

## Horrors 861

### Chapter 861: Fan Yu!

The old well behind the field is the school's loophole, and the headmaster said that this is a wound that can't heal. If the entire school is compared to a person's heart, this well is the place where the deepest secret is buried.

Chen Ge was suddenly reminded of a detail.

"Sir, you said that the School of the Afterlife is made up of the memories of countless students, and the reason Mu Yang High School showed up here is because there was a student at that school who was bullied, yes?"

"Yes." The old headmaster did not seem willing to answer that question.

"Can you tell me more about the student?" Chen Ge knew that the old headmaster did not wish to bring up that past, but every clue related to that kid from Mu Yang High School would be very crucial!

The only loophole in the School of the Afterlife was in Mu Yang High School's ruin campus. There was another detail worth noting—all the buildings in the School of the Afterlife were arranged randomly, but Mu Yang High School was placed at the fringe, the closest to the blood red city.

"I don't really know the details. I only know that the child's name was Fan Yu. His adopted father was our school's teacher. He used to teach in the city, but for some reason, he was blackballed by the industry, and it was us who accepted him." The headmaster's words rocked Chen Ge's memory.

"Fan Yu? The kid was once a student at Mu Yang High School?"

"Yes, Mu Yang High School might have been small, but we offered primary and secondary school classes." The old headmaster smiled sadly. "That was something we were forced to do. The countryside has no primary schools, and the children I adopted and the children of the nearby families had nowhere to attend school, so I set up a primary school class."

"That is not important." Chen Ge moved his body upward little by little. "How long has Fan Yu spent at Mu Yang High School? Why did he leave?"

"It was because of his adopted father that Fan Yu enrolled at our school—he was our teacher. At the time, Fan Yu was still too young to attend primary school, but under his father's insistence, we arranged for him to follow Primary One class."

The old headmaster remembered what happened then. This was where the headmaster was different from other Specters—most Specters could only remember their hatred.

"After a few months, Fan Yu could not keep up with the rest of his class. The child was very clever and talented, but his talent showed only in painting." The headmaster had a clear memory of this. "The child was a master painter; he could be seen as a genius. At the beginning, the adopted father had nothing against his hobby, but one day, the child drew the face of a person in class, and that caused his father to explode. According to the other students, the father tore up his painting on the spot and gave the child a

few harsh slaps. Naturally, it caused a huge commotion, and it was me and a female teacher who pulled him back.”

“If he was just drawing in class and not paying attention, his father wouldn’t have been so furious.” Chen Ge was sharp. “Perhaps it was the painting that had angered his father. Sir, do you remember what he drew?”

“The painting was torn up, but I heard from his deskmate that when Fan Yu was drawing the painting, he borrowed his red crayon. He said that his own red crayon had run out.” The old headmaster tried his best to think, but he could not remember what Fan Yu had drawn.

“Red crayon?” Chen Ge’s eyes narrowed. “To be able to finish all of his red crayon and have to borrow one from his deskmate, that proves that the painting used a lot of red!”

His expression turned serious. Chen Ge slowly turned to look at the headmaster and pointed at the blood fog around them. “Just now, you said that Fan Yu is a talented painter. Then think about it, what kind of painting was he doing that required so much red?”

Initially, the old headmaster did not think much of it, but being reminded by Chen Ge, it hit him. “A murder scene?”

“That’s very likely!” Chen Ge slowed down. “That would explain why his adopted father was so angry. I suspect that the killer was Fan Yu’s adopted father.”

The situation was more complicated than Chen Ge thought. Chen Ge had thought that Fan Yu’s adopted father had only killed Fan Yu’s mother, but it looked like things were not that simple—his father might have been a complete psycho. In the morning, he was a respected teacher, but at night, he was a crazed murderer who could not control himself.

“That is weirdly sensible. Only someone like that would draw all those eyes in one of Mu Yang High School’s toilet cubicles to use it to spy on his students. I underestimated the man’s evilness.”

After giving it some thought, Chen Ge realized that Fan Yu’s experience was far more painful than he had thought.

“Fan Yu’s aunt’s sister disappeared without reason, but they wandered Mu Yang High School after their death. Could their death be related to Fan Yu’s adopted father?”

Chen Ge revealed Fan Yu’s father’s real persona to the headmaster. The headmaster’s eyes were flushed with red. “I thought that Fan Yu was merely bullied at school; I had no idea that it was so serious.”

“One cannot judge a book by its cover. The man kept it very well hidden, or else he would have been discovered already.” Chen Ge had new perspective on this. “Sir, before Fan Yu left the school, did he do anything strange?”

“I wasn’t paying attention. Because Fan Yu was in his adopted father’s class, I didn’t think his father would do anything to him, so I didn’t ask. Oh, but there was something strange. Fan Yu always came to school with wounds on him. His adopted father told me that Fan Yu liked to get into fights due to his personality.” The headmaster was deep in guilt. “Now that I think about it, they were probably the work of his father.”

“That’s all?”

“Fan Yu was isolated in class. For some reason, no one wanted to be his friend. His adopted father forbade him from drawing, and whenever he did, the father would beat and scold him. The child turned into a different person in a few short months.” The headmaster could not bear to continue. “This was my fault. At the time, the school was targeted by the authorities, and I had to go to places to solve that. I was rarely at school and missed out on many things.”

“Even if you asked him, Fan Yu probably wouldn’t tell you anything because, no matter what, he still needed to go home. It was not that he didn’t wish to tell you, but he couldn’t. When other students were bullied at school, at least they can tell their parents. For him, after being bullied at school, he would have to go home to face his adopted father.”

Chen Ge’s heart went out to Fan Yu, and it confirmed his desire to take care of the child. Then another question popped up in his mind.

“If it was because of Fan Yu that Mu Yang High School appeared in the School of the Afterlife, then Fan Yu must have entered the School of the Afterlife before. But the reality is that Fan Yu is now being taken care at Jiujiang Children’s Home. He hasn’t left the place.”

Chen Ge narrowed his eyes, and many things that he had experienced now flashed through his mind. He had a good relationship with Fan Yu and had seen his art. The current Fan Yu had no talent in painting at all. All of his paintings had crude lines, no different from other kindergarteners.

This skill cannot be called a genius at all, or is Fan Yu’s situation similar to that of Lee Xueyin? His despairing side has entered the School of the Afterlife, and only an empty self is left in real life?

His brain was struck by lightning, and Chen Ge bit on his tongue. He realized that someone had noticed the uniqueness about Fan Yu before he did!

After the end of the Coffin Village’s Trial Mission, the ghost in the well who had been in existence for one hundred years gifted a bangle to Fan Yu!

The Greater Red Specter had refused to entertain anyone, but she had been kind toward Fan Yu. It was as if she had purposely approached him to leave a good impression.

“When she possessed the girl’s body and was sent to the Children’s Home. There were so many children there, but she targeted Fan Yu! She stayed by Fan Yu’s side. The old ginger is the spiciest. I should have noticed this a long time ago!”

Climbing out from the old well, Chen Ge could no longer see the water at the bottom. Thinking about Fan Yu, he was reminded of the mirrored campuses created by the painter. One was eerie and despairing; the other side was peaceful and nice.

Chapter 862: Chen Ge’s Plan

Flashes of the past appeared in Chen Ge’s mind, and the many coincidences now appeared to be linked together. They might not have been as coincidental as Chen Ge had previously thought.

Chang Wenyu and the painter, who should I help?

When he first obtained the black phone, Chen Ge had made a choice, and that choice had changed his life, giving him the right to find the truth.

Even though School of the Afterlife is a four-star scenario, there is no door-pusher. There must be plenty who have their eyes on this piece of meat.

At first, Chen Ge had treated the doors as some kind of burden, but under Doctor Gao's 'influence' and 'teaching', he had slowly come to understand the doors' importance. If used well, the doors could do many things. Viewed from this angle, Doctor Gao was both Chen Ge's enemy and guide. Doctor Gao wanted to absorb Chen Ge into the ghost story society and make Chen Ge his assistant; that was a fair plan, but there were too many accidents during the process. Even though, in the end, Chen Ge did join the society, by then, he was the only member left.

If Fan Yu is really the painter, this will be very interesting.

Chen Ge did not hate the painter. He did not have a good impression of him—he merely thought that the painter was different than any of the other Red Specters that he had met. There were so many powerful Specters and ghosts behind the door, but the painter was the only Specter who wished to use his own power to change the world behind the door. This idea was crazy. Some Specters wanted revenge, others wanted rebirth, but the painter was different. He did not wish to return to the real world, instead wishing to create a different 'reality' behind the door. If he succeeded, the line between the world behind the door and the real world would become even blurrier. Chen Ge had no idea what that meant, only thinking that would be very dangerous.

There are too many people who have their eyes on the School of the Afterlife. The blood red city that is expanding, the cursed hospital that is seen everywhere, and not to mention Chang Wenyu. If he wishes to succeed in this condition, he will need the help of a powerful Greater Red Specter.

Chen Ge's heart skipped a beat when this thought crossed his mind.

If Zhang Ya becomes a Greater Red Specter, does that mean I can help him complete his wish?

Shaking his head, Chen Ge soon vetoed this idea. The more chaotic the school was, the better it was for him.

I am friends with Xiao Fan outside the door, but I have had no interaction with the painter inside the door. Even if I help him, he might not appreciate the help. If anything, he might harm me after the fact.

Chen Ge knew that the Fan Yu outside the door was an innocent child, but he was very cautious toward the painter inside the door. After he completed the Trial Mission at Mu Yang High School, the police had come to the scene and dug up Fan Yu's parents' bodies from inside the well. Then Fan Yu's aunt had been swift to admit that she had killed Fan Yu's adopted father. She had claimed that it was an accident. She had wanted to stop tragedy from happening but failed. There was a giant loophole in her claim. She was just a fragile woman, so how did she 'accidentally' kill a murderer who was extremely experienced?

The police at the time had thought that it was a strange claim as well, but other than Fan Yu's aunt, there were no other survivors who were related to this case, so in the end, they had to accept her claim,

ending the case that had happened years prior. Now that he thought about it, however, there was another surviving victim of this case, and that was Fan Yu.

The deepest secret on his heart is hidden in this well. Perhaps it was then that he entered the door.

Chen Ge would never forget Fan Yu because he was his haunted house's first special visitor.

The old headmaster knew about the fact that Fan Yu entered the school and knew that Mu Yang High School's appearance in the School of the Afterlife is due to Fan Yu's memory. He would not have found out all that alone, so the biggest possibility is that someone told him about this.

At the place, the only people who would help the old headmaster are my parents. First Yin Hong and then Fan Yu. Are they trying to tell me something through the old headmaster?

Chen Ge could not guess his parent's thoughts.

Are they trying to tell me something through my interaction with Yin Hong and Fan Yu? After this mission is over, the ghost fetus might come to find me. I don't have much time left. Is it because they are worried about me and wish for me to know about the fetus' weakness through the painter? After all, the ghost fetus is my shadow, and in a way, he is my darker self.

After knowing certain things, Chen Ge slowly calmed down. He pulled the headmaster out from the well. "We will go back to the school."

"Okay." The only escape had become a dead end, but the headmaster felt lucky in a way. "Thankfully, you found me, or else I really wouldn't know how to leave."

"There's no need for that." Chen Ge led the old headmaster and retraced their steps. When they removed the wooden plank, there was a small accident. The blood sun that covered the school kept dropping, and it dispersed the blood fog around Chen Ge and almost discovered them. Returning safely to the school, Chen Ge took out the tools to pin the boards back up. That way, it would be hard to tell that someone had tampered with the school.

"Where should we go next? Are you trying to get the school's approval?" The old headmaster took Yin Hong's hand and followed behind Chen Ge. Yin Bai looked at the headmaster innocently, as if wondering what kind of mistake she had made.

"Other than myself, you also need to get the school's approval." Chen Ge's reply stunned the old headmaster.

"Me? Why?"

"You are the key to everything," Chen Ge said seriously. "Even though the school has consumed many souls, it was because it wished to provide a home for these despairing children. Currently, this home is very chaotic as it lacks a qualified manager."

The headmaster nodded subconsciously. "Yes, the world behind a door that has lost control is very scary."

Chen Ge did not pick up on what the headmaster said but continued on his own. "From how I see it, no one is more suitable to manage this school than you."

“Me?” The old headmaster, who was lamenting the state of the school, was baffled, and he quickly shook his hands. “Stop kidding...”

“Don’t hurry to deny it. We can talk about this after gaining the school’s approval.” Chen Ge looked confident.

“Fine, what is your plan?” The old headmaster could only follow Chen Ge; he had no other choice.

“Simple, Yin Hong has lived here for so long, so she should know who people normally shy from. Later, we’ll bulldoze over all of them.” Chen Ge looked at the headmaster with a smile. “I will be the bad cop, and you’ll be the good cop. I’ll use force to correct force, and you only need to be yourself.”

## Chapter 863: My Way of Salvation

“I only need to be myself?” The old headmaster felt that Chen Ge’s plan was not that reliable. Rather than a plan, it was more like a direct taunt. He had been an honest man his whole life, a man of charity, so it was natural that he felt awkward about this plan.

“Yes, do what you wish to do and say what you wish to say—there shan’t be any hesitation.” Chen Ge opened his backpack to look for tools. “We cannot give up on any child, so I will be the bad guy this time. We will make them know their mistake ‘physically’ and then rescue them psychologically.”

Chen Ge was all prepared. He had been meaning to do since the beginning.

“Yin Hong, can you help me with one thing?” Chen Ge squatted down before Yin Hong. “You have been living here for so long, so you should know where the scary places and people at the school are, right?”

“Why would you ask me?” Yin Hong’s cute brows frowned.

“Because you are a scary student yourself. At least, that is how your classmates see you. They seem to be afraid of you.”

“I...” Yin Hong glared heavily at Chen Ge. She was powerless before him. “There are indeed many ghosts and mad people at this school. If you wish to seek death, I will take you to them.”

“We have limited time, so we’ll start with the bad students. Since the staff won’t take care of them, we will.”

Chen Ge was firm, but Yin Hong regarded him with condescension.

“Even if you punish those students, there will be new students to replace them... unless you plan to stay at this place and repeat that forever. But have you considered that if you really do that, will you be any different from the bullies themselves?” Yin Hong appeared like she knew some hidden secrets about this school. “Other than the small number of students whose memory was sealed, most of the bullies here were once victims. In the world behind the door, their consciousness has been altered by the school. They are not bullying but venting. Because of that, the school’s staff ignore most of their actions. This is permitted by the school’s consciousness, so how dare they intervene?”

"It's permitted by the school's consciousness? Isn't the school's consciousness a collection consciousnesses? Does it know how to speak?" Chen Ge kind of understood why the staff would ignore the bullying—they did not want to get involved.

"Even though it is not stated explicitly by the school's consciousness, it is the public consensus."

"I'm afraid that is not the case. The School of the Afterlife has been in existence for years already, and it hasn't selected a new door-pusher. That is probably because you guys have misinterpreted its real purpose."

Chen Ge had been through many dark experiences himself, but he had never surrendered himself to them. Even when he was hiding in the darkest spot of the night, he would be anticipating the arrival of dawn.

"It wasn't the school's consciousness that altered those children but the children themselves. Hatred and resentment were evoked by negative emotions, and they became their most hated self." Chen Ge sighed lightly. "Before this, I had some hesitation, but after hearing what you've said, my desire to help them has increased. Bullying those weaker will never lead to salvation; it'll only make them sink deeper."

"I agree with that." The headmaster suddenly spoke. His eyes that fell on Chen Ge were shining with approval.

"We have limited time, let's go." The mission given to Chen Ge by Chang Wenyu was to find all the specters who had the qualifications to become 'door-pushers'. Chen Ge planned to do go one step further—he planned to pull all those 'people' to his side. Chang Wenyu and the painter were fighting for the control of the school's consciousness, but Chen Ge placed his target on the students themselves.

The school's consciousness is made up of the collective consciousness of the numerous students. In other words, any of the students could affect the final result. This one thing, the painter has done right, but his method of providing another false reality is no different from giving up on most of the students with heavy resentment.

After walking for several minutes toward the center of the school, Yin Hong stopped outside one of the classrooms. She pointed at the door. "The teachers normally don't come here. Whether you wish to enter or not, it's on you."

The wall outside the classroom looked normal, but there was a white piece of paper pasted on the glass window. It had uneven handwriting on it—"Preparing for the test, please do not disturb."

"It feels normal." Right after Chen Ge said that, there was a loud boom inside the room. It sounded like someone had been shoved, and a table had been toppled. "Are they fighting?"

The paper blocked most of the window. Chen Ge tried to look through the gap before turning back to tell the old headmaster. "Sir, you come in later."

"How long should I wait?" The headmaster had no idea what Chen Ge was up to, but he was worried.

"Gauge the situation yourself. As long as their soul is still intact." Before the headmaster understood Chen Ge, the latter summoned Xu Yin and the headless woman.

“Yin Hong, give me some help.” Without waiting for the agreement from Yin Hong, Chen Ge kicked the door down.

Bang!

The glass on the door was shattered, and the paper fell with the splinters.

“Is someone in?” Chen Ge stepped on the papers as he walked into the room. There were seven male students in the room who were playing cards, and another three were punching a student wearing a Taekwondo outfit in the corner. Once he entered the room, everyone stopped what they were doing to look at him.

“Yin Hong, did they bully you?” Chen Ge picked up Yin Hong’s small hand and pulled the girl who planned to witness the show outside into the room. The girl’s gleeful smirk froze on her face. “Don’t be scared. With your big brother here, no one will bully you again.”

Chen Ge pinched Yin Hong’s cheek. Due to anger, not only her face, even her eyes were red.

“F\*ck, what is wrong with you?” The students who were playing cards stood up. One of them was about 1.9 meters tall, and he looked muscular. All this while, it had been them bullying others—they did not expect someone to voluntarily walk into their den. Blood stains that gave out a great stench appeared on the tallest student’s shirt.

“A Half Red Specter? No wonder the teachers refuse to come here.” It was as if Chen Ge could not see the anger on Yin Hong’s face. He very naturally guarded her and said deeply, “Yin Hong, with your big brother here, I will protect you.”

Then, the headless woman and Xu Yin entered the room, and the scene turned incredibly gory. Chen Ge closed the door behind him and helped the beaten boy up. “Are you alright?”

The boy was wearing practice-use cushions over his arms, but his face was covered with wounds. The people did not aim at the cushions but at his body. The boy was bullied until he did not dare speak. Finally, he looked at Yin Hong with envy and said softly, “I’m fine.”

Yin Hong shivered from the boy’s look. She wished to fling Chen Ge’s hand away, but she was reminded of what Chen Ge had said. Even though she knew that was just acting, it felt strangely comforting.

Chapter 864: Han Song

How could Yin Hong’s current feeling toward Chen Ge be described? She wanted to hit him, but she did not dislike him.

While Yin Hong was caught in this conundrum, Chen Ge had already taken her hand and started to talk with the boy who was bullied. Perhaps it was the cute Yin Hong who had lowered the student’s alertness, or perhaps he realized that Chen Ge was scarier than the bullies in the classroom, but no matter the reason, his attitude toward Chen Ge was very kind.

“Why did they bully you?” Chen Ge reached out to support the student in Taekwondo outfit. “Don’t hesitate to tell us anything.”



“We wanted to start a Taekwondo club, but the school would not allow it, so we started one ourselves.”

“Wait, so the club is having the other kids beat you up?” Chen Ge felt like the child was not telling the truth.

“I am the training partner—that’s how all the newcomers started. There were a few others before me, they were unable to hold on, so it was my turn...” As the student explained, his tear fell. His body was fragile, like his soul was about to disperse.

“Don’t be so hard on him.” Yin Hong walked out from behind Chen Ge. “That big fellow is a Red Specter.”

She pulled on Chen Ge’s shirt to signal him to walk toward the door to prevent him from falling into an accidental death.

“A Red Specter?” Chen Ge had thought that the student was just a Half Red Specter; he trusted Yin Yang Vision too much.

“Yes, and he’s a very scary Red Specter.” A cute canine tooth showed when Yin Hong’s lips curled into a smile. “His name is Han Song, and he suffers from giantism. He has been gawked at since he was young, and everyone is afraid of him. Afterward, when people notice that he’s not that clever and is an honest person, many boring people started to play pranks on him. Those people call themselves his friends, but in reality, they were merely ordering him around and treating him as a tool... or perhaps more like an animal. The saddest thing was all this happened at school, so his family had no idea. He was so happy to have found some friends, and his parents even invited his bullies to his home as guests.”

“Then how did he enter the door? If it was just physical bullying, with his physical condition, he could have easily pushed back against those who bullied him.” Ol’ Bai was worried about Chen Ge, so he followed them in. When he saw the Half Red Specter, he thought that he could take him down.

“This is the harshest form of bullying, emotional abuse. No one bullied him physically. They isolated him, verbally attacked him, and ostracized him, making him feel like a monster.” Chen Ge was familiar with all that. “There are worthless creatures who like to put others down to satisfy themselves. They are filled with malice. The more the kid wants to make others think that he is not a monster, the more they will make him feel that way.”

“Yes, that was the type of bullying Han Song ran into. One time, they pushed him to the edge, and they got into an argument. As a result, Han Song was punished; it was Han Song who was injured, but the parents came at him madly. They wanted Han Song expelled because they felt like it was too dangerous for their students to be around someone who was so violent and dumb.” There was a cold smirk on Yin Hong’s lips. Her eyes were red like she was planning to destroy all life forms.

“And then what happened?”

“The school did not punish anyone, but the emotional abuse on Han Song worsened. Their actions toward Han Song slowly crossed the line. Their school once had a Taekwondo club. None of the other clubs were willing to accept Han Song—the Taekwondo club was the only exception. But afraid of him acting out, they only gave him the role of a training partner, or more precisely, a human punching bag. Han Song valued this chance a lot. But people refused to let him be and joined the club as well. You can

imagine what happened next.” Yin Hong pointed at the male student next to Chen Ge. “That was what he experienced; outside the door, he was bullied, but here, he became a bully.”

“Why do you know so much about Han Song?” Chen Ge was curious.

“We came from the same school.” Yin Hong did not continue. She seemed to have been reminded of something unhappy.

“Okay, I know what to do now.” Chen Ge looked at the students in the room and took out the red high heels. “Han Song probably thought that, by bullying others and instilling fear in them, no one would dare bully him again.”

“What do you plan to do?” Yin Hong always had trouble understanding Chen Ge.

“I wish to tell him that is a bad idea.” Before Chen Ge finished, a roar echoed through the ground. Han Song, who had been pressed onto the ground earlier, slowly stood up with his hands on the wall. His coat was drenched in blood, and his body was expanding. A horrible stench filled the room, and worm-like wounds could be seen on his exposed skin.

“How did those wound from?”

“I have no idea. I only know about what happened to him at school. Perhaps he ran into something else outside of school.” This was the first time that Yin Hong had seen Han Song being pushed into such a corner.

“The reason he is behind the door probably has to do with his family.” Chen Ge looked at the maddened Han Song, and he was surprised. Facing the attacks from the headless woman and Xu Yin, he did not get injured too much. “The guy has a single attack style but can sure take a beating.”

Chen Ge could not waste too much time there. He said something to the heels he was holding, but the heels did not react. He had no other option but to toss the heels right at Han Song. “Big Sister, please help. If I can’t leave this place, you can’t either. I give you a verbal promise now. If I can leave this school alive, I will give you freedom, and we will not owe each other anything.”

Yin Hong looked at Chen Ge like he was dumb, but she did not expect what would happen next. The sound of heels clicking echoed in the room, and red footprints appeared on tables and chair before finally appearing on Han Song’s body. Soon, the footprints turned into small black lines and crawled into Han Song’s body. This was the curse that the heels was most familiar with. After consuming the ghost fetus’ curse, the heels’ power seemed to have grown. The three Red Specters cooperated to pin Han Song down, but even until the stage of almost being dispersed, he refused to surrender.

The color on his coat faded, and his actions slowed down. The red in Han Song’s eyes slowly disappeared—he seemed to have seen his old self.

Nothing had changed...

The wounds on his body increased. Seeing as Han Song was about to be consumed by the three Red Specters, the door opened, and a fat old man rushed in.

“Stop!”

The headmaster's heart wrenched just from hearing the sounds from outside the door. After he came in, he was given a shock. Wherever he looked, there was red.

Chen Ge signaled for them to stop and turned to the old headmaster. "They bullied others first. When I came in, they were hitting that child. I did nothing wrong."

"Really? But I only see you bullying others!" The old headmaster looked at the student on the floor. The student in Taekwondo gear did not seem like he wanted to get into trouble, so he stammered through gibberish.

Han Song was collapsed on the ground. The scene before his eyes felt familiar.

#### Chapter 865: Teaching Methods

"Sir, these people were bullying other students, so I had to intervene." Chen Ge picked up the student by his collar. "When I walked in, he was being punched by the few students. I was just helping him."

"But I only saw you beating them up!" The old headmaster looked very angry, and disappointment was clear on his face. He walked to the student's side. "The people lying on the floor were beating you earlier?"

"We were just practicing with him. Shen Qing, you have to answer that!" The bullies finally found a savior, and they pleaded loudly. The student in the Taekwondo outfit's lips fell open, but he did not say anything.

After a long time, it appeared like he had come to a decision. He pointed at the other students. "They said every new member has to go through this process. When the first student was beaten up by them, I didn't say anything, and under their urging, I even delivered a few punches. When the second student was bullied, I still remained silent, but now it's my turn."

Shen Qing was not scared into silence; he chose to tell the truth.

"I have made a mistake in the past, but I will not repeat that mistake."

Everyone in the classroom stared at Shen Qing. He was very afraid. His shoulders and legs were shaking, and his voice was unnatural.

"Sir, you heard it yourself. They deserved it. I was not bullying them; I was merely helping the bullied students." Chen Ge waved his hands and signaled for Xu Yin and the headless woman to continue. Han Song, who was collapsed in the middle of the classroom, had wounds all over his body, and he looked like he was perishing. But strangely enough, the boy kept his eyes on Shen Qing. There were complicated emotions in his eyes. Things did not go as Han Song expected. When he was blamed, no one stood forth to help him. Even if he had protected others, they would not appreciate it but would stay away from him due to various reasons.

"Perhaps it's because I really am a monster..."

To give Han Song a memorable lesson, Chen Ge did not tell his employees to hold back. Being attacked by three Red Specters, it was surprising that Han Song could hold on for so long. His physical body

wavered, and the blood on his shirt faded. The memory in his mind blurred, and his lingering spirit surfaced. His red eyes were filled with negative emotions, and there was no hope.

"I have turned into the type of person I hate the most, but it does not bring me happiness even though no one dares bully me anymore."

The enlarged body slowly returned to normal, but the stench on his body did not disappear. If anything, it only thickened like the despair curled around his heart was slowly deepening.

"If only I was not a monster, people would not hate me, and dad would not have abandoned me."

Something pressed down on his mind, and curses crawled over his body like snakes. The longer this carried on, the worse his situation got. Han Song wished to run, but all the exits had been blocked. He could feel his body slowly disappearing, his flesh being cut down little by little.

"I'm so tired..." He felt an indescribable drowsiness come from everywhere. Just as he was about to close his eyes, an old man appeared before him. The old man was not tall, and his face looked kind, but his expression was serious.

"Chen Ge, perhaps you think that it doesn't matter if you kill him, but I wish for you to remember this—this child was once a victim. You hate school bullying, but using force to press down against force is not going to work because one day you'll meet someone stronger than you." The old headmaster had probably guessed Chen Ge's plan before entering the door, but when he walked to Han Song's side, he was still shocked. Fights between Red Specters were much crueler than he had thought. He noticed that Chen Ge's Red Specters truly wanted to kill and consume the boy's heart!

"I will not allow you to do that." The old headmaster refused to budge. Actually, he had the wrong idea about Chen Ge. Of the three Red Specters, other than Xu Yin who would follow Chen Ge's orders, the other two were not under his control, and they would not listen to his orders.

"Sir, are you sure you want to help them?"

"Human nature is kindness. Even in the darkest abyss, one can find a blooming flower." The headmaster looked at Chen Ge for a long time. "Do you mind if I talk to him in private?"

"But he's a Red Specter."

"I know."

The old headmaster was a stubborn person. To prevent an accident from happening, Chen Ge had the red high heels stay back.

"Please leave. Right, have that lady pull the curse away. It's too dangerous." The old headmaster saw through Chen Ge's plan. He tossed Chen Ge a look to tell him not to worry. After everyone left, he personally closed the door. Chen Ge was worried about the headmaster. He leaned against the door to look through the gap. If any danger came to the headmaster, he would rush in immediately. Through the gap, Chen Ge saw the headmaster pick up Han Song and whisper something to him. Initially, he was the one speaking, but eventually, Han Song started to reply. They chatted for ten minutes before Han Song suddenly went berserk. Yet, the old headmaster did not run. He stood squarely before Han Song and raised his voice.

Chen Ge heard the following terms outside the door—monster, parents, and so on.

Han Song, who had gone mad, did not hurt the headmaster, and he followed the old man out of the classroom.

“The child has agreed to join us. He has already received enough punishment for his mistake. I hope you’ll give him one more chance.” The headmaster looked at Chen Ge with sincerity. “Actually, he hates bullies more than we do, but he fell into a maze and found the wrong way out.”

Han Song, who stood behind the headmaster, was still afraid of Chen Ge. He stooped and lowered his head, trying to make himself look as small as he could.

“Sir, he’s not one of us. The most appropriate way is to have him join us in another manner.” Chen Ge pointed at Bai Qiulin’s stomach. He ignored Han Song. Since he was to portray the bad cop, he went all the way.

“Chen Ge, I’m begging you.” Since the headmaster said that, Chen Ge did not insist. He agreed with Han Song joining them and pulled the headmaster to the side.

“Sir, I’m curious, how did you persuade him? Can you talk me through the whole process?” Chen Ge wished to lean from the headmaster. He would be able to use this skill of persuasion in the future.

“I can’t tell you. He chose to trust me, so I have to keep his secret.” The headmaster always treated others with sincerity. He had been tricked many times because of it, but that did not change his nature. After experiencing many things, he had finally found people who could understand him, and they had been accompanying and protecting him. “But I still need to thank you. If you didn’t beat some sense into him, my persuasion would have been pointless, but try to hold back a little next time.”

The headmaster was scared, too. If he had walked in a little bit later, Han Song would have departed already.

“I have my plan ready. All the students at this school are special, so I have to use special methods to educate them. I suppose you can call this modifying one’s way of teaching to suit the special requirements of each class or case.” Chen Ge stole a glance at Han Song. “Find their goodness, but do not ignore their weakness. Then I will use my method to help them breakthrough their mold and find a new path in life!”

## **Chapter 866: Where Have They Gone?**

The actual method of educating based on cases was not to praise the good and ignore the bad but to face the problem head on and come up with a suitable solution. Even though Chen Ge did not have any children, from a certain perspective, he was the leader of an entire Haunted House. Using different methods of communication with different employees to elicit their greatest passion was an ability possessed by a successful boss. After the Taekwondo member and Han Song joined the club, Chen Ge’s group grew larger.

“Sir, actually, I didn’t plan to kill Han Song. I merely wanted him to feel the pain of the victim to evoke the memory of his past self.” Chen Ge did not want there to be a misunderstanding between him and

the headmaster. "Our ultimate goal is to earn the school's approval; killing the students will obviously go against it.

"Other than the school's consciousness itself, the strongest Specter here should be someone called the painter. He is a ghost with a clear goal. He used his power to turn the school into a heaven without any fighting, but he ran into trouble with another Greater Red Specter. I have no idea what happened next, but those who offended or stood in the painter's way would have their memory wiped out."

"The painter didn't kill them?" The headmaster cut straight to the point.

"Yes, even if those ghosts kept creating problems, the painter didn't kill them," Chen Ge whispered.

"Consuming Red Specters could greatly improve his own and his allies' power; it is impossible for the painter to not understand something as simple as that. So, it is not that he doesn't want to kill, but he cannot. Don't forget, before the new door-pusher appears, the real owner of this place is the school's consciousness. The painter is very powerful, but he still needs to act within the school's limits."

"Why didn't you tell me that earlier?"

"If I told you the truth, would you still have reacted the same way? When you came to save Han Song, you really wanted to help him without consideration for the consequences. This cannot be faked. I could see that; I believe that Han Song could see that as well." A smile hung on Chen Ge's lips. "Sir, you are the kindest person I've ever met; I do not mean to lie to you, but I wish to do more, and some things in this world cannot be achieved with kindness alone."

The smile on his face faded. "Negative emotions and despair permeate the world behind the door, but these emotions come from outside the door. I have no idea how they appear here, but I know that if everyone was like you behind the door, the world behind the door would be a paradise."

Turning to look out the window, Chen Ge looked at the thick blood fog. "Perhaps that way, we might be able to see the stars in the sky."

This was the first time that the headmaster had seen Chen Ge show an expression like that. "Is there something on your mind?"

"I would never tell this to others—you're the first one to hear it. Perhaps it's because you know my parents and I'm certain you will not harm me." Chen Ge and the headmaster walked at the front of the group. "In such a big school, standing amid ghosts and Specters, I am the only living person. Sometimes I am afraid, but I know that I cannot show that. I am just a normal person, but I am also the owner of a Haunted House, the backbone of all my employees and the students we've found. If I lose my stability, everyone will panic, so I do not dare be afraid, do not even dare attempt to entertain the possibility of fear."

When Chen Ge said that, the old headmaster took a good look at Chen Ge. If he was still alive, his grandson would probably be as old as Chen Ge. Chen Ge presented himself so powerfully that even the headmaster had forgotten the simplest issue; he was the only living person in a veritable hell. In this dark abyss, he was like a flickering candlelight, and the smallest wind could take him out. This should be difficult for him as well.

These thoughts appeared in the headmaster's mind. "If you wish to talk to someone in the future, feel free to come to me. I've lived for so long, even though there's nothing to my name, I am qualified enough to be a good listener."

"Thank you," Chen Ge said. "Actually, I wish to know more about my parents. They haven't told me anything. Sir, can you describe them for me?"

"I only know that they are a passionate couple. They did not ask for any compensation but had helped me a lot. Based on what I heard, they helped many others in Western Jiujiang. They would donate most of their income from their Haunted House, and they have done far more than I do." The headmaster held Chen Ge's parents in high regard.

"Did they ever mention me? I wish to know how they looked at me." Chen Ge slowed down. He wanted to know what had happened between himself and his shadow.

The headmaster did not answer instantly. After a long pause, he said, "I've been to your home before—it was at midnight. Your parents were heading out. I have no idea where they were going, but I saw that they stood at your bedroom door for a very long time."

"You've been to my house?" To maintain the Haunted House, Chen Ge had already sold the old home. He did not wish to return to be reminded of the past.

"Chen Ge, no matter what, I hope you understand that your parents really did love you. Perhaps they have done stuff that you do not understand now, but I hope you won't be angry at them." The old headmaster seemed to know some things, but he was unable to tell Chen Ge.

"I haven't seen them for so long already." Chen Ge's voice cut at the headmaster's heart.

Stopping, Chen Ge suddenly asked, "Can you tell me where they have gone?"

The headmaster's lips opened to say something, but at the last moment, he closed them again.

"You can't tell me?" Chen Ge stopped and looked at the headmaster like a helpless child in the wind.

The old headmaster hesitated before finally shaking his head. "They will come back to find you."

"It's alright. I also believe that they will return." Chen Ge sucked in a breath and reverted to his usual self. "Come on, let's keep moving. After getting approval from enough Specters, the school will approve of us. Then, we will lay our cards on the table. I don't want to drag this on anymore."

Sunny, tough, kind—there was a hard determination in his bones. Sometimes, he was so calm that people would be afraid, but other times, he was like a child.

The old headmaster looked at Chen Ge. His impression of Chen Ge changed again. If, before this, they were in a cooperative relationship, now, he treated Chen Ge as his junior.

The headmaster himself did not notice this change. Perhaps it was due to guilt or something else.

"Sir, what I told you today, I hope you won't tell anyone else."

## **Chapter 867: Thirteen Forbidden Zones**

"Don't worry, I will not tell anyone," the headmaster replied softly. Chen Ge nodded lightly. He walked at the front of the pack, so no one could see his expression. Bai Qiulin, who followed closely behind Chen Ge and the headmaster, did not dare intervene. This was the first time that he had seen this demeanor from his boss. He did not know whether Chen Ge was doing this on purpose to gain the old headmaster's trust or really did trust the old headmaster.

"Boss..." In his mind, Chen Ge was a person who was not afraid of anything. In fact, he would often forget that Chen Ge was a living person. It felt nice staying next to Chen Ge, and it would sometimes create the impression that he had already long left the world. Perhaps because Chen Ge had never treated them as ghosts, they liked the Haunted House and chose it as their new home.

*We have been so caught up in ourselves and our past that we have forgotten about the boss. He has been considerate toward us, but we have never once placed ourselves in his shoes.*

Bai Qiulin carried the mirror. A terrible life gave him the chance to experience the many facets of life, so he had an appreciation for his current position. Bai Qiulin silently tilted his head to glance at Xu Yin. He wanted to get Xu Yin's opinion, but he realized with a shock that Xu Yin was looking at Chen Ge, who walked ahead. The depression and pain in his eyes lessened greatly, and blood flowed. Xu Yin's lips moved like he wanted to console Chen Ge, but once his mouth opened, he realized that he had forgotten how to do that.

"Yin Hong, is there any place scarier than that classroom in our school? Bring me there now." Chen Ge's tone did not change much, but there was an unsettling undercurrent to it. The man seemed to be angry, and he planned to vent that anger on other Specters.

"There are thirteen forbidden zones in our school. The crying well behind the field, the classroom whose door is always closed, and the nurse's office that one will enter but never leave—we have been to these three places already." Yin Hong counted on her fingers. "There are a few other places that are dangerous. Normally, the teachers warned us against going there. Are you sure you want to go there?"

"There are as many as thirteen such places? The students at this school sure are living in a dangerous place." Chen Ge smiled. It was simple for a normal person to maintain a smile, but to maintain a smile behind the door while being surrounded by Specters and ghosts, this smile took on a different meaning. "Let's not stand around—we'll walk and talk."

Chen Ge gripped Yin Hong's wrist like he was not holding a Red Specter but a problematic girl who had just gotten into an argument with her parents. He was in a hurry to get to these places, so he did not mind the details. "What are the remaining forbidden zones?"

"The fourth zone is the specimen room with hidden window. This room is on the western side of school as well. The room has many specimens. Due to the uniqueness of the collection, the room does not have a window, but when students pass by the room, they occasionally see a window and a smiling face behind it." Yin Hong stared at the hand that held her wrist. She wanted to beat the man, but she knew that he was not being malicious toward her, so she did not mind it. This was the first time that she had felt this kind of conflicted emotion.



“They probably put the specimen of a smiling face behind the window.” Chen Ge’s tone was no different from normal. “If he shares our values, once we get home, I can even build a wall for him.”

“The fifth zone is the inverted education block’s stairs. The education block is at the center of the school, and on the fourth floor, if you look up when you go down the stairs, you’ll see someone going down the stairs above you as well. No one knows why.

“The sixth zone is the security booth where the door can’t close. After the door is closed, it will open on its own. It’s very strange; even the Red Specters can’t understand it.

“The seventh zone is the chairs in the female dormitory. This is one of the few dangerous locations.” Yin Hong paid this place special attention. “The fourth floor of the female dormitory is abandoned. There is a red chair placed in the middle of the corridor. There was a girl’s name written on it. According to rumors, there was serious bullying in this dormitory, and during dance practice, a few girls forced another girl to jump down the building.”

“Wait a minute.” Chen Ge felt this sounded familiar. “Do you know the name of the girl who jumped?”

“I don’t. I only know that there is a bedroom on the fourth floor to which entry is forbidden. I hear it is stuffed with red chairs and shoes. And the cruelest and scariest Red Specter at this school resides there. Until now, no one has seen her because everyone who did has disappeared. Their hearts were made into candy and their souls into stuffed dolls. Their lingering souls were trapped inside the chairs, and they would never escape.” Just the mention of this Red Specter caused Yin Hong to be afraid as if afraid that she might really appear.

“Is... she that scary?” Chen Ge’s forehead was soaked in sweat. He silently let go of Yin Hong.

“Continue.”

“The eighth zone is the deepest room in the male dormitory. The room is locked, and a deep stench comes out from it. According to rumors, a father’s body and a smelly heart are locked inside.

“The ninth zone is also in the male dormitory. I can’t remember the room, but there are hanging carcasses inside the room. They are all hanged while standing. Apparently, that is the punishment for deceit.

“The tenth zone is in the library. When you get close to one of the bookshelves, both Red Specters and ghosts would disappear.

“The eleventh zone is a mirror; bad things will happen when you look at this mirror.

“The twelfth zone is actually just a name and a file. No one knows what the name represents—we only know it’s a male name. All the ghosts that say that name will disappear, so until now, no one has been able to tell what the name represents.

“The last zone is the headmaster’s office. No one knows where this is, and no one has seen the headmaster. All the staff operate on the school’s consciousness, but according to rumors, we used to have a headmaster.”

Yin Hong told Chen Ge the thirteen most dangerous places in the School of the Afterlife. Some were really dangerous, and some Chen Ge did not know how to comment. Because of Zhang Ya, he did not do

any missions related to Western Jiujiang Private Academy, but he now suspected that the three-star scenario without a door might be the former self of the School of the Afterlife.

### **Chapter 868: Red Spectre Stench!**

Yin Hong revealed a lot of information to Chen Ge and confirmed some of his speculation. These thirteen forbidden zones should be the School of the Afterlife's last secrets.

*The few overlapping scenarios between School of the Afterlife and Western Jiujiang Private Academy confirmed my previous speculation. The few forbidden zones did not have the presence of Specters because they left with Zhang Ya.*

Chen Ge's brain was spinning.

*Just now Yin Hong said that a room in the male dormitory was rife with a horrible stench; that room should be the place where my worker once stayed. The room is locked with a father's body and a smelly heart. This description is quite interesting. Could it be that the 'stench' currently with me is still not complete? He has locked his heart together with his father's body?*

Only a Red Specter would have their own 'heart'. Yin Hong's words had aroused Chen Ge's attention. In Chen Ge's mind, even though Western Jiujiang Private Academy was deemed a three-star scenario, it was categorized that way because of Zhang Ya.

*Looks like I underestimated that scenario.*

Chen Ge was reminded of his fight with the gangsters outside the school. The gangsters had a stench stuck to them, and other Specters stayed away from them, but the boy with the horrible smell seemed to enjoy them.

*No wonder he is so comfortable at this school. Previously, in Coffin Village and Li Wan City, other Specters evolved through the consumption of ghosts, but he was the only exception.*

Chen Ge anticipated the surprise that the boy could bring him. The male dormitory was a forbidden zone for others, but for him, it was like a visit to his employee's house.

*The School of the Afterlife keeps changing. If the boy's heart is really locked in the deepest part of the dormitory, I shall help him get it back. But the premise is that he is willing to take his own heart back.*

The boy had locked his heart up with his father's body. Chen Ge had no idea why he did that. If the boy wished to forget about the past and live as a happy fatty, then Chen Ge would not force him. Chen Ge ran to the center of the school with Yin Hong leading the place. The closer they got to the center, the more students they saw.

Most students followed the warning in the announcement and stayed quietly in the classrooms, but there were some that were wandering about as well, and they were mostly troublemakers. That might not be completely true, but that was what Chen Ge believed. Whenever he ran into these students, he would go talk to them. Sometimes one had to admit Chen Ge was a good persuader. After a series of 'heart-to-heart' exchanges, many students would have tears of regret, and most of them chose to join Chen Ge's group.

There was a small group who said that they supported Chen Ge verbally but since they had something else to do, that it was not convenient for them to follow Chen Ge. They left in a hurry.

Travelling from the western part of the school to the center, the group behind Chen Ge grew, and he successfully gained the school's attention. The blood sun burst through the fog and pressed down on the school. As the distance closed, this was the first time Chen Ge saw the sun for what it was. It was actually a giant red eye, the bloodshot pupil had blood vessels running through it, and the eye was reflecting many despairing faces.

*Each human face should represent a despairing lingering spirit, but there are so many of them.*

Chen Ge felt like Jiujiang city should not have so many spirits—this monster had perhaps lured in spirits from other place like the cursed hospital. It was situated in the middle of the two cities but was categorized by the black phone as part of Jiujiang.

*The four-star scenarios have shown signs that they influence the areas around them, so just how scary will five-star scenarios be?*

Outside the window, the eye above the school was huge. The human faces in it were howling and screeching, like they were afraid of something.

*The school's consciousness keeps staring at the blood city. What kind of monster is hiding there? What is it afraid of?*

The blood city slowly approached. It appeared like it wished to swallow the School of the Afterlife like a red wave.

*This is strange. I feel like the city is alive...*

"Here we are." When Chen Ge was thinking, Yin Hong had led them to the vicinity of the student dormitory. She pulled on Chen Ge's sleeve and said, "All the buildings in the school are joined together to form a large block. The left side is the education block, and the right is the dormitories. If you look closer, you should notice the difference from the color on the walls."

"Since we're here, let's go take a look." Other than Chang Wenyu and the painter, Chen Ge was not afraid of anyone. He had completed the mission given by Chang Wenyu and more. There were so many people gathered around him, and it was only time he gained the school's approval. "We will go take a look at the male dormitory first, the room that you mentioned gave off a horrible smell."

"You sure have a strange request. Initially I thought you were acting, like you were pretending not to be afraid, but I now realize how wrong I was. You are enjoying this too much." Yin Hong had a strange expression like a sick person meeting a madman.

"The adult world is complicated—you won't understand it if I try to explain. Please lead the way."

Chen Ge summoned the boy with the smell. This large boy who had an air of stench around him narrowed his eyes. He hugged his belly and looked for all the world to be a harmless person.

Ever since he showed up at Chen Ge's Haunted House, he had been very tame. Chen Ge knew that the term tame did not suit a Specter, but that was how he felt. He worked without complaint, and even

when he was bullied, he would smile. He rushed ahead whenever there was trouble even though his kindness might sometimes turn into trouble.

Afraid of being the source of visitors' complaints, he often hid at the corners, and whenever the visitors appeared, he would go and hide, afraid that his smell might chase them away. Who would have thought such a kind employee might be a hidden Red Specter who had locked up his real heart with his father's body?

"The boy has no corporeal form; this kind of Specter can become a Red Specter, huh? Oh well, we'll know when we get there." Chen Ge and Yin Hong turned into the male dormitory. Probably because it was still time for class, there were no students around, and a thin layer of blood fog permeated the area. It felt like a window had been broken, and it had not been fixed. They walked down the corridor and walked down the stairs to the fourth floor before stopping before a door that was sealed by wooden beams.

"The school sealed up this place, and no one has entered since. No one knows what is behind this. If you open this door recklessly, you might release something incredibly horrifying." Even Yin Hong gave Chen Ge a warning, which proved that this place was very dangerous to the students.

"It'll be fine, trust me." Chen Ge glanced at the 'boy' who was still spacing out and signaled for his employees to take down the wooden planks.

#### **Chapter 869: Who Will Be Next?**

As the wooden boards fell off one by one, the boy who stood next to Chen Ge slowly transformed. The large head slowly turned, and the small eyes that were squeezed behind the folds of fat stared straight down the corridor. The corridor sealed by the wooden boards was different from the other corridors in the School of the Afterlife. There was no blood fog, and the walls and cement floor looked no different from a normal corridor in real life.

Yin Hong saw the shift in Chen Ge's eyes and whispered to explain, "All the students here know that this place is forbidden, so they do not come here. Therefore, it's only natural for this corridor to have retained its previous state."

"The world behind the door is all red, so how could there be somewhere that is similar to real life? The only explanation is the school meant to keep it this way." Removing the last board, the fog dispersed. Chen Ge and the others rushed in, but only the boy with the smell stood where he was.

"Have you been reminded of something?" Chen Ge wanted to tap the boy's shoulder, but his hand phased through his body. The honest fatty was just a ball of smelly air, unlike other Specters. The boy did not answer. His round body slowly moved down the corridor. He walked very slowly like he was afraid.

*Why would he be afraid? Does he not wish to see his real self, or is he unwilling to face the memory in his heart?*

Chen Ge did not know how to console the boy. He did not urge him. If the boy showed any clear sign of resistance, he would take him out of there immediately. There was no light in the corridor, and all the

windows were sealed. This place was completely isolated from the rest of the school. The school did not seem like it liked other people going there—this was his private place.

“I’ve only heard of this place from the teachers. I didn’t expect things here to appear so normal.” Yin Hong was curious and walked at the front. After a small jog, she stopped. “This room is the dormitory that I mentioned earlier. The students who stayed here all said that they would see something standing next to their bed at midnight. His feet stepped on the ground, but there was a noose around his neck. His face was green as he stared at one of the beds. If you met his gaze, you would disappear.”

“Is the door locked?” Chen Ge reached out to push at the door.

“Hey! Did you not hear me? Can you give me some reaction? I’m telling you something scary!” Yin Hong was not satisfied with Chen Ge’s attitude. “I know you are brave, but these few forbidden zones are the places where the teachers forbade the students from coming. For all newcomers, the first day of class is for getting to know where they can go and where they can’t go.”

“The door isn’t locked. Xu Yin, come with me.” Chen Ge completely ignored Yin Hong. While the girl was speaking, he had pushed the door open a sliver.

“You really want to die, don’t you! Listen to me, there are things more painful than death in this world, so don’t think that...” Yin Hong was the coagulation of negative emotions in Yin Bai. She had to face all the negative emotions and cruel memories. Therefore, she had slowly turned into a monster, but due to what had happened earlier, she had stopped hiding herself before Chen Ge. She probably felt close to Chen Ge, believing they were the same type of person.

Chen Ge noticed the change in Yin Hong, too, but he did not pay it any attention. Yin Hong was the negative memory of Lee Xueyin. He thought that he would be closer to Yin Bai unless the ghost fetus was the carrier of the good memories and he was the one who shouldered all the pain. But that was clearly impossible. He did not think much of it and attributed Yin Hong’s change to his sparkling personality.

With Xu Yin’s agreement, Chen Ge pushed the bedroom door open. A faded smell of mildew drifted out. Having gotten used to the smell of blood, this smell of mildew felt strangely familiar.

“This place is so messy.” Dirty clothes and trash littered the room. The luggage and blankets were strewn everywhere like a tornado had just hit the place.

“Did you discover anything?” The headmaster had been following behind Chen Ge like he was worried Chen Ge might do something crazy. “Shall we leave? This is the school’s forbidden zone; we’d better not stay here for too long.”

“Wait a minute.” Chen Ge stood in the middle of the room and lifted his head to look at the roof. There were nails pinned to the ceiling painted white. From each nail, a tattered cloth was dangling. The cloths of many colors dangled downward. The ceiling was like a white sea, and the red cloths were like corals living on the sea floor. Reaching out to pull at one of them, Chen Ge tugged at it lightly. “This cloth is unable to support a person’s weight. They can’t be used to hang a person.”

"I feel more like they are used to fix mosquito nets. How come your mind goes straight to hanging?" The old headmaster stood at the door. "This room is not big; there probably aren't any secrets here. The school's consciousness has preserved this place probably because this place is meaningful to it."

"Boss, look at this." Bai Qiulin held the mirror with one hand, and his other pointed at the edge of the iron bedframe. The bed had a rope tied to it, and at the other end of the rope was a doll with black hair and a name.

"This looks like the doll that Zhang Ya once gifted me. Has Zhang Ya been here to help the hanging student before?" Looking at the items in the room, Chen Ge could not find the answer. Chen Ge opened the comic and summoned the hanging student. Normally, in the haunted house, the hanging man would hide in the mannequin that Chen Ge had specially made for him. He was a normal Specter, not even as unique as the stench.

The pages turned, and a thin boy appeared in the room. There was an obvious rope mark around his neck, and his neck was dislocated from his shoulders, giving him a strange look.

"You remember this room, yes?" Chen Ge asked softly. The confusion in the student's eyes slowly disappeared—he was like a spooked kitten. He rushed toward one of the beds and tossed all the trash away. He found a black envelope under the mattress, and on it, a sentence was written.

'Who will be next?'

The envelope was puffy like it was stuffed with something. The boy held the envelope tightly with both hands. Fear rose in his heart; he was still very afraid.

"Can I take a look at that letter?" Chen Ge wondered what the hanging man had experienced, why their dormitory room was filled with dolls crafted by Zhang Ya.

The boy shook his head with determination. He put the black envelope away and rushed back into the comic.

"The envelope looks like a curse, but there is nothing that scares me." Since his worker refused to share, Chen Ge would not force it. He inspected the room again and then replaced everything before leading everyone deeper into the male dormitory.

Chapter 870: I Wish for You to Be Happy

The further they went into the dormitory, the thicker the stench in the air. It was like trash had been piled inside for years without anyone to deal with it. Xu Yin and Yin Hong walked at the front while Chen Ge and the boy with the stench walked in the middle. The boy tried his best to hold in the smell like he was worried that it might push Chen Ge away from him. This boy had always been like this; he had a body that would naturally give off a bad stench, but his heart was unimaginably pure.

"If you don't feel well, we can stop here," Chen Ge said softly. He kept interacting with the boy. He rarely forced his workers to do things that they did not want to do. The cheeks with folds of fat swung left and right. The boy rejected Chen Ge, but the further they went down the corridor, the more nervous the expression on his face became.

“Don’t force yourself. Compared to the truth, I’d rather you live a happy life. You didn’t feel much happiness when you were alive, and I don’t want you to get tortured after death. That would just be too sad.”

Several minutes later, they reached the end of the corridor. Many students held their noses—this place was too smelly. The stench was hard to describe. It was no longer the decaying smell of trash. It seemed like it would permeate through people’s skin to make people feel disgusted from within. None of the ‘people’ could stand this; only the boy with the stench did not feel uncomfortable. His wavering body even coagulated like the stench there was originally part of his body. He had once abandoned it, but now the smell was gathering around him. The smell around the boy was heaviest, and the students stayed away from him. This was like when he was still at school; no one was willing to be his friend, and everyone stayed away from him. He was made a laughingstock, a walking joke.

“Are you alright?” Chen Ge’s hand landed lightly on the boy’s shoulder. As the body materialized, Chen Ge’s hand did not phase through the boy’s body anymore. This was the first time that he had felt the boy’s body temperature—it was bone-chillingly cold, completely different from his appearance. No matter where the others chose to hide, Chen Ge would stand beside the boy. The reason was simple—he was his worker. Chen Ge actually had many workers, but he did not ignore their personal feelings even though there were so many of them. Every worker was important to Chen Ge because he knew, no matter what happened, those specters treated the Haunted House as their home, and it was the only place they belonged.

“Don’t be afraid. No matter what happens, I will face it with you. You have many friends now. We will be by your side, so you don’t need to face these things alone anymore.” Chen Ge wanted to touch the boy’s head, but he realized that the boy was too tall, and he could not reach it. Just as he was about to pull away, the large and tall boy took great difficulty to bend over, and the small eyes hidden in his face blinked several times.

Chen Ge smiled. He just wanted to console him. He patted the boy on his shoulders, stood beside him, and did not move away.

“There is a reason this place is forbidden. If we unleash the thing inside it, all of us will be in trouble.” A student that had joined them later whispered some advice. Many people were talking, and even the old headmaster came over to tell Chen Ge to be careful. Everyone saw Chen Ge as the center of the team, and they would listen to his command. But to everyone’s surprise, Chen Ge finally led the boy with the stench to the door and handed the choice over to him. “Whether we open the door or leave, it’s your choice.”

Many students were speculating about the two’s relationship. Only Bai Qiulin and Xu Yin were different; they felt touched.

Standing at the end of the corridor, the boy with the ugly appearance stood where he was like he was petrified. He raised his arm to grab the doorknob, but he lacked the courage to turn it. Turning back to look, he was standing at the darkest part of the corridor. This brought some memories. Many times in the past, he had wished to escape this room, but whenever he saw the long corridor leading away from it and the gauntlet of faces that would be staring at him, he would lose his courage. This small room was

a place that belonged to him fully; it was the place that had made him feel the safest until his respected father died in the room.

The stench in the air thickened a lot. The boy hesitated for a long time before tightening his grip to push the door open. A stinging stench rushed out from the room, and many people subconsciously stepped away. Only Chen Ge, Xu Yin, and the boy were left at the door. Trash littered the room, much of which had decayed until its shape could not be recognized. Once the door opened, the trash spilled out into the corridor. There was not even a spot for them to stand inside the room.

The boy walked into the room. He stepped on the trash with his eyes glued to the armoire in the corner of the room. Chen Ge knew what was inside it. He blocked the people behind him so that they would not disturb the boy.

The room was familiar to the boy. He stopped next to his bed. He waved his arms to clear away the trash that sat on the bedsheet and look at the mattress that hid underneath it. The broken mattress was covered with dark red stains. With a shaking body, the thing that he had been avoiding suddenly appeared before him.

The red on the mattress reflected in his eyes, causing the red in his eyes to deepen. Strange noises elicited from his throat. It was as if he had not spoken for a long time and had forgotten how to phrase a sentence. In the end, he gripped the mattress with both hands as he tried to tear it open. Pieces of mattress with stains fluttered around the room like dark snow. The boy stood next to the bed as memories flashed within his mind. The voice in his throat grew louder, and it sounded like both anger and helpless pleading.

Seeing the helpless boy in the room, Chen Ge slowly closed the door. The boy probably did not want others to see him like that.

In the dirty and cramped room, only the boy and Chen Ge were left. Standing quietly beside the door, Chen Ge allowed the boy to vent his emotions. He felt like he should be there to accompany him. The stench in the room could make a person go mad. The boy calmed down after a long time, but there was change to his little eyes. They were filled with black and red blood vessels.

Pudgy hands gripped the armoire, and he slowly opened the door.

To Chen Ge's surprise, the stench in the room did not increase, and an adult body wrapped in cling wrap did not fall out.