no need to hurry to leave. The two of us should stick together, so if there’s an accident, we can watch out for each other.” Chen Ge held the man and pulled him to the seat firmly. Considering the issue of security, Chen Ge chose the seat closest to the exit.

“Thank you, but...”

“Shush, the movie is starting.”

Watching a horror movie at the theater was a different experience from watching it at home. That feeling of being enveloped by darkness and being there in person could not be replicated at home.

A heart beat next to the ears, and then came a heavy breathing. A large eye slowly opened on screen, and from the black pupil, the silhouette of a woman could be seen. The camera slowly panned up to focus on a study table. The alarm clock said that it was 4:30 pm. Outside the window, the clouds were dark and oppressive.

A storm was coming.

The movie was shot from the first-person view, and the audience was seeing what the main character saw.

“Qiu Mei!”

Someone kept calling this name from downstairs. The camera moved again. The main character crawled out of bed and walked to the window. She opened the window and seemed to lean her head out. The camera showed what was below.

A girl in a red jacket was waving at the main character.

Chapter 714: Point of Overlapping of the Worlds

“Qiu Mei, come out and play!” The girl downstairs waved happily. The smile on her face was bright and excited like something great had just happened to her. The main character did not reply. The screen fixated on the same image for a whole second, expressing a hollowness and even chilliness, before the main character moved to close the window.

The somber feeling did not dissipate after the windows were closed. Instead, it crawled around the main character. It was hard to tell how the director managed to capture this feeling. Just this feeling of claustrophobia and being trapped alone already made this short movie yards better than the offerings on the market.

The small room was like a cage, and after the windows were closed, it felt as if a cold sea poured into the room to submerge the main character. The camera tittered aimlessly around the room before the girl's voice came from behind again.

"Qiu Mei! Qiu Mei!" The camera slowly turned around. The girl's face was squeezed right up to the glass. She was pushing so hard that her facial features were squished beyond recognition—it felt as if she was trying to use her face to squeeze through the glass.

"Qiu Mei, come out and play!" The redness of the jacket was eye-catching, and it formed a strange contrast and compliment to the gray sky in the background. The main character lived on the fourth floor. When she looked out earlier, the girl had clearly been standing on the ground.

However, with this strange occurrence, the main character did not seem shocked. It felt as if she had gotten used to this already. The camera very calmly moved to another direction. Since this was shot in first person view, the camera represented the main character's scope of sight. Scanning past the cluttered table and the dirty clothes that piled on the floor, it landed on the bedroom door.

"Qiu Mei, come out and play!" The girl's face stuck close to the glass on the window. The red jacket smothered the glass until the light that filtered through it turned red as well. Her breathing became ragged, and the main character suddenly picked up the scissors on the table and raised them high.

Since this was shot from the first-person angle, it gave the impression to the audience that the main character was going to use the scissors to stab herself. Everything happened so fast that the transition was very hard to grasp.

Pa!

The bedroom door was slammed open, and a middle-aged man rushed in. He grabbed the main character's wrist and snatched the scissors away.

"What are you doing?" The camera tilted to the side and spun. The main character was pushed down the side of the table.

"Life is already not easy for your mother and me. Can you please stop torturing us?"

The audience was unable to see the expression on the main character's face, but they could discern the main character's current status from the middle-aged man's demeanor and expression. Human beings were special, and this kind of connection seemed to be inherited in every member of the species.

"What happened?" Footsteps hurried to arrive, and a middle-aged lady jogged into the room. She looked haggard, and once her eyes landed on the main character, they reddened almost instantly. Without saying anything else, the lady squeezed past her husband to squeeze the main character in a hug.

"You saw her again?" The woman was facing the camera, but the audience knew that she was talking to the main character. From this angle, the audience could clearly see the micro-expression on the mother's face. There was pain, anxiety, agitation... but more than that, there was heartache.

Without getting a response from the main character, the mother already knew the answer, and she hugged the main character harder.

“Why are you the one that’s punished? What can we do to cure this illness?” The camera moved away from the mother and returned to the sky outside the window. The dark clouds hung low in the sky like they were about to fall to smother the world. The eye slowly closed, and the theater returned to darkness.

The man appeared very nervous. His legs were squeezed together, and he asked Chen Ge softly, “Why isn’t there any sound now? Is the machine broken?”

Before waiting for Chen Ge to answer, strange music circled the room. The eye flickered before it opened again. The camera moved, and the main character was lying in her bedroom. Next to her stood her parents and a man, one the audience had not seen before.

This man had his back stooped, and he stood facing away from the main character. Since the movie was shot from the main character’s perspective, like the main character, the audience was not granted a view of the man’s face.

“Doctor, what kind of illness is Wenyu suffering from? How come she keeps saying that she can see these strange things?” The main character’s mother had worried lines crawling all over her face.

“Yes, doctor, what’s wrong with my daughter?”

“I am not a doctor, merely someone who has done quite a bit of research on this. Do not worry for now; I’ve had a basic grasp of the situation.” The man who was referred to as the doctor had a voice that was familiar to Chen Ge. This was a very strange feeling because Chen Ge did not think any of his acquaintances had acted in a movie before.

The doctor signaled for the parents to sit down. “Her situation is very unique, and I will share my preliminary thoughts with you.”

The doctor took out a black note from his bag. “You should know that human beings live in the third dimension, right?”

The parents shook their heads. They had no idea where the doctor was going with this.

The doctor flipped through the note and found the page that he had torn out from another book. “To put it simply, the third dimension is this world that we humans occupy; there is the concept of length, width and height. The fourth dimension adds the concept of time onto the basis of the third dimension. Actually, the condition that forbids us from entering the fourth dimension is ‘time’. Due to the presence of time, human beings in the third dimension are doomed to make a singular choice at a certain point in time, and this choice will be a completely isolated choice. In other words, every human experience is an isolated three-dimensional world, and if you place all the three-dimensional worlds on the axis of time, then you’ll have created a four-dimensional world.”

Not only were the main character’s parents confused by the doctor’s words, even Chen Ge in the audience was led in circles. However, the blind man next to him suddenly became silent and settled down.

“What does that have to do with my daughter’s illness?” The mother was not really paying much attention to the doctor’s theory. She just wanted to cure her daughter.

“I will tell you again, your daughter is not sick. There are many accidents happening in the world daily from as small as subatomic collision to as big as space expansion. There are many things that we temporarily cannot explain...”

“Doctor, why don’t you just tell us straight, can our daughter’s situation be improved or not? What kind of medicine is available? Our family’s condition might not be that good not, but for our daughter, we are willing to do anything.” The girl’s father cut him off directly. Their acting was so real that it did not feel like a movie but some kind of documentary.

“Your daughter is not sick; her eyes are merely an accident.” The doctor was still facing away from the character. “The three-dimensional worlds that are arranged on the axis of time might occasionally overlap, and your daughter, Chang Wenyu, is the point where the two worlds overlap. Thus, she is unable to see things that you can’t!”

The movie was still playing. Chen Ge was there for a mission, but he was drawn in by the plot of the movie.

Why would the doctor and her parents call the main character Chang Wenyu? But the ghost outside the window calls her Qiu Mei? Also, this doctor’s explanation is quite interesting. I think I should memorize it. Even though I don’t quite understand it, it might prove useful in the future.

Chapter 715: My Left Eye Can See

In the movie, the main character’s parents did not put much weight behind the doctor’s words, and the disappointment in their eyes could not be hidden.

“Trust me, your daughter is really not ill. What happened to her eye was merely an accident. If possible, I wish to bring her to Xin Hai City with me, where I can give her a more thorough examination.” The man did not appear like a con artist. He sounded very sincere, but unfortunately, the parents did not believe what he was peddling.

“If there’s a chance, I’ll bring her, but Wenyu still needs to go to school.” The mother rejected him in a roundabout way. The doctor sighed. He gave the mother his card and stood up to leave. Throughout the whole process, the doctor kept his back to the main character and thus kept his face hidden.

After the door closed and the doctor left, the mother softly complained, “I was wondering why he was willing to examine Wenyu for free. He’s a conman. After we arrive in Xin Hai, he will probably start charging us money on various pretenses.”

“I also doubt that the doctor is reliable. Perhaps he’s not even a doctor. But there has to be a reason behind this sickness. This has never happened to Wenyu before, so how did she fall ill so suddenly?”

“You’re right, the girl has been fine for the past few months, but since that night, no, since that afternoon when she came back from school, she has been acting strangely.”

The frown was deep on the parents’ faces, and heartache laced their voices. The camera emotionlessly recorded everything, and it gave the feeling that the main character was observing everything without even a twitch of emotion. The eye slowly closed, and the strange music resumed.

Different from watching a horror movie at home, the sound system at a theater was surround sound. It could give the impression of footsteps coming from a distance or something moving around the audience. The producer poured great effort into this short flick, and that was observable from the sound effects alone.

The background music was mixed with a heartbeat and heavy breathing, like someone was struggling in a nightmare. Everything was dark, and one struggled for life, but one could not grab anything for support.

As the audience was drawn into the main character's predicament and held their breath, a crisp ringing sound cut through the background music. The eyelids twitched. The main character seemed to have been woken up, and she peeled open her blurry eyes.

A new scene appeared on screen. The camera was no longer inside the bedroom but a simple-looking tuition center. The glaring sunlight showered down on the main character through the window, and the camera captured the girl's shadow, which was elongated on the ground. She was leaning on the table at the last row in the class, and her head was heavy with sleep.

The movie has gone through one third already, and I've only just seen the main character's shadow. The director sure is a genius.

Chen Ge had seen many shadows in his life, and in his professional opinion, the shadow in the movie could not have been more normal.

The sunlight dulled the nerves in her mind, and the sound of a fan spinning buzzed in her ears. There was also the sound of pages being turned as well as the sound of distorted music coming out from a nearby student's cheap earphones.

A long shot showed everything in the classroom. The cooperation between the director, cameraman, and the actors was flawless.

BANG!

Just as the audience was lulled by the sense of peacefulness, the peace was suddenly shattered. The door was shoved open, and a girl with an exaggerated hairstyle burst into the room.

"He Qiumei! Be quiet, don't disturb the other students!" A man wearing glasses with his hair cropped short walked in behind the girl. He held his phone in one hand and a textbook in another. The man appeared to be the tuition teacher, and he seemed to be familiar with the student who had just walked in.

"Fine, fine." The girl with red hair chewed on the gum in her mouth, and she mumbled her response.

The male teacher knew the girl's personality, so he scratched his head with some exasperation, wiped the sweat from his face, and clapped his hand softly. "Class, may I have your attention please? This is the new student who will be joining our class today, He Qiumei. Due to her family condition, she deferred for a year, and she's here to catch up on her study progress. I hope that all of you will help her."

The teacher gave a simple introduction and had her sit at the back of the class. Coincidentally, she chose to sit next to the main character and thus became her deskmate. The camera zoomed in on He Qiumei. The girl had faded red hair. She leaned against the wall and tossed the bag casually on the table.

“What are you looking at?” The girl noticed that the main character had been staring at her. Her personality was like a fire; it was not that she was not a good person, but she had the tendency to accidentally scorch others. Being yelled at by the girl, the camera that represented the main character’s eyes turned away, but moments later, the camera turned back to He Qiumei. Obviously, the main character was interested in her new deskmate.

The bell rang, and once the teacher left the classroom, the main character was about to stand up when Qiumei suddenly jumped up. Angrily, she slammed the book on the table, spat the chewing gum in her mouth out, and turned to the main character. With her furious eyes and explosive temper, just as all the audience thought that she was a gangster and was about to bully the main character, the girl by the name of Qiumei opened her lips to say, “Do you understand what Ol’ Cao said earlier? How come I don’t get it at all?”

The main character shook her head, and this was the first time that the audience had heard her voice. “I... fell asleep...”

“How can a person who looks so studious be a bad student? That won’t work!” Qiumei scanned around the room, and to her disappointment, there was not one student in the class that looked barely reliable. “The exam is coming, and if I fail again, I’ll be held back another year, then when will I graduate?”

“You... wish to graduate that much?”

“No one wishes to grow old, but I don’t want to be treated as a child anymore. You won’t understand it anyway, but I have to graduate this year.” Qiumei shoved all the books into her bag and picked up her notebook to study. This studiousness was completely against her get-up and personality, but it did not feel out-of-place being portrayed by the actor.

The students filed out of the classroom, and Qiumei became more and more annoyed. Finally, she slammed the notebook on the table again, as if with each slam, the knowledge would be shattered and thus more easily digested.

“Gah, guess I’ll start getting serious from tomorrow.” After Qiumei packed up her stuff, she walked out of the classroom alone. The camera followed Qiumei’s back before it also moved to follow Qiumei out of the classroom.

“Mr. Cao, considering that we have been neighbors for so many years, can you please help me?”

An old lady’s voice came from the corner of the stairs. The camera looked down, and it saw an old lady with graying hair holding onto Mr. Cao’s arm. She attempted to hand a basket covered with black cloth over to Mr. Cao.

“My physical condition is worsening by the day, and I have no idea when Qiumei’s father will be released. If something happens to me, what will she do? If this is allowed to continue, I’m afraid that she might end up like her father.”

“Auntie He, please keep your stuff. I will try my best to teach Qiumei, but studying is not a one-directional effort. I won’t give you any guarantees, but I promise to help you look after as best as I can.” Mr. Cao did not accept the old lady’s basket.

“Thank you, Mr. Cao.” The old lady left after thanking Mr. Cao profusely. The latter frowned as he headed up the stairs. The main character wanted to act as normally as she could, but just as she straightened herself, she bumped into something behind her.

The camera panned around, and Qiumei’s face filled up the screen!

This cut reminded the viewer of the scene that occurred at the start of the movie.

“Isn’t it fun to eavesdrop on others?” Qiumei said coldly. “That was my grandmother, a stubborn old coot.”

“It... feels like she treats you well.”

“That’s just an appearance. You have no idea how hard it is to communicate with her. Let me tell you, I can take care of myself just fine. Originally, the plan was to stop schooling and find a job to feed both of us, but she denied me outright, insisting on me graduating first. I was forced to agree because you saw how stubborn she can get, and here I am.” Qiumei took out a small mirror to examine her face. She was quite a beautiful girl if a little resentful of the world.

The moment that Qiumei took out the mirror, the camera moved backward instantly. It gave the feeling that the main character was afraid of looking at herself in the mirror.

“What are you doing?” Qiumei noted the girl’s strange reaction. “You’re a weird one, but let me tell you, do not tell anyone about my grandmother’s visit to the school.”

“Okay...” After a pause, the main character added, “You wish to graduate soon so that you can find a job to support your grandmother?”

Putting the mirror away, Qiumei leaned close to the screen and pushed the main character lightly. “Who are you to care about my business? The only thing that you need to care about is your mouth.”

Qiumei grabbed her bag and walked downstairs. When the two girls brushed past one another, the main character whispered softly, “You won’t be able to care for her. She is going to die soon.”

“What are you grumbling about?” Qiumei could not hear her clearly nor was she trying to.

The camera stayed on Qiumei as she walked away. Once more, the main character uttered more clearly, “You won’t be able to look after her; my left eye has seen everything.”

Chapter 716: Come and Play! [2 in 1]

The camera moved away from Qiumei and fell on the old lady holding the basket. The last ray of the sun fell on the old lady, and as she walked away, the camera locked onto her shadow that seemed to be cut in half.

Seeing this cut, Chen Ge was already shaking in his seat. He had no idea how the director managed to shoot a scene like this. Deskmate, according to the details on the list, had been shot a long time ago. Back then, the special effect was not as impressive as those today, but the scene in the movie appeared as real as could be.

Or is it possible that this is not a special effect?

One's shadow was deeply connected to one's life, or at least, that was what Chen Ge believed.

The main character's left eye could see the changes to a living human's shadow, right? When the movie started, did the main character's parents possess shadows or not?

The earlier images of the movies crossed Chen Ge's mind. The main character's parents and even the doctor, none of them had a shadow, but that could have been due to the bad weather outside the window.

When the movie started, the sky was dark and gray with thick rain clouds blocking out the sun, so it was perfectly normal that one's shadow could not be seen. After Qiumei and the old lady left, the main character returned to her own home. She took out her key and opened the door.

"Wenyu, is that you? Why did you come home so late today?" Wenyu's mother rushed out from the kitchen. The expression on her face when she saw Wenyu was a mixture of sadness and a strange emotion that Chen Ge could not describe. In any case, it was certainly different from how a normal parent would greet their child—Chen Ge had only noticed that after he was so far into the movie.

The main character did not respond. Once she stepped into her home, it felt like she had walked into the sea. Her movement became sluggish, and even her breathing turned uneven. Pushing open the door to her bedroom, she slithered into it.

"This girl..."

"I've asked for some professionals' opinions, and I believe our daughter might be sick." The main character's father put down the copy of newspaper. He pointed at his own head and continued in a low whisper. "I've already contacted the doctor. This coming weekend, I will bring him here to take a look at our daughter."

"How much will it cost?"

"Now, curing our daughter is more important. You would not want our daughter to continue like this, right?"

Her parents' voice came from outside the door, but the main character did not care about what they were saying. The camera that represented the main character's point of view moved from her parents to the ceiling. Then the screen turned black; the main character had closed her eyes again.

"This movie seems to be a recording of some stuff, but if all this is real, the timeline does not seem correct." Chen Ge nudged the blind man's shoulder. "What do you think?"

"I can't see anything. If you're done, we should go as soon as we can. I don't want to stay here a minute longer. Brother, from the way you talk, you do not sound like a bad guy. Can you please let me go and

stop torturing me?” The blind man’s back was drenched. He kept his eyes closed, but just from his voice, one could tell how scared he was.

“Half of the movie is already over. I am sure it will end soon. Please be a little bit more patient.” Chen Ge turned back to the screen when it turned bright again. Similarly, this was shot from the main character’s perspective. It mainly recorded the things that happened between her and Qiumei.

The main character was a girl of few words; she rarely opened her lips, and if she could get away with not speaking, that was what she would do. Qiumei’s personality was the complete opposite of the main character. She was like an open book and would rarely take offense at what other people said.

She was a reckless person and often did things without considering the consequences. However, it was often said that opposites attract. As the time they spent together increased, the relationship between the main character and Qiumei grew tighter and tighter. Even though they were polar opposites in terms of personality, they became good friends.

Even more surprisingly, both of their studies kept improving, and this was something that even Mr. Cao did not expect. Initially, he was merely doing his old neighbor a favor, but to his surprise, the two female students with the worst marks in his class had such a drastic ‘change’ after they became deskmates.

The color of the screen felt even more vibrant, and the style of the entire movie seemed to have changed with it. It was supposed to be a horror film, but Chen Ge felt like he was watching a coming of age movie.

This director can handle many different styles—this is not bad.

Chen Ge made a mental note of the movie’s progress; eighty percent of it had already passed. Other than the ghost that he saw at the beginning of the movie, for the rest of the movie, there was not even a plot point that was remotely scary, much less an actual ghost.

A horror movie without a ghost?

The scary movies on the market would have the presence of an ‘unknown’, and this unknown was often used to create a sense of mysterious and horror in the audience’s hearts. However, this movie seemed to be the exception. It was shot fully from the main character’s perspective, and she did not witness anything that was truly scary.

Chen Ge felt that the director was building up for something horrifying. He knew that the movie was not going to be that simple. As the movie drew to its close, he felt like the truly scary thing was approaching.

The relationship between Qiumei and the main character grew closer and closer, but there was something that was worth noting. During the period when Qiumei and the main character became friends, Qiumei’s bubbly laughter appeared several times in the movie, but the main character had not laughed, not even once.

There was only a short time left until the arrival of the final exam. With Qiumei’s current results, graduating successfully would not be a problem. She had found a good friend at school, she was about to complete her promise to her grandmother, and this was probably the happiest moment of Qiumei’s life.

However, even though Qiumei was very happy, as the audience, Chen Ge was able to see the anxiety hidden behind the happiness through the main character's perspective. Qiumei's grandmother's shadow grew shorter and shorter, the worry on the main character's parents' shoulders grew heavier and heavier, and the rate of change between the cuts grew more rapid and more constant like the main character had gained the habit of blinking constantly.

There was a huge whirlpool hidden underneath the peaceful life, and it was set to drag everyone who was near down into the deep abyss. After the final exam was over, at the class party, Qiumei and the main character stayed out very late before they left. The night was exceptionally quiet. Qiumei hummed a pop tune on her lips. Her biggest wish for the past few months had just been completed, and she could not have been in a better mood.

"Deskmate, why aren't you talking? We can finally relax; we do not need to go and see Ol' Cao's face day after day now." Qiumei hugged the main character's and pulled her close. The camera studied Qiumei from this close distance. The girl had dyed her hair back to its natural color, which was black, and she looked gorgeous. After a while, the main character moved her eyes away. She had her head lowered, and the camera focused on the darkness, which appeared like a road that had no ending.

"You don't look that happy." Qiumei's face squeezed into the frame again. The main character looked at Qiumei quietly, without saying a word, and then she walked ahead on her own.

"Is it because of your family? I don't think I have ever heard you mention them before." Qiumei ran to chase after her. "Actually, my family can be quite annoying as well. My father is now behind bars, and it's my grandmother who raised me, so I have chosen to adopt my grandmother's surname."

The main character did not slow or stop. Qiumei followed closely behind her until they reached a junction. Qiumei's home was on the left, and the main character's house on the right—it was where they usually parted.

"Wenyu? What is going on with you today?" The main character did not stop to answer. She continued to walk down the road, and at a certain point, she turned to utter flatly to Qiumei, "Actually, that is not my name."

"That is not your name?" Qiumei wanted to ask for more details, but the main character had already walked ahead. Due to the unique circumstances that she grew up in, Qiumei had a different personality compared to other girls her age. She did not ignore the main character but made to follow her. She chased after the main character and called after her.

The lights from the roadside became less and less. Finally, the two girls stopped in front of an old apartment building. This building was located in the most secluded part of the city. The whole building was dark like there was no one who was staying there.

"Wenyu? Your home... is here?" There was still no answer. The main character suddenly jogged up the stairs. She fished out the key from her pocket, and after some hesitation, Qiumei turned to follow her. There was no light installed in the corridor. Qiumei tripped on some debris on the corridor and almost slipped a few times.

The door of the room opened, and the main character walked through. The light of the living room was not open, and the heavy curtains were pulled shut; the whole place was submerged in darkness. Yet,

even in such conditions, in the camera, the door to the kitchen was pulled open, and the main character's mother walked out from it.

"Wenyu, is that you? Why have you come home so late today?" A familiar voice, a familiar environment. The familiar-looking figure standing in the dark was none other than the main character's mother.

The scenario that could not have looked more normal in the day, when it was replicated at night, brought the audience a horrifying feeling that could not be described in words.

"I will not return here anymore." The main character's voice started to change. This time, she did not run to hide inside her bedroom but stood in the living room.

"Wenyu! Who are you talking to?" Qiumei stood at the entrance, looking into the dark living room. Her face was blanched. It seemed like she was looking at a different scene compared to the main character. "This place is so old, the furniture is ruined, and the tiles on the floor are cracked. Wenyu, what are you doing here? Let's go home already?"

"Go home?" The main character reached out to place her hand on Qiumei's hand before yanking her into the room. "But... we are already home!"

The light on the screen slowly dimmed until it became a slate of darkness. The director did not show what happened inside the room, probably because he did not know what happened either.

A scream echoed through the darkness. The eye flipped open, and the main character was still lying on the bed in her bedroom. The camera looked out the window. Outside the window, the clouds were dark and oppressive.

This scene was a replica of the movie's starting scene. It was the same sky outside the window. It gave the impression that all that had happened earlier was merely a nightmare. The main character glanced at the clock on the table. She took out her phone to read the messages, and then she dragged her tired body into the bathroom.

She kept her head lowered, so the camera could only see the ground. After she brushed her teeth and cleaned her face, the phone started to vibrate. The camera shifted around, and the main character took out the phone from her pocket.

"Wenyu, do you want to go to the movies tonight? It will be a celebration for you having gotten rid of that madwoman."

"Qiumei is not mad. She has never once bullied me."

"It is because you are too kind-hearted that Ol' Cao had her sit next to you. Do you know that both of her parents are in prison? Who knows what she could have done to cause her disappearance? In any case, you shouldn't associate yourself with her anymore."

"Okay, I understand." The main character's hand that gripped the phone increased in strength. "By the way, deskmate, after watching the movie later tonight, do you want to come over my place to play? I want to show you something very interesting."

"Okay, no problem!"

“Okay, I’ll see you later.” After hanging up, the main character slowly raised her face. The camera moved to the mirror, and this was the first time that the audience had been given a chance to see the main character’s face since the start of the movie.

A thin body, tattered clothes, and long black hair—the main character had a face that appeared to be sewn together from pieces of different women. All the women had different facial features, but their left eye looked identical.

The left eye gave the audience the feeling of being a long needle, and it nailed the innumerable faces together.

Chapter 717: Employee’s Privilege [2 in 1]

The camera stopped on the mirror before the main character’s face—it felt the main character was carefully examining herself in the mirror as well. The ending score began, and the camera the signified that the main character’s point of view stopped in front of the mirror.

The woman in the mirror slowly reached out her hand and caressed the face in the mirror as her body gradually leaned toward the mirror. The entire screen was dominated by the woman in the mirror, and thus, the audience was given a better view. As the main character’s hair parted, the woman in the mirror exposed her left eye.

When her left eye slowly increased in size, the camera suddenly pulled back!

The camera seemed to have abandoned the main character’s perspective. The camera continued to retreat. It captured the main character’s back as well as the woman inside the mirror.

As the camera retreated, the main character who stood in front the mirror turned her body around and looked toward the camera. Her face was as pale as white paper and strangely different from her reflection in the mirror.

At that moment, the scariest thing happened.

After the main character turned around, the woman in the mirror maintained the same posture. She did not move!

She and the main character both looked toward the camera and exposed an expression that could not have been stranger.

The music was suddenly cut off, and the screen went black. Perhaps because this private showing theater had not been used for so long, even after the movie was over, the lights in theater did not come on automatically, and the surroundings were still shrouded in darkness.

The darkness caused a certain degree of anxiety. Chen Ge remained in his seat and did not move around; he kept his eyes glued to the movie screen. He had a rough idea about the movie that he had just watched. The director used a flashback with the middle of the plot showing the main character’s memory.

The 'Left Oculus' grew in a girl by the name of Wenyu, but the thing that was controlling the body of the girl was no longer Wenyu herself. The director merely chose to highlight on a singular part. At the start of the movie, the female ghost kept referring to the main character as Qiumei, which meant that since then, the soul inside the main character's body had already turned into Qiumei.

The parents and doctor that appeared later were all ghosts, or perhaps they only existed in this world that was mainly visible through the left eye. That could explain why Wenyu treated her parents with such aloofness. In reality, they were not her family, but they were the lingering spirit of Wenyu's family.

The middle of the movie could be viewed as Qiumei's memory; it described how Qiumei got transformed into Wenyu. After the memory ended, the movie moved back to reality. Qiumei made a date with her good friend. After the movie that night, she would invite her 'friend' to visit her 'home', and the cycle would begin again.

The nightmare was not broken, and the next girl who had the unfortunate destiny of inheriting the left eye should be Qiumei's friend.

The scariest and most horrifying ghost of the movie was none other than the main character; this was also the first movie that Chen Ge had seen that was taken from the perspective of the ghost.

Other than that, there was a part inside the movie that piqued Chen Ge's interest. Right as the movie was about to end, the method of shooting had a sudden change. It changed from a first-person view to a third-person view. At the time, there had been no other person in the room. Could it have been that the last camera was taken from the perspective of the audience?

Both the main character and the ghost inside the mirror turned to look at the audience beyond the screen. Chen Ge remembered very clearly that their left eyes were open.

It feels like they might just crawl out of the screen at any second.

Even for Chen Ge, his heart was beating a bit fast after finishing the movie. It would be an exaggeration to say that he was afraid—he merely felt somewhat creeped out. Opening the backpack, Chen Ge allowed the white cat to escape. Scratching the cat's head, he slowly calmed down.

The horror in the movie was manufactured by the director; this is completely different from the ghost stories in real life. If there is a chance, I would like to sit down and communicate with the director.

The screen had been dark for almost three minutes already, but the black phone did not ring with the message that the mission had been completed. Honestly, Chen Ge had no idea where things had gone wrong.

Is it because the movie is too short, so the black phone does not approve of it?

He stood up and stared at the darkened screen. Then a different possibility surfaced in his mind.

Or is it because the movie isn't over yet?

The movie was only twenty minutes long, but if the ghost had escaped from the movie then the movie had not really ended. A light scent of mildew permeated the private showing theater. Looking around, the rows of seats had the appearance of squat tombstones. The more he studied them, the scarier they became.

The girl with the 'left oculus' could be hiding anywhere in this theater.

Chen Ge was there to complete the mission given by the black phone, and should the movie never end, then his mission would never be completed.

Do I really need to wait here until dawn?

Chen Ge was a very calm and collected person. He was familiar with his strength, and he understood his weakness. Zhang Ya was still hibernating, and it was unknown when she would be able to awaken. Xu Yin was left at the Haunted House, being treated by the red high heels. Currently, the strongest employee that Chen Ge had with him was Bai Qiulin.

With Xu Yin's aid, Ol' Bai had consumed Xiong Qing's heart and evolved into a Half Red Specter. However, he was essentially a Specter who had been forced to become a Half Red Specter. In a real battle, he definitely would not be able to defeat a real Half Red Specter that was covered in resentment.

Left Oculus looks quite powerful. If she suddenly decides to pop up, the white cat and I might not be able to handle it.

Chen Ge had always been careful. If it was not truly necessary, he would not have taken any risk in his life.

The blind man lifted his head to ask Chen Ge, "Brother, it has been quiet for so long already, I believe the movie is over now, right? Can I go now?"

"Since you've called me brother, then I will not spin yards around you and tell you the truth. The female ghost in the movie that we just saw has escaped into the real world."

"The ghost has escaped from the movie?" The blind man's reaction was more than a bit agitated.

"Don't panic. I have good news and bad news to share with you." Chen Ge reached his hand into the backpack and flipped open the comic.

"How can you still be in the mood for jokes?" The blind man was curled in his seat—it was clear that he was really afraid. "Tell me the bad news first then."

"The bad news is that the female ghost appears to be very dangerous, and she seems to be looking for a scapegoat. We are just unlucky enough to have run into her." Chen Ge provided his analysis calmly.

"This bad luck is forced upon me, okay? Brother, let's not stay here anymore. Let's hurry up and leave, please?" If he had not known that he would not win in a fight, the blind man would have used his cane to fight it out with Chen Ge.

"It is a bit too late to run now. The eye has already seen us both, so she is not going to let us go so easily."

"Fine." The blind man collapsed back into his seat weakly. "Then what is your so-called good news?"

"The good news is I have called many of my friends to join us, and we have a clear advantage of numbers." The sound of pages being turned entered the blind man's ears, and Chen Ge called out the names one by one.

A faded smell of decay filled up theater. In fact, it was strong enough to have overpowered the previous mildew scent.

“Did you smell something? Something is coming!” The blind man gasped in shock.

“Sit where you are and do not panic. Try not to bump into anyone else.” Chen Ge already flipped the comic to its last page.

“Those are your friends? When did they arrive? Are they in the room now? How come I didn’t hear the door open at all?” No one was there to answer the blind man’s questions. If he opened his eyes then, he probably would have fainted on the spot. The originally quiet and empty private showing theater was now bustling with activity.

The boy with the stink was pushed by the hanging man to the corner of the room, and he rubbed his belly with a sad expression on his face. The students from the sealed classroom at Mu Yang High School raced all over the place joyfully. Ol’ Zhou ‘tricked’ Duan Yue to share a seat with him at the back of theater with a serious expression. They sat apart from the rest.

Elder Wei and the doctors were standing behind the blind man. They softly discussed among themselves the possibility of conducting an operation to help the man see again, and occasionally, professional terms tumbled out of their lips.

The water ghost sat on the front row. She was the sacrifice for bury seed, and this was the first time in her ‘life’ to have entered a movie theater, so she had an unbridled curiosity about everything. If she could have crawled into the screen, she would have already done so.

Yan Danian was the last who came out from the comic. With unwillingness, he took up the seat at the corner. The Pen Spirit hugged Xiaoxiao, and they sat down next to him. Chen Yalin appeared to have some questions for him about comics.

“Today is my birthday, so I’ll treat everyone to a movie. I suppose this can be viewed as one of the employee privileges. This theater is rather small, but I hope you don’t mind. When we have enough money, I’ll rent an entire IMAX cinema hall for everyone to enjoy.” Chen Ge stood up and walked toward the broadcasting room. Bai Qiulin and Elder Wei moved to follow closely behind him.

The blind man sat obediently in his seat. He knew that there were many things around him, but there was an indescribably strange feeling in his heart. Opening his lips, he extended his hands to feel the seat where Chen Ge should be. After realizing that there was no one there, he obediently closed his lips. He did not dare to move or even ask any questions.

“Are there any movies that you would like to watch?” Chen Ge opened the movie list. He was there to complete a mission, but it was different for the employees at the Haunted House, especially the students from Mu Yang High School, who were only allowed to leave their item of possession for a short period of time, so they definitely would not let this chance go to waste.

Going to the movie was a very common experience for a normal person, but for these students, if not for Chen Ge, they would not have experienced this again. There were only several ghost movies in the list, but there was a surprisingly heated argument among the workers. In the end, the majority voted to watch the movie called ‘Name’. It seemed to be a movie related to someone’s name. Chen Ge glanced at

the cover. The director was still Chang Gu, and the main character's face looked about eighty percent similar to Wenyu.

"Alright, get back to your seat now. Do not wander about after the movie has started. Also, pay attention to your surroundings. Someone extra might appear because this theater is apparently haunted."

Looking at theater filled with ghosts, Chen Ge felt like it was rather preposterous saying something like that.

A group of ghosts watching a horror movie at a movie theater, I wonder if this is like watching a documentary for them.

The employees heeded Chen Ge's advice. They quickly shuffled back to their seats, and they were kind enough to leave two empty seats in the middle.

"Why are you guys leaving two empty seats here?"

Chen Ge pressed the play button, and the background music came out from every corner of theater. The music circulated in their ears, and it created the feeling that they were there in person. Even though this movie theater was rather old, the equipment was the top of the line. After all, it had once been used to serve the visitors at a high-end holiday villa.

The music accompanied the appearance of the images on screen. Those workers who had not experienced much in the way of the world and those who had perished way before their prime were feeling excited already. Some shrieks and howls echoed through the audience—the sounds that they made were even scarier than the sound effects of the movie itself.

What if they're scared by the movie? Normally, they're the ones scaring others.

Chen Ge could not worry about that much anyway—he just wanted to complete the mission given by the black phone as soon as possible.

Moving to the seat that the employees had reserved for him, Chen Ge had Bai Qiulin sit next to him while the blind man took up the seat on the other side of him. He had gained entry due to the blind man's help, but the least he could do was guarantee the man's safety.

"Brother... have you returned?" With Chen Ge's support, the blind man was led to the middle of the theater. His legs were shaking, and it felt like he was walking on cotton candy instead of firm ground.

"Hmm, it's okay now. You are very safe. There is no need to worry." Chen Ge hugged the white cat. "You can stay and watch this movie without worry. After this movie is over, I will personally escort you back."

"Are you sure it is safe now? My heart is racing, and I suddenly feel so cold like I have been shoved inside a fridge." The blind man hugged the cane, and his eyelids kept twitching. It was as if he was losing control of his ocular muscle, and they could flip open at any moment.

"You're just imagining things." Chen Ge gave the blind man a few words in consolation. With his hand scratching the white cat's chin, his back leaning against the cushion, he enjoyed the movie with maximum comfort.

“That’s impossible! I’m not imagining stuff! Are you sure your friends are all here? How come I feel this place is scarier and creepier than before?” A cold breath escaped from the blind man’s lips. “Brother, are you even listening to me? Don’t you feel even a bit unsettled at all?”

“I could not have felt more comfortable. In fact, if possible, I wish to order some snacks like coke and popcorn.” That idea really did cross Chen Ge’s mind earlier. Since they were there to party, food and drinks were required, but taking the mental elasticity of the takeout courier into consideration, Chen Ge abolished that thought from his mind. “It is your mind playing tricks on you. Just relax and it’ll be fine.”

The movie officially started, but the atmosphere was completely different from before. The lighting and sound effects did not change—the only thing that changed was the audience.

Chen Ge was deeply drawn into the movie; he combined all the information that he had managed to find on Left Oculus online, and the movies that he had seen that night and somewhat of a clue showed itself.

The movie, Left Oculus, had been destroyed already, but the private showing theater preserved all the other works by the director, Chang Gu, and the works were all somehow related to Left Oculus.

Why would this director keep focusing on this theme of Left Oculus?

A part of the plot from Deskmate crossed Chen Ge’s mind. Wenyu’s father once called her by her full name, and the girl’s name was Chang Wenyu—she shared the same surname with Chang Gu.

Could the girl with the left eye be Chang Gu’s sister?

In Deskmate, at Wenyu’s home, one would occasionally see the parents or the doctor, but there was definitely not a character who could be Chang Gu.

If Chang Gu really was Chang Wenyu’s family member, then it could have indirectly explained that, during shooting, Chang Gu was still alive, but due to some reason, she did not show up on screen.

Chen Ge was suddenly reminded of the last scene of Deskmate.

With the change in perspective, is it possible that Qiumei and the ghost in the mirror weren’t looking at the audience but Chang Gu behind the camera?

Chapter 718: Non-Existent Man

The difference between Name and Deskmate was obvious from the first shot; this movie was shot from the normal third person view. The difference between the two movies was so drastic that they did not appear like they came from the same director.

The start of Deskmate focused on a dim sky, a home that resembled a cage, and a monster that might show up anytime. The start of Name was very warm. A cup of coffee was placed on the table, and next to it was a notebook and a bunch of study material.

The camera slowly panned forward, and it finally landed on the notebook, which was a diary. On the cover was a name written with red pen—Qiumei.

This time, the main character is Qiumei?

Chen Ge knew that the few horror movies were interconnected somehow. His previous speculation was that each movie recorded the story of the left oculus' victims, but the reality seemed to be different from what he had imagined.

"Wenyu! Wenyu!" There was incessant knocking on the door. A middle-aged woman was calling Wenyu's name, and the woman's voice was conspicuously different from the voice of Wenyu's mother in Deskmate.

"It is not Wenyu's mother who is outside the door, so why is she calling Wenyu's name?"

The camera turned. The girl, who was playing on her phone in bed, jumped up from bed. She ran to the table, shoved the diary into the drawer, and locked it up. After dealing with all that, she went to open the door.

"What are you doing hiding yourself in the room? You respond so slowly whenever I call you." The camera moved to the lady outside the door. She was very large, probably bigger than two of Wenyu combined. She had a thick layer of make-up, and the smell of smoke seemed to follow her. "I heard from the boss that you have quit the job?"

"Yes, Sister Fang, I have something else to attend to." The young woman raised her head to the camera. The actor was very pretty, and she looked somewhat similar to Wenyu in Deskmate. She was like an untainted flower, but after staring at her for a long period of time, there was something that did not feel right.

"Is this thing you mentioned returning to school? Going to night school?" Sister Fang squeezed into the room without asking for permission. "Do you know how hard it is to find work these days? You were given such a good chance, why didn't you appreciate it?"

"Sister Fang, thank you for your help. One day, I'll treat you to a meal." Wenyu disliked people entering her room.

"Why wait?" Sister Fang placed her hand lightly but firmly on Wenyu's wrist. "Last time, I introduced my nephew to you, right? What do you think? The child really fancies you a lot. I guess you can call it love at first sight... Don't push me! Hey! Open the door!" The door slammed shut, and Sister Fang grumbled for a while outside the door before giving up and leaving.

"So noisy." Wenyu subconsciously touched her left eye, and she returned to the table. She put down her phone. Then moved all the materials and books on the table into a bag. When she was arranging the stuff, the camera captured her phone, and the screen showed what that she had been looking at earlier.

"What are the reliable night schools at Jiujiang? How about Jiujiang Private University at Western Jiujiang?"

There were a few answers underneath her question.

My Old Home Is Here: "Thanks for the invite. I'm from the Philippines, just landed at the airport. I'm a graduate from the International Navigation and Aviation University. I do not suggest attending Jiujiang

school any night. There are too many problems, and it won't be of much use. You might as well spend a little bit more and attend a more official private university in Xin Hai."

Cheng De Tertiary Education: "If OP wants to know more about tertiary education, please click on my profile. Cheng De Education is the most professional university in Jiujiang. We are able to help you enter the elite circle. We provide traditional system management education and help our students explore their maximum potential..."

Non-Existent Man: "There are so many night schools in Jiujiang, and you are interested in the one that is most unreliable. I will give you some free advice—register at any night school that you want, but avoid Jiujiang Private University."

Under these three comments, there was a follow-up conversation between Wenyu and the Non-Existent Man.

Original Poster (OP): "Why can't I go to Jiujiang Private University? Is this place a scam?"

Non-Existent Man: "This place is not a scam; you'll get your graduation certificate as long as you manage to survive until graduation. Where did you manage to find information on this school? Based on my knowledge, this school should be closing down soon."

OP: "I have a student pass from this school, and my name is written on it, so I should be a former student at this school."

Non-Existent Man: "Impossible."

OP: "It's real. I'm not lying to you. I cannot remember what I saw at the school, but ever since I left the school, my left eye has managed to see things that I will never forget."

Non-Existent Man: "I don't have the time to listen to your stories, gtg."

OP: "I'm not making up stories!"

OP: "Hello? Are you still there?"

OP: "Fine, looks like you've really gone already. I am telling you the truth. Ever since I left the school, my life has completely changed. The school initiated the change to my life, and now I wish to return to that school to find out the truth."

Non-Existent Man: "Is the truth that important?"

OP: "Oh, you're still here."

Non-Existent Man: "If you are not lying, then there is more reason for you to not go to that school."

OP: "Why?"

Non-Existent Man: "Do you know the school has an alternative name?"

OP: "What name?"

Non-Existent Man: "It is also called School of the Afterlife."

Seeing this, Chen Ge jumped up from his seat. His pupils narrowed as he focused on the screen.

School of the Afterlife!

The term on the phone reflected in his eyes. Chen Ge did not expect to encounter a clue about the School of the Afterlife during the Left Oculus mission. He understood what this term represented. School of the Afterlife was a four-star scenario—it represented a Greater Red Specter at least!

Chang Wenyu brought the left eye out of the School of the Afterlife? Why would she possess the student pass at this school?

The left eye lived in Chang Wenyu's body, but the soul that took control of the body had changed again and again. The real Chang Wenyu had already disappeared—perhaps her soul had already dissipated.

Based on the introduction in the movie, School of the Afterlife was a private university. When Wenyu first obtained the left eye, she was obviously still underage, so how did she end up at a university? If her presence there was a total accident, then how did she manage to escape?

Initially, Chen Ge had been watching the movie because the black phone told him to do so, but after the mention of the School of the Afterlife, his attitude changed.

This shouldn't be just a coincidence—just the change to the left eye caused the formation of a two-star scenario, so how scary will the entire School of the Afterlife be?

Chen Ge thought back to the introduction for the School of the Afterlife on the black phone. There were nine pre-missions, including the one for Zhang Ya.

The time limit for this mission is almost up. Perhaps this movie will provide me with some information that I need.

Chen Ge continued watching the movie. On the screen, the phone left on the table suddenly vibrated. There was an incoming call, and the caller ID was very strange indeed—Non-Existent Man.

Chapter 719: Someone in the Room

The phone in the movie vibrated. Qiumei stopped arranging her stuff and picked up the phone. Without seeing the caller ID, she answered the call directly. "Hello, who is this?"

"We just chatted on the internet. I saw that you'd left your phone number on your personal page, so I thought I'd give you a call." A man's voice came from the other end. The person did not sound that old because his voice was still settling into puberty.

"We just chatted on the internet?" Qiumei pulled back the phone to look at the screen. "You are the Non-Existent Man!"

"That is my online ID."

"Why would you use a name like that?"

“That is not important. The important thing is that I have managed to reach you.” The boy purposely lowered his voice, as if it could make him sound more mature and mysterious.

“The number I left on my page is real, so is it really that surprising that you can make this call? Have you called other girls on their number before and ended up being catfished?” Wenyu did not treat the boy seriously.

“I am talking to you via a dead person’s phone. The fact that you are able to answer the call means that part of what you said is real.”

“You sure have a strange way of clarifying people’s claims.” Wenyu’s attitude turned chillier. Strangely enough, she was not surprised by what the boy said. “Speak, why are you calling me?”

“I simply wish to save your life—I’m afraid that you might go on a suicide mission.” The boy did not sound old, but he seemed to have lived through a lot.

“Suicide mission?”

“Why would you want to return now that you have managed to escape? I know you won’t remember many things, but have you ever considered that the memory is the cost you paid for your escape?” The boy tried to persuade her. “For the sake of escape, even your memory has been surrendered. However, to regain the lost memory, you’ll voluntarily return. Have you heard of anything stupider in this world?”

“I am not going back to search for my memory; I am going there to search for a person.” Wenyu unlocked the door and studied the notebook inside. “Wenyu is the name of this body, but that is not my name.”

Her finger slid across the cover of the notebook, and it glided over the name Qiumei.

“I don’t care why are you returning, but I don’t suggest returning to this place. Remember! Do not go back there!” There was the sound of something heavy being dragged coming from the other end of the phone, and with that, the call was hurriedly ended.

“I know that the place is very dangerous, but certain things cannot be avoided.” The main character placed the arranged information by the headboard, and then she crawled into bed, hugging the phone. She tried to contact the Non-Existent Man, but there was no reply.

“Of all the information that I can find on this university online, they say that it is a private school and built by a private donor. But based on the pictures online, the scale is way beyond that of a normal school. Its size is even bigger than a normal university.”

Wenyu planned to visit this school. She took out paper and pen and recorded all the information she could find on the phone.

“Some of the pictures have watermarks on them, so they might be fake, but how come some of the other pictures just look so strange?”

Perhaps it was the angle of the camera or an issue with the buildings, but in some of the pictures, regardless of whether it was day or night outside, the room had this dim, eeriness to it. The girl turned the bedroom light off but left the bedside lamp on. She lay in bed and started to do her homework.

Seeing the girl on screen, Chen Ge was reminded of himself. Before the start of any mission, he would often gather and analyze information like Wenyu.

“This ghost story reminds me of myself too much.” The time ticked away, and Wenyu gradually fell asleep, lying in bed. The pen slipped from her hand, and it landed on the ground. It rolled away until it stopped right at the bathroom door.

She had to work in the day and study at night. Wenyu was very tired, and she slept very soundly. The camera pulled back, and it focused on the sleeping Wenyu. It was hard to tell what the director was going for. He used a ten-second cut to focus on a sleeping Wenyu.

Chen Ge’s employees were not treated to a night at the movies often. They stared at the screen with open curiosity. Their attention was rapt, and they tried their best to follow the director’s rhythm, attempting to understand his perspective.

“I admit that the girl is rather pretty, but hasn’t this scene dragged on for a bit too long already?” Bai Qiulin finally voiced his thoughts. “When her eye was open, there was an air of resentment around her, but weirdly enough, after she closed her eye, the air disappeared completely.”

“This director is good at his job. From his previous short film, I know that he would not waste a single cut. There has to be a purpose to this.” Chen Ge waited patiently, and after some time, he noticed something. “The bottom left corner of the screen. Yes! There, the spot where the pen fell and stopped earlier.”

The door to the bathroom was left open, and the pen stopped right next to it. The only light source in the room came from the bedside lamp. Due to the camera angle, one realized that the bathroom was not completely dark, and a streak of weak light fell on the bathroom mirror.

The movie seemed to have stopped with the main character soundly sleeping, but as one studied it further, the feeling of something being not right grew. The reason was because the scene had not fully stilled. In the corner of the screen, inside the bathroom, something was moving!

The image on screen looked warm—the soft yellow light, fluffy mattress, and a sleeping beauty. However, once their gazes wandered to the corner of the screen and saw what was happening inside the bathroom, the sudden contrast would cause the audience’s hair to rise.

Inside the dim bathroom, a woman in a red outfit was standing before the mirror. She twisted her neck, but she kept her eyes glued to the camera!

The face was hidden in the dark, and when the audience chanced upon it, it would feel like the face was staring at them through the screen.

“I knew something is not right!”

No matter what kind of style the movie adopted, at the end of the day, it was a horror movie. The pen on the ground moved on its own. The woman in the bathroom had already disappeared from the mirror, and one was given a glimpse of a woman in a red outfit moving in the room.

The majority of the scene had not changed; the only thing that changed was the reflection of the mirror in the bathroom.

The rental room was only so big. There was no living room, and the bedroom was attached to the bathroom. The scene maintained its warmth with the occasional strange sound.

The pen rolled on the ground, and the lizards on the wall crawled away. The light from the bedside lamp cast a shadow, but the shadow did not belong to the room owner, who was sleeping.

The papers on the table were flipped through, and the lock on the drawer jangled like someone was trying to open it.

Moments later, everything returned to silence, but then the scariest scene appeared.

The pillow on the bed indented downward like someone had lain down next to the main character.

Chapter 720: His Name

Under the dim light, there shadows were showing on the wall, but there was supposedly only one person in the room. The two sides next to Wenyu's body creased downward as her hair spread like a halo—it felt like something was pressing down on her.

“Qiumei, Qiumei... Qiumei!” Wenyu suddenly jumped up from her sleep. She inhaled greedily and looked around with a lost expression on her face. The dim light from the bedside lamp shone around the room, giving it an intimate atmosphere. Most of the furniture was where it was supposed to be—there was no sign of anyone else having been in the room.

“Worse thing than having a nightmare is waking up in the middle of the night and realizing that the night is still long.” Wenyu picked up the documents on the bed and looked around. “Where’s the pen?”

She climbed out from bed to grab the pen, which had fallen away. Then she placed the pen and the papers that she had gathered into the folder inside her bag.

“Time to go back to bed. When the sun rises, I’ll go to the school to take a look.”

Climbing back into bed, Wenyu switched off the bedside table. Just as the room submerged into darkness, the camera caught a woman in a red outfit standing in front of the mirror in the bathroom.

When lights went off, she walked out of the bathroom again. She was still inside the room, but since the room was now completely shrouded in darkness, no one could see her.

The way that this movie portrays ghosts is quite interesting. Perhaps my Haunted House can take inspiration from it, to give the visitors a new sensation through a clever use of contrast.

The desire of Chen Ge to meet the movie director grew. If he cooperated with the director, Chen Ge had a feeling that he could raise the horror level at his Haunted House to new heights.

The screen was dark—one could barely see anything. However, this also gave the audience plenty of room for imagination because everyone knew, in the darkness, other than the sleeping main character, there was a ghost in a red outfit. The whole scene was captured in one shot; there was no editing, and that lent the movie a sense of authenticity.

Several seconds later, the scene ended, and the sun rose. Everything in the room was the same. The main character did not sense anything out of place, as if the memory from the previous night was truly just a nightmare.

“I broke out in cold sweat, worried about the girl.” Ol’ Zhou patted his chest lightly.

“Can you even break out in sweat?” Duan Yue rolled her eyes at him.

“If you don’t believe me, why don’t you touch my palm to find out?” Ol’ Zhou extended his hand to Duan Yue, but the latter saw through the old trick, and she slapped his hand away.

The employees were greatly enraptured by the movie, but Chen Ge alone was thinking about something else. He had watched Deskmate earlier, and after comparing both Deskmate and Name, he noticed many problems.

“Both main characters are called Wenyu, so they should be about the left eye. However, the difference is, in Deskmate, the main character is still underage, but in Name, the main character is already working. These two movies depict different periods in life for the same character.

Based on the introduction on the left eye in Deskmate, Wenyu’s body should have played host to the souls of several girls already, but that would mean that the many details in Name would not match up.

At the start of the movie, the name on the main character’s diary was Qiumei, but when the female ghost appeared and pressed herself against the main character, it was also Qiumei’s name that was called.

Now the soul trapped inside Wenyu’s body seems to be Qiumei’s as well.

At the end of Deskmate, Qiumei had answered the call from her new Deskmate, and she had invited her over to place, so theoretically speaking, a new cycle would have started already. However, after watching Name, Chen Ge realized that things were not that simple.

Qiumei doesn’t seem like she found a scapegoat and continued the cycle. Over so many years, she has been suffering everything brought upon her by the left eye alone.

The few movies shot around the left eye seemed to star Wenyu, but in reality, the main character was Qiumei, who was controlling Wenyu’s body. The body was Wenyu’s, but the soul was Qiumei’s.

Chen Ge found that out from watching the beginning of Name. Even though he was not technically a genius, he was a person who paid attention to details. He had a pair of eyes that could look through the surface to find the truth.

The movie continued. The room in the morning was bright and clean. Who would have thought this place had played host to a ghost? The main character handed in her resignation. With the new day, she did not head to work but carried her bag loaded with information and took the bus to Western Jiujiang, following the address that she had found online.

“Is this Jiujiang Private University?” From searching for the whole morning, Wenyu finally arrived at a hospital. “I’m looking for a school, but how come the address on the internet led me to a hospital?”

The buildings around looked quite old. Even though Wenyu was a local of Jiujiang, she had no idea such a hospital existed in Jiujiang.

“Is anyone in?” Wenyu tried to open the door and discovered that the door was locked from the inside. She leaned on the glass and peered into the hospital. The tiles were gleaming, and the chairs were dustless. The walls were white and new. Other than the strange silence, this place looked no different from a normal hospital.

“This hospital doesn’t even have a name. I couldn’t check it online even if I want to.”

Wenyu walked to the other end of the hospital, and at the backdoor, a man wearing a mask and white coat was walking out.

“Doctor, can you help me?” Wenyu ran over, but after the doctor heard her voice, he did not stop but instead walked faster.

“Doctor?” Wenyu was confused by this reaction, and she ran forward to block his way. The man grunted with impatience. He was about to turn the other way when something seemed to dawn on him. His body froze, and he looked intently at Wenyu.

The man was 1.8 meters tall and very handsome with an even build. However, there was a dark cloud between his brows, and his gaze was chilling. He had a presence around him that would deter others from getting too close to him.

Wenyu felt discomfited from his state. After a long time, she asked, “Hi, I’m here to register at Jiujiang Private University. I’ve brought the relevant documents and information, but I cannot find the school. However, the address given online has led me here.”

“Jiujiang Private University?” The doctor’s eyes had not moved away from Wenyu’s face. “That school has been shut down already, so you’d better go find a different school.”

The doctor then prepared to leave. Wenyu scratched her head and then called out with some hesitation. “Wait a minute, have we seen each other somewhere before?”

The doctor continued to walk away like he could not hear her.

“Your face is very familiar. I am sure I have seen you before!” Wenyu chased after him. “What is your name?”

Being chased relentlessly by Wenyu, the doctor finally stopped moving, and the camera gave him a close-up. With his brows creased together, the doctor stared at Wenyu, and he uttered in a whisper, “My name is Chang Gu.”