

Horrors 921

Chapter 921: Inverted

“Even though I was afraid, I insisted on finishing the game. When I stood upright again, my friend saw that there was some paper stuck to my back. On it was the method to leave the western and eastern campuses.”

The diary did not end there. Attached were the detailed instructions of the three games and the warnings. It was as if the diary was luring the readers into playing the games.

“Successfully playing these three games will get us the way to leave the abandoned school. Looks like we are quite lucky to have found one of the main quests.” Lan Dong flipped the diary to the last page and carefully read how to play the three games.

“Isn’t our quest to find the oil paintings?” The male assistant was afraid that Lan Dong might do something crazy, so he spoke to warn him, but it was still too late.

“Even if we find the paintings, we might not be able to leave. What if the boss becomes desperate, doesn’t keep his word, and forcibly increase the difficulty?” Lan Dong had considered this well.

“This Haunted House has five main quests, and we drew the easiest quest—another quest had a description related to escape. In other words, the diary that we’ve found is an important clue for another quest. If we can find the way out, we will have nothing to be afraid of. Then, we can mock the boss, pointing at the camera imaging how angry and helpless he is behind it.”

Lan Dong’s words were music to Liu Gang’s ears. He agreed immediately. “It’s just three mini games; it’s perfect for the livestream. We’ll be done with them in five minutes. After we get the clue, we’ll continue the search for the art club.”

“Don’t worry, we’ve played many similar games before. Nothing will happen.” Lan Dong held the diary. “The rule for the first game, Guess the Person Behind the Door, is very simple. Someone has to stand inside a dark room alone while the others retreat outside. No one can speak, and the people outside will pace before the door twice and knock on the door thrice. The person inside the room will call out the name of the person who knocks, and if the guess is correct, the knocker will replace the person in the room, and it will continue.”

“It’s a simple game with no difficulty.” Liu Gang had thought that it would be some scary game, but it was just a normal kid’s game. “We can discuss the order beforehand, and we’ll just follow that order.”

“Yes, that’s what I think.” Lan Dong looked at the dormitory behind him. “This room will do. I’ll be the first. Ah Li and Xiao Chun, you’ll follow. Then it’ll be Brother Gang and finally the cameraman and the assistant.”

“Okay, we’ll finish this in a minute.” Liu Gang nodded, and the rest did not say anything. The game started, and Lan Dong entered the room and closed the door. The male dormitory was dark, and there were things placed on the bed as if there were people lying there.

“I’m ready.” When Lan Dong said that, footsteps echoed outside the door. They were light. After two paces, the door was knocked on.

“Xiao Chun, is that you?” The door was pushed open, and the quiet girl entered the room. “What kind of stupid game is this? Any of the games we’ve played before are scarier than this.”

The footsteps began again. The people followed the predetermined order and entered the room one by one. A chill crawled into their collars, and fewer and fewer people stayed outside the door. The male assistant gripped the phone and kept looking around. In the quiet corridor, the knocking sounded harrowing, and the pacing footsteps became more unsettling. The male assistant was flustered. For some reason, he was reminded of old stories that he had been told when he was a child.

Staying out late at night, pacing up and down the corridor will attract their attention, and when you open the door, they will follow you home.

“Why are we playing a game like this?” He was very afraid, and his palms were sweaty, to the point they drenched the phone. Xiao Chun, Ah Li, and Liu Gang successfully entered the door. Only the cameraman Muscle and the assistant remained outside the door. Carrying the camera, Muscle followed the rules and walked toward the other end of the corridor, leaving the assistant alone at the door. Isolated, the fear in his heart was exacerbated, and his legs were shaking.

“Just hold on, this is just a game.” When the male assistant’s mind was wandering, Muscle was walking back. Footsteps echoed in the assistant’s ears. One in front, the other behind, there were two distinct footsteps. He whipped his head around. He stared down the corridor hard. There seemed to be something approaching from the darkness.

“It’s your turn.” Someone tapped him on his shoulder, and the male assistant jolted awake. He saw Muscle, who was one meter away.

“What are you doing? I’m going in now.” Muscle knocked on the door and looked at the male assistant strangely. “Why do you look so pale?”

The door opened, and the cameraman entered the room. The assistant was the only one left. Something seemed to come from the dark. The male assistant took some deep breaths. After the cameraman entered the dormitory, the footsteps disappeared. “It should be my imagination or the workers of this Haunted House.”

He kept encouraging himself and moved his shaky legs. Following the rules, he headed to the end of the corridor, but once he moved, he heard two footsteps.

“It came from me?” He tried two more steps, and the two footsteps seemed to overlap, but he was sure that they did not come from the same person. “Muscle was standing here when he called after me earlier, and the footsteps began here... Wait!”

The male assistant suddenly realized something.

“When Muscle greeted me, I felt a pat on my shoulder, but he was one meter away from me, and he should be carrying the camera!

“He’s not the one who touched me!”

A chill rushed down his spine. He was about to scream when the same spot on his shoulder was patted.

“Who is it?” He turned back, holding his phone. His action was so big, and due to the sweat on his palm, the phone slipped out from his hand. “There is no one...”

Bending over, the male assistant went to grab his phone. Through the weak light from the screen, he seemed to see something. Widening his eyes, while his body was leaned over, he saw many ‘carcasses’ dangling from the ceiling behind him. They seemed to be walking in an inverted world, and they had been following him!

The black hair lowered to his face, scratching his nose. The male assistant forgot how to breath. He slowly lifted his head, and many upside-down faces were there to greet him.

“Ah!” He lost the ability to speak. He dropped his phone and ran away from the human faces while screaming his head off. Hearing the scream outside the door, Liu Gang’s group quickly opened the door, but the male assistant had already disappeared, and only the echo of his scream could be heard.

Chapter 922: Ball of Paper

“Where is he?”

“What happened?”

The door was half open. Liu Gang looked out at the empty corridor and sucked in a cold breath. The male assistant was not that brave, but he was no coward.

What did he see when he was outside alone?

The same question appeared in everyone’s mind. None of them knew why the assistant had lost his composure. If this was not something planned beforehand, they were in big trouble.

“Brother Gang, your friend sure is a bit of a coward.” Lan Dong stood next to Liu Gang, his eyes filled with confusion. They had all been standing inside the dormitory. The assistant could have easily knocked on the door for help, so why did he run down the corridor? Was it because his brain was overwhelmed by fear until he lost his basic common sense, or was the thing that scared him standing by the door?

The hair on the back of Lan Dong’s neck stood on end. He looked around but did not notice anything scary.

“His phone is still here.” Ah Li was about to pick up the male assistant’s phone when he noticed a bloody note next to it. “Look!”

He picked up the note, and the following was hastily written on it.

‘There is a hidden path behind a mirror on the eastern and western campus that we used to escape the school, but after we left, we realized...’

“We didn’t finish the game, so why were we given the hint?” Ah Li held the note. “Is this purposely here to misdirect us? Mirrors are something that we need to pay attention to, especially after dark. It’s best not to walk around them at night.”

"The sacrifice of Brother Gang's assistant is not without value. At least it has revealed something important." Lan Dong took the note. "The boss has been watching us and is ready to come after us at any moment. The message on the note should be real. We're livestreaming this whole process, so the boss wouldn't do something to the hint. After all, he still needs to be in business. If he does something as malicious as purposely misdirecting his visitors, he will only earn the people's ire."

Before the camera, Lan Dong tried his best to analyze the situation. He was trying to distract people's attention, but he had underestimated the impact from the assistant's disappearance. Even Liu Gang's livestream was filled with question marks.

"Hold onto the note. During the later exploration, whenever we see a mirror, we'll go and give it a push." Liu Gang tried to make himself calm down. This was the first time that he had heard such a scream from his assistant; it was as if his life was threatened.

"Since we've received the hint, we can skip the other two games. We'll go look for information related to Mr. Bai and hurry to meet up with Bai Buhui and find the art club." Lan Dong did not dare act carelessly anymore. After all, in just seconds, a living human had disappeared, and that was quite scary. They did not know how or why he had disappeared, and the unknown added to the anxiety.

"Let's go." The team of six thus turned to a team of five. With the camera watching, Liu Gang still had to act at ease. Going down the dark corridor, strange noises came from the abandoned male dormitory. They sounded like scurrying rats or something brushing against the peeling walls. The weak light from above shone down on the doors around them. There were names that could be seen occasionally on the wall.

"This appears to be the student dormitory; I doubt Mr. Bai lives here." Lan Dong and Ah Li walked ahead. When they reached the end of the corridor, they realized that there was another staircase leading down. "There appears to be another floor below..."

The light was not strong enough to pierce into the darkness. The five of them stood at the corner of the stairs, and no one dared go first. The rusted banister creaked noisily like someone was climbing up the stairs while holding it. Lan Dong shone his phone downward, and something seemed to reflect the light in the thick darkness.

"Is it a mirror?"

"Don't forget, eyes can reflect light, too."

"How about we stay up here?" the only girl in Lan Dong's team said. She pulled on Lan Dong's shirt. "Do you remember the last exploration we had? Brother Four said that he saw a pair of red eyes in the dark before the accident..."

"Don't remind me of that coward. After he left, our livestream release rate increased so much. We were dragged down by him earlier." Lan Dong's team had previously had four members, but the fourth had chosen to leave due to certain reasons.

"Certain people have that natural quality to attract those things. Brother Four was only being cautious." The girl halted. She knew that Liu Gang was streaming, so she left Lan Dong some face.

“Girl, there are no ghosts in this world, only people who act like ghosts.” Liu Gang patted the girl’s shoulder. “I do not believe in ghosts because I have seen people more malicious than ghosts like this Haunted House boss.”

The girl pulled back her arm and stopped talking.

“This place didn’t even have a sign. How about we just ignore it?” Ah Li suggested softly, and Liu Gang grabbed this opportunity.

“That’s right, the lower basement level doesn’t even have lights. Perhaps it’s the Haunted House’s unfinished area. It’s not that I’m afraid, but the areas are probably not fit for visitation yet.” Liu Gang explained that to the viewers, but to his consternation, the winds in his chatroom had changed. Many viewers wanted to see what was in the basement, and many viewers had clear tags that they were Ye Xiaoxin’s fans.

The disappearance of his assistant had indeed flustered Liu Gang, but he reminded himself endlessly that this was just a Haunted House. Other than scaring people, what else could happen? He was livestreaming this, so the other party would not physically assault him. If that happened, the Haunted House would go out of business. He would not be injured, and being scared would not kill him. With that in mind, Liu Gang felt better. “If you guys want to see it, then I’ll bring you down to see it. How troublesome can that be?”

He switched on the flashlight on his phone. Lan Dong and Ah Li walked ahead, he and Xiao Chun were in the middle, and the cameraman followed at the back.

“Many ghost stories are related to stairs. The corners of the stairs are places where Yin energy gathers and the hiding place for many dirty things.” Lan Dong could maintain his calmness as he moved down step by step. When the light swept the corner of the wall, a child’s face appeared.

“Do—don’t panic!” he yelped, and his shaky hand pushed on his glasses. He aimed his camera at the corner of the stairs. There was a child squatting at the corner of the stairs. His head was tilted on his shoulders like his neck was snapped.

“It’s fine. It’s just a mannequin, but the handicraft is impressive.” Lan Dong approached the mannequin carefully and realized that there were many dirty balls of paper littered around the child. He picked up a random one and opened it to read.

“That day, it was my turn to do cleaning duty. When I was going to throw the rubbish out, I saw a child squatting at the corner of the stairs. His neck was twisted at a crazy angle. At the time, just like you, I walked to his side and picked up the paper ball that he dropped.”

Chapter 923: Room 413

Standing in the dark corner of the stairs, Lan Dong held the dirty ball of paper, and the more he studied it, the more unsettling he felt.

“Lan Dong, what does the paper say?” Liu Gang asked behind him. Lan Dong kept his head lowered and did not answer.

"Brother Dong?" Ah Li was worried about him, so he jogged over.

"It's fine, just a ghost story." Lan Dong tossed the ball of paper next to the mannequin's feet. He used the phone, bent over, and aimed the screen's light at the face. The mannequin looked about five years old. It wore clothes with red and white stripes. There were brown stains on its shoes, and the collar and wrists had red thread tied around them, as if afraid that something might escape from inside its clothes.

"Ghost baby?" Xiao Chun also walked over. She stared at the child in the corner, and her voice changed.

"What's a ghost baby? Have you seen similar mannequin somewhere else?" Liu Gang was feeling afraid.

"The ghost baby is a school ghost story. According to legend, if you stay in the school compound after school, you will meet a child playing ball on the staircase. He will ask you to join him. If you refuse, his head will roll off to chase after you. If you agree, the child will disappear." Xiao Chun's voice was low.

"Then what are we waiting for? We should agree!" Muscle urged.

"If you agree, something worse will happen. The boy will follow you home, and after you fall asleep, he will twist off your head." Lan Dong heard this story before. "Regardless of whether you agree or refuse, the endings are horrible. This is a ghost story with no solution."

"No solution? I personally think it is quite meaningless." Liu Gang stood where he was and did not move.

"If I ran into such a child in real life, I would definitely avoid him, but we are inside a Haunted House." Lan Dong did not see anything weird about the child, and he reached out to grab its head. "Actually, I've been curious, why is the mannequin's head so strange?"

He yanked upward and pulled the whole mannequin up. The mannequin's head was joined to his body and could not be separated.

"Looks like this is just a decoration. There's no trap." Lan Dong held the mannequin's head and swung it about. "It's very sturdy; the head can't be removed. The hint should be in the paper notes then."

Lan Dong opened all the paper notes, and he realized that all the handwriting was different. However, scarily, all the notes ended with the same line.

'At the time, just like you, I walked to his side and picked up the paper ball that he dropped.'

"This feels like an endless curse. Those who pick up the paper notes will have a bad ending." When Ah Li said that, he obviously had not considering Lan Dong's feeling.

"Compared to a curse, I have more confidence in psychological influences." Lan Dong undid the red thread on the mannequin. With a few shakes, a ring of keys fell out from the clothes.

"Have we found a hidden clue? What are the keys for?"

"I think I get it now." Lan Dong held the keys and matched them to the paper notes. "Look, the note states that today is my duty day. When I prepared to throw the rubbish, I saw a child squatting in the corner of the stairs. The second note said that when I went to male dormitory Room 413 to borrow hot water to cook some instant noodles, I saw a child squatting in the corner of the stairs. The main clue is

on this third note—it says, when I was carrying the homework to Mr. Bai’s office, I saw a child squatting in the corner of the stairs.”

“Mr. Bai? Isn’t that the person we’re looking for?” Lan Dong realized that.

“Many clues we found point to this Mr. Bai. He must be an important character here. Obtaining the key to his office will be crucial to us.” Lan Dong frowned and kept the keys.

“I don’t think we should mess with the ghost baby’s things,” Xiao Chun reminded him out of kindness.

After knowing the mannequin was just a normal one, he sighed in relief and returned to normal. “The ring of keys should be a normal prop. Let’s not scare ourselves.”

“I suggest we stop here. I’ve heard the ghost story about ghost baby before. Whenever it appears, there are many dirty things to follow. The ghost baby is just the beginning.” Xiao Chun suggested for them to leave, but Liu Gang was forced by his fans. After all, he had said that if he retreated, he would have no face to see his fans anymore.

“Girls are always more cautious, but don’t worry, we’re all here. As long as we’re not separated, I guarantee you’ll be fine.” Liu Gang patted his chest, and everyone praised him for his bravery. Even some of the Haunted House’s old fans created new accounts to cheer Liu Gang on. Perhaps, from Liu Gang’s perspective, it was his own sincerity and charisma that had won over his enemy’s fans, but in reality, he did not capture the real intention of these fans at all. After those fans had been tortured so badly, there was someone noble who was willing to use his own life to tell others about their struggles. How could one not give support and cheer for someone like that?

The five did not realize the seriousness of the male assistant’s disappearance. After all, normally, when one visited a Haunted House, they would not think so far. After turning the corner, they came to the lowest floor. The lights in the corridor were all broken, and it was dark, but strangely, there was some faded red light that was flickering at the other end of the corridor. The lights were dancing like ghostly flames.

“Brother Dong, something doesn’t seem right.” Ah Li patted Lan Dong’s shoulder lightly. “The ghost baby’s neck was twisted to the side earlier, wasn’t it?”

“Yes, what’s wrong with that?”

“Take a look again.” Ah Li shone the light behind them. The mannequin’s head sat straight on its shoulders like the head was about to fall off.

“That’s probably because I was gripping its head and pulling it up earlier.” When Lan Dong spoke, he felt a chill coming from his neck like a pair of hands was pulling on his head.

“Careful! Something is coming down the corridor!” Muscle suddenly screamed, and everyone turned to look down the corridor. The red light slowly approached. When they were few meters away, it suddenly slithered into one of the rooms.

“Is it one of the Haunted House’s actors?”

Lan Dong shone the light at the door. The room number was 413.

Chapter 924: Fog in a Young Man's Life

"413? This number is familiar. I think I saw it on the paper notes around the ghost baby." Lan Dong took out the ring of keys from his pocket. "A student saw the ghost baby in the corner of the stairs when he was going to Room 413, so if one of these keys can open the door, then it can indirectly prove that my analysis so far is correct."

"The red light that just entered the room hasn't come out. If you go in now, you might run into it." Muscle had been the first to discover the red light, and he advised the man softly.

"We've been here for so long, but we haven't seen any Haunted House workers. It's about time for us to meet." Lan Dong pushed on his black-rimmed glasses. His dark eyes were hidden under the thick glasses; no one could tell what he was thinking. "There are four of us and one of them. We can block them inside the room and give the viewers a chance to see what a worker here looks like."

"Aren't you afraid?" Muscle was large, but in the dark corridor, even he was panicking.

"Isn't there such a statement online? The best solution to deal with your fears is to face them. I am helping you face your fears now." Lan Dong laughed joyfully. He seemed satisfied with his performance. With the keys, they stopped at the door to Room 413. "Muscle, are you sure the thing ran into this room?"

"It was caught on camera. If you don't believe me, you can ask the viewers." Many people in Liu Gang's livestream had seen the red light. They were given quite a fright in broad daylight.

"It's not that I don't trust you. Relax, we're here to visit a Haunted House, to play." Lan Dong tried the keys one by one. "This place is a bit scary, but it's far less scary than the places we've been to test our bravery. After all, this is just lackluster mimicry of the real thing."

Creak...

With a crisp sound, the door unlocked.

"I was right." Lan Dong held the doorknob. "Where do you think the worker will hide to scare us? Behind the door? Under the bed? Or around the corner?"

Lan Dong sounded like he purposely said those things to the person in the room. His lips were curled up. He turned to look at the rest of the group. "Why aren't any of you speaking?"

"Brother Dong, I think we'd better not stay in the basement for too long. Xiao Chun has always had accurate instincts..." Ah Li was the more cautious one.

"You really don't understand the joy of exploring a Haunted House at all. Running into a scare that you didn't expect in an unknown location is such an exciting thing!" Obtaining the key item from the ghost baby and solving any puzzle had caused Lan Dong to become a bit bloated with pride. "This is how you clear a Haunted House. Try to enjoy the rush of solving puzzles and release your everyday stress."

Pushing the door open, Lan Dong scanned his phone around. The room looked normal at first glance, but upon closer inspection, one would realize that there were many extremely harrowing things hidden

in the room. There were bloody pajamas hanging by the door, and a blade poked out under the pillow. It was a male dormitory, but there were female shoes next to the bed, but none of them matched, which proved that they were not for walking. Textbooks and exercise books littered the ground, and most of them had the same name—Lin Sisi. The cupboard had signs of being carved, and the frame of the innermost bed was dyed red by blood. Of the whole dormitory room, only that bed was piled high with trash and rubbish.

“Stop hiding, come out now!” Lan Dong yelled into the room, but he got no response. He looked behind the door, pulled open the door, and opened all the cupboards, but he could not find the red light.

“Cameraman, are you sure that thing came into this room?”

“I saw it with my own eyes. I’m not mistaken.”

Lan Dong nodded, and his pupils darted away. When he walked into the deepest part of the room, he suddenly bent over to look under the bed. “The underside of the bed is normally where the dirty things hide.”

Lan Dong was not afraid that his clothes might be dirtied. He wanted to find the actor and see for himself how scary they could be to scare the male assistant like that.

“Why isn’t he here?” Lan Dong touched his nose. “I know, there is a hidden path in this room, and the actor uses it to move through the different scenes.” He looked around and saw that there were human shadows on the walls. Every shadow was pinned to the wall by many nails.

“Why are there so many nails on the wall? Is this a hint for the hidden path?” Lan Dong’s attention was attracted by the nails on the wall. He crawled onto the bed to look at them from a closer distance. The others also started to wander about the room. Ah Li picked up the tattered exercise book and found the name on the book. “Who is Lin Sisi?”

After more searching, Ah Li realized that many things in the room were related to Lin Sisi. The dirtiest bed had Lin Sisi’s name, and the most broken cupboard had Lin Sisi’s name.

“School bullying? The design of this haunted house even reflect actual societal problems?” Ah Li checked Lin Sisi’s bed and found a phone underneath a water-stained pillow. “What the... A phone is used as a prop? Is the boss not afraid that his visitors might steal the phone?”

“I’ve never heard of a Haunted House using a phone as a prop, probably because the actor escaped in too much of a hurry and left it behind,” Liu Gang said to the camera with a smile.

“It doesn’t look that way.” Ah Li tried to switch it on, and the screen soon lit up. “It works fine?”

“I told you, it belongs to the Haunted House actor. The workers here are too unprofessional.” Liu Gang held the fan, but there was curiosity in his eyes. “The phone probably has the conversation between the worker and the boss. They must be communicating with each other on how to scare us.”

“It doesn’t have that,” Ah Li answered honestly. “The phone only has four functions: messages, making calls, camera, and photo album. There is no password, and...” Ah Li pressed on the screen and scanned the phone. “There is a message in the phone that says that this phone can capture things that normal people cannot see... Ah!”

He was just giving it a try, but when the phone turned to the bed where Lan Dong was, his suddenly screamed. His hands shivered, and the phone dropped.

Lan Dong, who was kneeling on the bed, was scared by Ah Li. He whipped his head back to yell, "Why did you do that?"

"Brother Dong!" Ah Li's face was pale, and he stuttered, "When I used the phone to look at you, I saw a doll crawling on your neck. She grabbed you by your neck like she was trying to yank your head off."

Room 413 sank into silence. Lan Dong's Adam's apple shivered, and he subconsciously touched his neck.

Chapter 925: Slanted Shadow

The atmosphere in the Room 413 turned curious. Ah Li was Lan Dong's best friend, so he naturally would not help the Haunted House scare Lan Dong. Therefore, he probably really did see a real ghost earlier.

However, were there actual ghosts in the world? Liu Gang shook his head to chase this unrealistic thought out of his mind. He did not believe Ah Li's words and picked the phone up from the ground.

"A few years ago, I saw a similar app on the app store. It can add scary pictures into normal photographs. Many people used it to prank their friends and families." The camera was still on, and Liu Gang aimed it at Lan Dong. There was nothing on Lan Dong's neck, but instead, the wall behind him was a bit strange. The human-shaped stain pinned to the wall seemed to be moving.

"There is nothing around your neck." Liu Gang showed everyone. "It's all a lie."

"Brother Gang, I've used that app you mentioned, but it has been taken off most app store. Do you know why that is the case?" For some reason, Xiao Chun had a bad impression of Liu Gang. Perhaps she disliked this kind of slippery old man who liked to act and postulate.

"Why?"

"Because someone really saw an actual ghost through that app. Those kinds of reason naturally wouldn't be broadcasted by the app store, but a personal friend of mine experienced it." Xiao Chun glanced at the camera. "Brother Gang, I know that you do not believe in ghosts. That is your freedom. But you have to respect them, especially... in a place like this."

"Girly, you're quite young, but you sure have a tongue on you." Liu Gang did not think much of this.

"Our relationship is not close enough for you to call me girly." Xiao Chun was a sensitive person. She did not like to speak, but someone like her would sense the smallest change around her. Ever since they entered this Haunted House, she had noticed that everyone's emotions had been purposely led a certain way; the darker side of their personality had been elicited. The Haunted House was like a maze that made them sink deeper and deeper. "When we were outside the Haunted House, everyone was fine. How come it changed when we came in here? Is it due to the background music, or is the scenario itself too suffocating?"

Xiao Chun did not know how to comment on a Haunted House like this. It was good that those who were suppressed for too long in real life could go to the Haunted House to release themselves and return to their most original self in this scary underground place. Then, they could pick up their masks and continue working hard at life after they left this place. The bad part was that the process of transmutation would definitely be filled with screams and terror.

“Supernatural app?” The people in the room were arguing. Lan Dong touched his neck and knelt on the bed. “Based on what Ah Li said, I did feel some chilling pain around my neck like a pair of invisible hands were trying to pull out my head, but when Brother Gang shone the phone at me, the feeling disappeared.”

“There aren’t real ghosts, right?” Muscle whispered. He was a professional cameraman. Under normal circumstances, he would not comment during shooting unless he could not help it.

“I don’t know whether there are actual ghosts in this world, but I am sure that there is someone acting as a ghost here. Perhaps he is laughing behind the camera at this moment.” Lan Dong looked at the corner of the room. “He is waiting for us to make a fool of ourselves, but I will not allow that to happen.”

Lan Dong jumped down from the bed. “Let’s go, we’ve obtained the key to most rooms in this Haunted House. We only need to open the rooms one by one, and eventually, we will find the exit.”

“We’re stopping the investigation? I’ve looked at the phone, and there seems to be a case of school bullying in this dormitory. The bullied boy is called Lin Sisi, and he should be the owner of the phone.”

“Ah Li, we’re looking for the art club. Don’t get disturbed by unrelated things.” Lan Dong’s face was stern.

“But I just looked at the phone. There were a few messages inside that were related to the art club.” Ah Li activated Lin Sisi’s phone and opened the messages.

“Sender, Mr. Bai—Lin Sisi, from today onward, you will stay in Room 413. Befriend your classmates and do not disappoint your parents.”

“Sender, The Painter—Lin Sisi, why do you hide a knife under your pillow? Do you know you have the habit of sleepwalking?”

“Sender, The Painter—Lin Sisi, what is your favorite color? Deep red? Or dark red?”

“Sender, The Painter—Lin Sisi, I have seen your painting. Welcome to the art club.”

Ah Li showed everyone the messages. “This Lin Sisi is a member of the art club. We can find several clues from their messages. The president of the art club should be the Painter, and this club is not a simple hobby club. They are probably a group of madmen. I have a feeling that the quest that we drew is not as simple as it seemed.”

“You’re overthinking things.” Before hearing what Ah Li had to say, Lan Dong cut him off. “The mission has been drawn, and that is a fact. The most imminent task now is to find the art club within the time limit.”

“Wait a minute!” Ah Li did not follow Lan Dong out the room. He pulled off Lin Sisi’s bedsheet and opened Lin Sisi’s armoire. He finally found a handmade, wooden box in the bottom drawer. “Lin Sisi is a member of the art club, so there might be an oil painting hidden in his room.”

The wooden box that Ah Li found was similar to the wooden box from which they had drawn their quest, so they should have been made by the same person. Opening the lid, a scent of blood drifted into their nostrils. A folded oil painting had been brusquely shoved into the box.

“Such folds damage a painting a lot. Never mind, the boss probably doesn’t know how to appreciate art. This painting is probably just a prop that is completely replaceable.” Liu Gang opened the painting to take a look. Even though they had no sense of art, they were stunned by the painting. In the inverted painting, the red and white formed a great contrast and pulled at their hearts. It was unclear what the material of the canvas was, but it was cold to the touch. When the canvas was fully spread out, the folds on it slowly recovered on their own like human skin that would close up and heal after it had been cut.

“Ah Li, well done.” Liu Gang’s group had been in the Haunted House for ten minutes, and they had finally found their first painting.

“Let’s go. We still need to find twelve oil paintings.” Lan Dong left the room without turning around.

Ah Li carefully placed the painting back into the box. When he closed the lid, the image of Lin Sisi being beaten up appeared in his mind. The thin boy pleaded for help, but no one answered him. With a shiver, Ah Li looked around. “Please don’t come for me. I’m just an errand boy.”

His eyes moved around, and when he saw the wall, Ah Li was startled again. “How come one of the stains has gone missing? I remember Brother Dong sitting there earlier.”

He had a bad feeling, so he took out Lin Sisi’s phone to aim at Lan Dong. Everything about the man looked normal, but his shadow was conspicuously tilted to the side. “Nothing is following him. Looks like I’ve been overthinking things like he said.”

Chapter 926: The Moment of Collapse (2 in 1)

Ah Li hugged the wooden box and walked at the back of the group. He was honest and loyal. Unlike Xiao Chun, who was more sensitive, he merely felt that something was not quite right. “How come my brain is surfeited with the name Lin Sisi. Is it because I have taken his painting? That should not be. This is probably just my mind playing tricks on me, a psychological effect of sorts.”

Walking down the darkened corridor, Ah Li could not help his brain from wandering about. His memory appeared to be covered up by something, and in the corner of his mind, he kept seeing a thin, weak boy standing there. The face was not that clear, and he did not have visible wounds on his body. But his clothes were torn, the zipper of his school bag was broken, his hair was wet and stuck to his face, and his face was dirtied with mud. Compared to the dirtied physical body, the numbness of the boy to the bullying that had befallen him was more heart wrenching.

“You...”

“What? Did you call me?” The cameraman, Muscle, was given a jolt by Ah Li. “Did you see something?”

"No, no, it is nothing. I'm so sorry." Ah Li quickly apologized. He looked around him, and there was no boy in sight. However, strangely enough, this place that supposed to be dark and eerie gave him a sense of familiarity, like he had been to this place before. "Have I been to this place when I was small? Have I dreamed about this place in one of my nightmares?"

He had gone to a supposedly new place, but there was a sense of déjà vu that arose in his heart. Many people had experienced that feeling before. If it was a normal location out in the open, perhaps it would not have mattered, but they were three floor underground in a Haunted House. This was supposedly an 'unfinished area' that did not even have light fittings. The moment he tried to sort his mind out, Ah Li's brain was overwhelmed by many different scary clips and images. The poor boy was forced into the corner of the room, being pushed into the cubicle of the toilet. Many twisted, eerie faces smiled and laughed at him while they splashed the poor boy with ink and dirty water.

"Enough!" Ah Li yelled at the top of his voice, and it was more than enough to give the other people in his group the scare of their lives.

"Lan Dong, what is going on with your friend? If he keeps going on like this, he's going to scare me to the point the camera slips from my grasp." Muscle was very annoyed.

"Brother, are you okay?" Liu Gang frowned as he turned to look at Ah Li. Since the livestream was still going on, he had to maintain his image. He could not just start going around scolding people.

"I don't know what's wrong. It just feels like I have been to this place before," Ah Li mumbled, but it was clear that there was something on his mind. "Perhaps I have dreamed about this place before. Earlier, wasn't there a news article that said that many comatose patients dreamed about this Haunted House? I have a feeling the articles aren't lying."

"Cough cough!" Liu Gang interrupted Ah Li. He swiftly gave the cameraman a hand signal. Muscle understood what Liu Gang meant and quickly turned the camera away. Putting his hand over the microphone attached to the lapel of his collar, Liu Gang whispered urgently at Ah Li, "We are here to destroy the myths surrounding this Haunted House. Do you understand? Even if you are acting, there has to be a limit to it!"

Liu Gang's attitude turned as quickly as possible. Earlier, in the dormitory, he had been praising Ah Li, but now, his tone had changed completely.

"But I am not lying!"

Ah Li wanted to say more, but Liu Gang was not going to give him the chance. He signaled for Lan Dong to come over. "Watch over your friends carefully. If they do not know how to play this game, teach them."

Replacing the microphone, Liu Gang returned to normal. He walked to stand before the camera and very calmly explained to the viewers that what happened earlier was just an interlude. The camera purposely turned away, and the lowering of the voice along with the strange behavior had started a discussion among the viewers. Seeing the viewers in his livestream talking about the news and Chen Ge's Haunted House, it only deepened Liu Gang's ire.

“Just now, my friend was joking. There’s no reason for you to treat it seriously. We have been taking our time and playing around while visiting this Haunted House, but from this moment on, we are going to be serious.”

Whether Chen Ge’s Haunted House was scary or not, Liu Gang did not have to say much. The atmosphere that was shown through the camera had proven everything. Even if Liu Gang had been trying to lighten the mood and disperse the sense of eeriness, it did not work as well as he hoped.

“A Haunted House that depends on buying popularity on search engines, tricking its visitors, and confusing the viewers also wishes to become popular?” Regardless of whether the accusation was real or not, Liu Gang first added a few defamatory labels to Chen Ge’s Haunted House. This way, he would be placed on the moral high ground, and what he was doing would have a sense of duty and vindication to it, so he would feel less afraid.

“We are going to stop wasting time. Today, I will expose its true face for everyone to see!” Liu Gang was highly passionate, and the moment he finished saying that sentence, the phone in his pocket suddenly rang. This was his personal phone, and not many who knew his personal number. Liu Gang hesitated for a moment before pressing the accept button. Before he could react in any way, the male assistant’s maddened voice came through the phone.

“Brother Gang! This Haunted House is really haunted! Look above you! All the ghost are crawling above our heads!” The male assistant sounded like he was running for his life, and his breath came unevenly.

“Where have you run off to, and whose phone are you calling from?” Liu Gang’s heart cracked a bit. He had just put the microphone back on, which meant that everyone in the livestream could hear the voice of his male assistant.

“I was rescued by the other visitors! You have to turn back! There is no exit in this Haunted House! It will be too late if you do not turn back now! Do not go any further! Help! There are ghosts everywhere! There are ghosts everywhere!” The male assistant’s harrowing and desperate cries for help were practically slaps on Liu Gang’s face. The corners of his eyes were twitching, and he immediately ended the call. He was there to destroy the name of Chen Ge’s Haunted House, but it felt like he was helping Chen Ge promote his Haunted House before the entirety of his online viewers.

“This assistant of mine has a very over the top reaction to the smallest things. This is such a shameful thing to show...” Before Liu Gang finished, the cameraman’s phone started to vibrate. Someone had been sending him voice messages. Muscle did not think much of it and instantly clicked on them. Then the male assistant’s voice appeared again.

“Liu Gang! Run! Believe me! The ghosts are just beside you! They have always been around you!” The corridor was very quiet, so the voice of the male assistant travelled very far. The man was pushed to the brink of his sanity already, so in his desperation, he called Liu Gang by his full name.

“Switch off your phone. We are going to focus on exploring this Haunted House.” Liu Gang’s face was darkening. If not for the camera still running, he would have exploded already.

“Of course, Brother Gang.” Muscle promised verbally to switch off the phone, but in reality, he did not do so. This muscular man was large, but he had a careful heart. He knew this male assistant well, so he

understood that he was not acting; he was really scared out of his wits. After silently replying with a message to the male assistant, Muscle turned the phone to silent mode and shoved it into his pocket.

...

"Liu Gang! You know I would not purposely harm you! Please answer me!" Holding a female model phone in his hand, the male assistant raced down the narrow corridor. His hair was tussled, and there were tear stains on both of his eyes. His throat was raw from all the yelling.

"Can you please stop yelling? Are you trying to draw all the attention to our group?" Walking with the male assistant were a couple of students, a middle-aged man, and a very graceful female visitor. It was the middle-aged man who spoke. The shadows lulled and moved behind them, and they could hear the sound of footsteps approaching!

"This way!" The middle-aged man found a classroom with the door open. Without thinking much of it, he pulled the woman who was behind him and dragged her into the classroom to hide. The pair of students also prepared to run into the classroom, but at that moment, the male assistant had a sudden burst of speed and brushed past the couple, shooting into the classroom before them. After he entered the classroom, with a grit of his teeth, he grabbed the doorknob and slammed the door shut!

"What the f*ck! Open the door! We lent you our phone, and this is how you repay us?" The students banged on the classroom heavily, but the male assistant moved to lock the door instead. The scary footsteps came closer and closer. Cornered, the pair of students had no choice but to escape, and the sound of footsteps was led away by them.

"Thankfully, I acted in time. If we were all hiding here, we would all be trapped, and none of us would be able to escape." The male assistant's action was determined by his subconscious. In this four-star scenario, he seemed to have pulled away his normal disguise, and his real self had started to surface. Gasping greedily for air, the male assistant gripped the phone that he borrowed from the students tightly. He leaned against the door to give himself a rest. "I did that for the good of everyone. By the way, I still have not gotten the chance to thank you. What are your names?"

"You can call me Ol' Zhou, and this is my girlfriend, Duan Yue." The middle-aged man very excitedly introduced his girlfriend to the male assistant. He seemed to enjoy doing something like that, but the annoyance was plainly written on the face of the female visitor.

"Brother Zhou, when I was chased by the ghost earlier, it was you who volunteered to help me and allowed me to follow you." The male assistant seemed to have forgotten the heartless thing that he had just done. He knew that it would be dangerous for him to be stranded alone, so he wished to make a bond with Ol' Zhou and Duan Yue.

"We just did what we were supposed to. One more person means one more pair of hands to help. I also did not realize that this Haunted House would be so scary. Turns out that all the ghosts are walking above us, and you will only be able to see them by bending over and looking upside down." Ol' Zhou sucked in a deep breath.

"One more person means one more pair of hands to help? But this man just slammed the door shut to block the entry for the two other visitors from coming in," Duan Yue added snidely. "This kind of person..."

"If he did not do that, all of us would be trapped in here. I am sure he had a reason to do what he did." What Ol' Zhou said was like music to the male assistant's ears. "I can understand you. I have experienced a lot and have seen through a lot. The adult world is not that simple. If given a choice, who would not want to be a pure and innocent child forever?"

"Brother Zhou, I knew you would understand me!" After experiencing so much desperation, despair, and tiredness, the male assistant finally got a sense of warmth from Ol' Zhou.

"Of course." Ol' Zhou patted the male assistant on his shoulders to give him a boost of encouragement. "Earlier, I saw you making the call. I wish to know whether the person on the other side received your message or not. We need to meet up with the rest of the group as soon as possible. It is too dangerous to stay alone inside this Haunted House."

"Don't you worry about that. Brother Gang probably did not answer the phone because he was broadcasting the livestream, but I managed to gain contact with the cameraman. He even gave me a reply." The male assistant opened the inbox, and there was a message that came from Muscle.

"I also feel like there is something strange about this haunted house. We will talk about this in detail later!"

"In other words, they already believe that you are using this phone to communicate with them." Ol' Zhou's words had a deeper meaning to them. Before the male assistant realized what was happening, Ol' Zhou moved to block the door.

"Brother Zhou, what are you doing?" The male assistant had a bad feeling about that.

"I understand you, and I hope you will understand me." Blood leaked out from his shirt, and ghastly wounds appeared before his eyes. Ol' Zhou's face turned as pale as paper. "You need to understand that the adult world is not that simple. If given a choice, who would not want to be a pure and innocent child forever?"

The dried, withered hands reached for the male assistant. At that moment, the male assistant's eyes were about to fall out from their sockets. His knees buckled underneath him, and he dropped to the ground. At that moment, he bounced into something. Slowly turning his head around, a female carcass that was chopped into pieces was floating behind him.

Not a single sound was able to escape from his throat. The male assistant was shivering all over until his pupils rolled back in his eye sockets, and he slumped heavily to the ground. Ol' Zhou picked up the phone that the male assistant was holding. He memorized Liu Gang and the cameraman's phone number and then used this phone to send another message to the cameraman. "Come and meet up with me now! I think I've found the exit!"

Chapter 927: I Will Lead the Way

Liu Gang's group continued to move through the basement. When they turned the corner, the cameraman stealthily took out his phone to look. There was a new message on it. "Come and meet up with me now! I think I have found the exit!"

“The assistant has found the exit?” The cameraman did not share this with Liu Gang but quietly sent a message back. “Where are you now? Where am I supposed to meet you?”

Muscle did not plan to share this message with others because he knew Liu Gang too well. The man had made such a big promise before millions of viewers on the livestream. Due to his pride, Liu Gang would never choose to escape, but Muscle was different. He had only been dragged there by Liu Gang to man the camera, so why should he suffer alongside Liu Gang?

“This Haunted House is too dark. If anything else happens, I will leave with the male assistant.” Muscle had a general plan. He held the camera with one hand and had his other hand in his pocket. On the surface, he looked unaffected, but he made sure that the contact with the ‘male assistant’ was maintained. Moments later, the message came from the ‘male assistant’.

“There is a hidden path inside the school. I saw one of the workers push open the mirror in the library. There is a path hidden behind it!”

Seeing the message sent by ‘the male assistant’, Muscle was quickly reminded of the paper notes that littered the ground after the male assistant disappeared. They had said the same thing; the school had hidden pathways that could lead them out of the two campuses.

He isn’t lying to me!

Muscle typed on one hand, “Are you at the library?”

“Yes, where are you now?”

“Brother Gang wants to go to the staff dormitory. He is now completely bewitched by that Lan Dong. He refuses to listen to anyone else.”

“This Haunted House is too dangerous. I don’t dare go and find you. Please try to advise him! We will meet up on the ground floor of the library! Remember, the ground floor! There will be scare points around the corridor! Be careful!” the male assistant advised and repeated many key words. This convinced Muscle that the messages did come from the male assistant.

“Okay.” Muscle remembered the messages, but he did not share them with Liu Gang. After they left the male dormitory, none of them were in high spirits. In this Haunted House, time seemed to halt, and every second was tormenting. Without an ending, hope was slowly ground away, and despair grew in their hearts like a poisonous plant. The color of the corridor changed, and a fork in the road appeared. The left was the office block, and the right was the staff dormitory.

“We’ll go to the staff dormitory first. Mr. Bai’s room should have information related to the art club.” Ah Li supported himself by the wall. His eyes fluttered, and a child’s shadow seemed to stand in his pupils.

“Okay, after that, we’ll go and explore the office.” Lan Dong took out the keys. “I’m very curious about what secrets Mr. Bai is hiding.”

“I still think we shouldn’t wander about aimlessly.” Ah Li used to be Lan Dong’s follower. He had never gone against Lan Dong, but since entering the Haunted House, Ah Li had slowly begun changing. Lan Dong gave Ah Li a side-eye, ignored him, and entered the staff dormitory. The dormitory was separated into two basement levels. They did not know where Mr. Bai’s room was, so they could only explore it

one by one. Gradually, footsteps emerged in the originally quiet corridor. The sound was strange, like it came from above them.

“Something’s coming! We’d better move faster! Do not stay too long on the same floor! Mr. Bai’s room should be on the second floor!” Ah Li suddenly yelped. He pressed his temples, and his memory seemed to overlap. For some reason, he could remember where Mr. Bai’s room was. “He lives in the room in the middle of the second level’s corridor!”

Liu Gang was livestreaming, so he could not say anything to Ah Li. He just smiled. “You don’t work here, so how would you know where Mr. Bai stays?”

Lan Dong also frowned. “Did you find some clue that you didn’t share with us?”

“I suddenly remembered it. This place gave me a sense of familiarity, really! I’ve been here in my dreams before!” Ah Li did not care about the livestream anymore. He was very afraid; that déjà vu feeling was about to push him over the edge.

“You...”

“They’re coming! There’s no time to waste! We’re heading down now!” Ah Li was agitated. He appeared to see things that others could not. Without giving the others a chance to react, he turned to run down the stairs.

“Xiao Dong, is there something mentally wrong with your brother?” Muscle flinched. He could not stand Ah Li, who was acting like a madman.

“He was normal when we were outside.” Lan Dong and Xiao Chun followed behind Ah Li and entered the second basement level. They pushed open the door in the middle of the corridor and found many things related to Mr. Bai, including the copy of Mr. Bai’s teacher’s classroom document and many letters that the students had written to him.

“This really is Mr. Bai’s room! How did Ah Li know that?” With the truth placed before their eyes, everyone turned to Ah Li. Even those who had been making fun of Ah Li shut up.

“Have you hidden some clues by yourself!” Lan Dong was angry and pulled on Ah Li’s collar. “Why would you do that?”

“Brother Dong, I really suddenly remembered these details. I remember this Mr. Bai! I feel like I have been here before! The rumor about this world after death might be real!” Ah Li wanted to cry, but there were no tears. He was telling the truth.

“You liar!”

“Stop arguing!” Xiao Chun found a document on the living room table. The cover stated it as the seventh report for the supernatural phenomenon observation club. “This was left behind by Mr. Bai. Come and take a look!”

The handwriting was like chicken scrawl, and it was cut halfway through. “As the teacher responsible for the club, I noticed something strange during the club activities. The members of the art club have disappeared one by one. Where have they gone? After some investigation, I realized, in their last messages, there is a constant repetition of the word, ‘heaven’...”

“The art students have all gone to heaven? What is the meaning of this? We’re supposed to go to heaven to find the art club? The quest is to be completed in heaven?” Muscle grumbled.

“Heaven is the world after death. Is this term referring to a place at school perhaps, or have the members of the art club all been killed?” Lan Dong frowned deeper. “We’ve found the seventh report. To recover the whole truth, we need to find reports one to six. In any case, the general direction has been confirmed. We need to find ‘heaven’ at this school.”

“Heaven...” Ah Li appeared to be traumatized. He rushed into the camera and blocked Liu Gang. “Brother Gang, we mustn’t go there. We have to leave now.”

“Leave?” Liu Gang resisted the urge to slap Ah Li but pushed him aside. “There is no reason to leave. We have found the clue. Now, we’ll go and check the office.”

Just as they prepared to leave, a dog’s barking suddenly came in their ears.

“Why is there a dog in the Haunted House?” Before they recovered, the door to the room suddenly closed. The footsteps walked away. The man who closed the door wore Mr. Bai’s teacher identification. He had an old phone model, and his voice was soft and kind.

“Twenty minutes have passed; it is time to kick the difficulty up a notch. Tong Tong, help me contact the big sister in the tree hole. It’s time for her to shine.”

At the same time, in the green garden in the middle of the school, a headless female body without a head slowly moved to the tree hole and pulled out her own head. Blood dripped, and a smile appeared on the woman’s beautiful face.

Chapter 928: He Started It!

The exit was blocked, and the barking became clearer. Liu Gang’s group was completely flustered.

“We’ve been tricked! Be careful!”

“Where did the barking come from?”

“Don’t panic! There are five of us! Even if the actor comes out now, there is nothing to be afraid of!”

“The Haunted House wouldn’t set a puzzle that can’t be solved! There must be some clues hidden around here! Go and search!”

When the group was fumbling around, it was the only female in the group who stepped forth to say, “There are two pairs of slippers in the shoe rack with different sizes, two water cups on the dining table with two sizes, and look at the greeting card on the sofa!”

Xiao Chun held the card that she had just found, and the ink on it was still drying—‘Happy birthday to my daughter! You’ve always wanted a pet, so today, daddy will gift you a big dog!’

“The big dog is Mr. Bai’s present for his daughter! The barking should come from one of the rooms! We can’t stay here for too long! We have to figure out a way to leave!” Xiao Chun rushed to the door and pulled on it. With a click, the door slid open. Everyone in the room was stunned.

"The door... isn't locked?" This small prank made the panicking people flushed with embarrassment. Liu Gang coughed drily. "Let's leave this place first."

The barking grew louder, and the weak light in the room started to flicker as a large shadow appeared on the wall.

Muscle was the first to run out of the room, but he did not get far before he stopped.

"What's wrong?"

"Brother Gang, look! In the middle of the corridor!" There was a child's mannequin sitting in the middle of the corridor. They had seen this mannequin on the stairs of the male dormitory earlier!

"The ghost baby?" The scary head sat on the shoulders, and the round eyes stared behind Muscle and Liu Gang. "Why is it following us? Was it him who closed the door?"

The more Muscle thought about it, the more scared he became. Even the camera was shaking. The livestream chatroom had exploded, but Liu Gang had no time to care about it. He realized that the mannequin's eyes were like human eyes, capable of expressing emotion.

"Look at the mannequin's eyes, they seem to be following someone!" Liu Gang turned around, following the mannequin's gaze, and saw Lan Dong, who was the last to exit the room. "The mannequin is after vengeance! Lan Dong took its key and tried to pull its head off!"

"Why are you all looking at me like that?" Lan Dong wore thick, black-rimmed glasses. He walked toward Liu Gang and Muscle, but the two stepped swiftly away from him.

"Xiao Dong, I think the mannequin is here for you." Muscle immediately tossed the responsibility to Lan Dong.

"For me?" When Lan Dong saw the mannequin, the hair on his body stood on end, but he maintained his cool. "You've all been manipulated by the Haunted House. It's clear that it was the worker who moved the mannequin here, and it was also the worker who closed the door."

"Brother Dong, listen to me, I think you should return the keys to the ghost baby. Certain things shouldn't be taken without permission." Xiao Chun tried her best to persuade her friend, but Lan Dong was stubborn.

"The appearance of the ghost baby has to be the doing of a worker. The fact that they did this only confirms the importance of the ring of keys!" Lan Dong held the keys and looked down on the mannequin. "If he is really a ghost, why doesn't he come after me and get the keys from me!"

As he finished, Lan Dong felt a pull on his neck like something had curled around his neck and was trying to yank his head off!

With shaking hands, the keys dropped to the ground. Lan Dong held his neck with both of his hands, and his face was turning purple.

"Brother Dong?" Liu Gang and Muscle were stunned into motionlessness. It was Ah Li who reacted the fastest. He took out Lin Sisi's phone and aimed it at Lan Dong. "Above your head!"

In the screen, there was a girl stepping on Lan Dong's shoulders, using both of her hands to pull on Lan Dong's head!

"The ghost baby is real!" The camaraderie between brothers seemed to shatter in that moment. While holding the phone, Ah Li swiftly retreated, and then he saw the shadow behind Lan Dong starting to twist and transform! In that desperate situation, when everyone was panicking, something worse happened!

From the end of the corner came the crawling of blood vines, and an indescribable pressure overwhelmed them. Their hearts beat like they were about to jump out of their chests. With approaching footsteps, a blood red figure turned the corner. She was hugging her own head, walking at an even speed.

"What is that?"

Instinctive human fear kicked in, and the terror that they had collected since entering the Haunted House exploded in that moment.

"Run!" Xiao Chun had superhuman sensitivity. She was the first to run away from the headless woman, and she did not hesitate. Following her was Ah Li. The poor brother Li had not recovered from the terror that he had seen on the screen, and now he was surprised by this visit from a headless woman. He pushed Lin Sisi's phone into his pocket, carried the wooden box with the oil painting, and ran.

"Stand your ground! Don't panic! Muscle, go and stop it! We're livestreaming. Millions of users are watching this!" Liu Gang still thought that he was managing the situation, but no one was listening to him. Before Liu Gang finished, he saw Muscle put down the camera and leap away to safety.

"Come back here!" Liu Gang was so angry that his face was twisted. He turned back to look, and the headless woman had gotten closer. Liu Gang said that he was not afraid, but his body had started to move on its own. The last thing the camera captured was Liu Gang running away.

"F*ck! Wait for me!" Lan Dong wanted to run too, but he could not move his feet like there was a pair of hands inside his shadow gripping his legs. The headless woman was approaching. With a grit of his teeth, Lan Dong turned to hide inside Mr. Bai's room.

BANG!

He closed the door, but before he could relax, he saw something terrifying—the ghost baby was standing in the middle of the living room!

"When did you get in here?" He sat down to the ground. Lan Dong's mind was muddled, and the barking resumed. He turned subconsciously around and saw the bedroom door being pushed open, and a broken and bloody mannequin fell into his arms. Before he could scream, he saw a big black dog staring at him from inside the bedroom, and the next second, it lunged at him!

"AH!" Lan Dong used the last vestige of his energy to grab the door and pull it open!

When the door opened, a woman's face appeared before him. There was a sick beauty to the face, but Lan Dong soon realized something—he was lying on the ground. He slowly raised his head, and the last thing he remembered was a red dress.

“He... he... help me...”

The Red Specter at the door did not leave. The head that she was holding scanned the room seriously. She strode into the room and grabbed the ghost baby in the living room. The cold hands reached into the mannequin. She wiggled her fingers. The mannequin split in two, and the exquisitely-made doll that was hiding inside fell out. It was Xiaoxiao, who had been given free reign to wander around the Haunted House.

After seeing the headless woman, Xiaoxiao did not say anything. She tried to quietly crawl away but was stopped by the headless woman. The headless woman pointed at the marks around Lan Dong's neck. She then searched inside her dress and took out a few pages that were stuck together. The title was the Haunted House worker handbook. Turning the pages, the headless woman's finger moved to the eighth clause.

‘Physical interaction between workers and visitors is strictly forbidden!’

Xiaoxiao leaned on top of the black dog's head and hid behind its ears. The fluffy ears covered her eyes, and that way, she could not see anything. Looking at the rascally Xiaoxiao, the headless woman turned the handbook again and pointed at the twelfth clause.

‘The violation of any rules will lead to the corresponding punishment.’

Now, Xiaoxiao was panicking. She pointed at Lan Dong, and her hands closed around her own neck as if saying that he started it first.

Seeing this, the headless woman shook her head helplessly. She nuzzled Xiaoxiao's head. Then she dragged Lan Dong out of the room and disappeared down the corridor.

Chapter 929: When We Arrived, We Only Saw This Camera Lying on the Ground

“Stop! Wait for me!” Liu Gang pressed his hands against his waist. He really could not run anymore. “The ghost didn't come after us! There's no need to keep running!”

Hearing that, the few racing young people finally stopped.

“Eh? Where is Brother Dong?” Ah Li turned and only then realized that Lan Dong was not with them. The group of five had turned into a group of four.

“Has Lan Dong been captured by the ghost? When I ran earlier, I believe I heard him scream.” Muscle gasped for air.

“That's not important. Where is your camera?” Liu Gang pointed at Muscle and started to curse.

“Motherf*cker! Why are you guys so afraid? There are five of us!”

“Brother Gang, you can't possibly blame me for that. It was not me who ran first.” Muscle pointed at Xiao Chun. “The girl was the first to run. If I didn't follow, I might've ended up like Lan Dong.”

“Listen to me.” Xiao Chun's face was pale. “I've been sensitive to this kind of thing since I was young. Sometimes, I feel chills that come from nowhere. When I was small, my father took me to see the elder

at the village, and the elder told him that I have the body that would attract haunted things. Whenever I feel chills, it means that those things are coming.”

Xiao Chun’s voice was stammering. “Do you know? When that headless woman appeared, my whole body was frozen like I was dropped in ice.”

“You mean to say that headless actor was an actual ghost?” Liu Gang’s frown was creased. He did not believe in such superstition.

“It might not necessarily be a ghost. Perhaps the actor is wearing an outfit of the dead, or something is possessing it. In any case, we need to stay away from that headless woman!” Xiao Chun said firmly.

“Avoiding her is no problem, but the camera is still back there.” Liu Gang glared at Muscle. “We’re here for the livestream, and now you’ve lost the camera. What will the viewers think? You’re making me out to be such a big coward.”

The more he thought about it, he madder he became. Liu Gang flipped open the fan. “Before we came, each of you gloated about how good you are, but when there’s real trouble, every one of you runs faster than the rest!”

“Brother Gang, calm down. We did panic earlier. How about we turn back now?” Ah Li hugged the wooden box. He still had good stamina. “Brother Dong is still behind us. We’ll go back to help him.”

“If you want to go back, go ahead. I’m not going.” Muscle shook his head. “We originally had six people, and in less than ten minutes, we lost two. If we continued to move alone, we’ll only be eliminated by the Haunted House. Honestly, if not for Brother Gang, I would have surrendered already.”

“Then what do you think we should do now?” Ah Li was worried about Lan Dong’s safety.

“We should contact Bai Buhui first and gather. It won’t be so scary when they are so many of us.” Muscle was being rational. “We’ll ignore Lan Dong for now. If he didn’t suggest for us to split up, we wouldn’t end up in this situation.”

Muscle was quick to push the blame, but since the others did not say anything, they approved of what he said silently.

“Okay, I’ll call Bai Buhui now.” Liu Gang took out his phone to call Bai Buhui. “Bai Buhui, where are you guys?”

“What’s wrong?” On the other end, Bai Buhui’s voice sounded normal. They did not seem to have run into anything too scary.

“Come and meet up with us now. We are...” Liu Gang looked around to see where they were. They had been running like crazy, so they had lost their way. “Never mind, we’ll meet up at the junction between the staff dormitory and the office block.”

“The staff dormitory? Aren’t you currently in the lab building?” Bai Buhui’s voice had a chilly undercurrent. When he heard that, Liu Gang was shocked.

“Are you dreaming? We just ran out from the staff dormitory!”

"That's impossible! We were worried about you, so we've been following you. We have been following your footsteps. Just now, the footsteps entered the lab building, and Small Ghost even said that he saw you guys." After that was revealed, both sides had an uncanny feeling.

"They are Haunted House actors! Get back here now! We'll go to the staff dormitory together!" Liu Gang pulled at his head of hair that was not that thick to begin with.

"Wait, why should we head to the staff dormitory?" Bai Buhui was highly suspicious. "I hear the actors here are very good at mimicking people's voices..."

"Mimic your head! Get over here now!" Liu Gang was going to blow his top.

"Fine, stay where you are. We'll be there in ten minutes." Bai Buhui could sense the breakdown from Liu Gang, so he made to move. After hanging up, Liu Gang's eyes were red. "The four of us cannot be separated anymore. No matter what happens, there is no need to be afraid!"

"Yes, Brother Gang is right." Muscle and Ah Li nodded.

"We'll retrace our path. The female ghost should be distracted by Lan Dong at the moment. Our main aim is to take back the camera!" When the group were giving each other a pep talk, there came the sound of blood dripping from the corridor. The sound echoed in their mind, and they could hear it clearly even if they put their hands over their ears. Xiao Chun's face paled instantly. She subconsciously wanted to run, but her slender arm was pulled back by Liu Gang. "Stop running. You are just scaring yourself. When you face her in reality, you'll realize it's nothing!"

Liu Gang gripped Xiao Chun in one hand and Ah Li in another. "Let her come! We'll stand right here and see what she can do to us!"

"Don't! Let go!" Xiao Chun's scalp was numb, and a chill pierced through her bones. The three stood at the front, but Muscle quietly took a step back. He took out his phone to see the messages from the male assistant.

"Why aren't any of you here yet? I'll wait three more minutes."

"Found the hidden path!"

"The hidden path is on the second floor of the library, behind the last row of mirrors. I'll go in to take a look first."

"Phew, that was not easy! Oh, sunlight, I've missed you!"

The last message was a picture of sunlight filtering through a boarded-up window. Seeing that picture, Muscle stopped hesitating. He slowed down but continued to retreat. To maintain his image before his viewers, Liu Gang would never run, so he could only abandon him. Even though it was shameful to abandon Liu Gang, the male assistant had already abandoned him, so the most shameful person should be that assistant. With that in mind, the pressure on Muscle lessened. He walked faster and faster and accidentally kicked a small pebble. The sound from behind caused Xiao Chun, Ah Li, and Liu Gang to turn their heads. They looked at Muscle, who was several meters away, and tried to process this information.

"I know where the exit is! Follow me!" Ignoring the awkwardness, Muscle picked up his pace. Ah Li swiftly abandoned Liu Gang and chased after Muscle.

"You guys!" Xiao Chun's body was frozen. The chill caused her to shiver. She was sure that the woman who was coming was haunted or cursed, and it was not just a normal chill—she was an existence that was harder to describe. Due to their previous experience, she was more afraid than before. The Red Specter slowly approached, with the sound of blood dripping leading the way. When Xiao Chun saw the head in her embrace, her mind collapsed. The piercing scream echoed down the corridor. Bai Buhui's group, who were heading toward staff dormitory, heard it as well.

"That's the girl who doesn't like to speak! This is not good!" The five rushed to the staff dormitory and saw two figures standing at the corridor from afar.

"Liu Gang!" Bai Buhui rushed over, but when he got closer, he realized that they were not Liu Gang but the other visitors. One of them was the middle-aged man and the other appeared to be his wife.

"Have you seen Liu Gang? The man who had the folding fan?" Bai Buhui was not worried about Liu Gang's safety; he was worried that Chen Ge's Haunted House might use Liu Gang to turn the tables on them.

"I have no clue." The middle-aged man looked confounded. "We came here after hearing the scream, but when we arrived, we only saw this camera lying on the ground."

Chapter 930: Actors Everywhere

The middle-aged man looked honest and kind, and his wife did not look like a deceitful person either. The few stood in the corridor for a while. Bai Buhui did not notice that the middle-aged man and the woman had been standing outside the camera's shot.

"Small Ghost, go and take the camera." Bai Buhui felt like there was a problem there, and he needed to get to the bottom of it.

"Why should I?" Small Ghost did not know about Bai Buhui's identity and was not going to let him order him around.

"Stop arguing. Peace is to be valued." The bad guard Liu Guangming picked up the camera. "It's not broken. This thing has been functioning fine. See, the light is still on."

"It has been filming?" Bai Buhui took out his phone to enter Liu Gang's livestream. The chat was endless, to the point that the page was lagging. He needed to refresh several times before he could read the comments. The zeitgeist had changed, and Bai Buhui was anxious. He signaled for the guard to move the camera to the side and then called Liu Gang. "Do you still remember the contract? You promised us that there will be no problems, and because of that, we only agreed for you to livestream the whole visitation!"

There was no answer from the other side except the sound of running and breathing.

"Liu Gang, answer me!" Bai Buhui was agitated. He wanted to use Liu Gang's livestream to expose the Haunted House's interior design and lower its playability as much as he could. He knew how much effort went into the design of a good scenario. After it was exposed online, the number of people curious enough to visit would drastically drop. This way, even if Liu Gang was scared, it would indirectly

decrease the number of potential visitors. The plan was not bad, but he did not expect Liu Gang to drop the camera and run away on his own. He also did not expect the scenario to be so big. They could not finish exploring it in one hour! This kind of livestream, which only captured parts of the scenario, might elicit some curiosity in the viewers, and that was the opposite of his intention.

After a long time, Liu Gang's stuttering voice came from the phone. "You're afraid I'll lose the bet? I won't. The mouth is mine. No matter how scary it is, I can say that it isn't scary."

"If it's not scary, why the hell did you drop the camera?"

"We can push the blame onto the cameraman. He was a coward. What does that have to do with me, Liu Gang?"

"As long as you know how to wrap this up." At this point, Bai Buhui did not know what to say. "We've found the camera. Where are you guys? Didn't you say we are to meet up at the staff dormitory?"

"There's a female ghost chasing us. We can't get to the staff dormitory. Keep the camera, and we'll meet up at the library." Liu Gang's voice slowly returned to normal. It sounded like they had lost the ghost.

"Why are we going to the library?" Bai Buhui felt like he had become Liu Gang's babysitter, wasting effort to look after this useless piece of junk.

"My assistant found a hidden path in the library. It appears to be a hidden exit."

"How come it sounds like you're not with your assistant? You're separated again?"

"He ran into an actor and got separated from us. He told us these things through phone messages. Stop wasting time! Get the camera over here. I've disappeared too long from the stream. The viewers will have comments." Liu Gang was impatient.

"Did your assistant tell you anything else other than the hidden path?" Bai Buhui was naturally suspicious. A separated person stumbled upon a hidden exit? The chance of that was so low that he felt that the male assistant had been replaced and the person messaging Liu Gang was not the actual male assistant but an actor!

Ever since he went to the hospital to visit his colleagues, Bai Buhui knew how dangerous this haunted house was. The owner was crazy and would do anything.

"Now that you mention it, my male assistant also realized one thing. Of the visitors that followed behind us, only the student couple are normal! The other visitors are probably Haunted House workers!" Liu Gang kept his voice low, but since the corridor was so quiet, everyone nearby heard it. They all turned around to look at the two visitors standing some distance away.

The ghosts are right before us?

The guard and Sister Ghost silently moved backward. Only Bai Buhui stood where he was. He held the phone with a confused look on his face. "Your assistant told you that as well?"

"Of course. It was the couple who lent my assistant their phone. The three of them are together now being chased by the fake visitors." Liu Gang sounded confident, like he had seen this with his own eyes.

“Being chased by the fake visitors?”

“Yes, the middle-aged man and his wife, they are both actors!” Liu Gang sounded so confident, and they all heard it. They turned to look at the middle-aged man and the woman like they were the enemy. The middle-aged man looked confused; his legs were shaking. Even though he was afraid, he guarded his wife behind him. Hiding behind Ol’ Zhou, Bai Buhui’s group could not see that Duan Yue had been holding a phone and sending messages that she had typed earlier out to a phone number.

“Okay, I understand.” Bai Buhui was about to hang up when Liu Gang’s voice came again.

“Wait! I got another message!” Liu Gang paused before continuing. “Damn! You have to hurry to the library! My assistant and the two students are cornered by the two fake visitors!”

The phone call ended. Bai Buhui’s group had been cautious of the middle-aged man and the woman, but after hearing the last sentence by Liu Gang, they suddenly realized that something was off.

“If Liu Gang’s assistant and the students are cornered by the fake visitors, who are these two in front of us?” Big Ghost pointed out the flaw directly. “They have been standing there all this time, so how could they be cornering the assistant?”

“That’s right!” Liu Guangming was stunned. “What’s going on?”

“Obviously, someone is lying!” Bai Buhui narrowed his eyes and scanned the middle-aged man. “What are your names?”

“What do you plan to do?”

The middle-aged man was more cautious than Bai Buhui. Considering that they were livestreaming, he refused to give even his name. Seeing how scared the man was, Bai Buhui smiled. “It’s fine, I believe I already know who is lying.”

He pushed on his glasses. “This is a very simple plot. The male assistant told Liu Gang that he and the two students were being chased, but in reality, the two visitors are standing before us.”

“So, the liar is the male assistant?” Small Ghost scratched his head.

“The male assistant wouldn’t lie to Liu Gang; he was probably scared out of his mind. The liars are the two students he’s with! They should be the ones who are messaging Liu Gang. They pushed the blame onto the husband and wife to wash away their blame, but they didn’t expect the couple to be standing before us at this moment!”

Bai Buhui’s mind was sharp. His words caused everyone to nod. “The real actors are the two students!”

Hearing that, even Sister Ghost felt a chill. “That is so cunning! They are still so young; no one would expect that!”

“Actually, I should have noticed that sooner. This Haunted House has a close relationship with Jiujiang Medical University, and the boss is familiar with the students! The opening of a new scenario but stuffing in two students for no reason, there has to be some problem there!” Bai Buhui said confidently.

“We should call Brother Gang and tell him that!” Liu Guangming took out his phone.

“There’s no need to hurry. If they want to act like visitors to scare us, we will play with them. Since the livestream is still going, we’ll help Liu Gang reclaim the face he’s lost.” Bai Buhui then turned to the middle-aged man. “I’m so sorry. There was a misunderstanding. How about you join us? There’s strength in numbers.”

The middle-aged man hesitated. “Let me think about it.”

At the same time, the woman who hid behind him was quietly deleting the messages.