

Horrors 951

Chapter 951: To the Highest Difficulty We Go! [2 in 1]

Walking to the entrance alone, Chen Ge was not as cocky as Liu Gang. But sometimes, even if one wanted to stay low profile, it was impossible. He used his ID to purchase the ticket at the auto seller machine. All the tickets there were sold by machines, and everyone was queueing up. But when he pressed his ID on a machine that had been working normally, the machine suddenly lit up with a red light. Three workers from the theme park then ran toward him.

“Is the machine broken?”

“What’s the meaning of this? Do we have a criminal among us?”

Chen Ge himself was as confused. When the three arrived, they surrounded Chen Ge. One of them said with a professional fake smile, “Mr. Chen Ge, we have been waiting so long for you. The Reincarnation scenario is already ready. Please follow us.”

“Okay then.” Chen Ge saved the ticket money. He looked at the price information and then only realized that the selling price for the ticket at the futuristic theme park was at least 1.5 times the price of a ticket for New Century Park. He was led down the staff pathway to the interior of the theme park. Many strange themed plazas appeared before his eyes, and together, they formed this futuristic city.

“The building for the reincarnation theme attraction is at the deepest part of theme park. Our people have already finished designing it.” The three workers led Chen Ge through the crowd and came to the Haunted House at the futuristic theme park, a themed building that was named Reincarnation. When Chen Ge arrived, there was already a bustling crowd outside the building, but most of them were workers from the park. They all looked like they were ready to jump and attack Chen Ge. However, they probably did not expect that Chen Ge would come alone, so all the workers had this feeling that perhaps they had overestimated their enemy.

A man in his thirties walked over from the building’s entrance to introduce himself. “Nice to meet you, I am one of the designers of this Reincarnation themed building. You can call me Qing Ming.”

“Just how many designers does this scenario has? I believe one of those currently lying in the hospital is also one of your designers.” The first thing that Chen Ge said made the workers at the futuristic theme park feel fairly awkward.

“Yes, Bai Buhui is one of our designers. Our scenario is themed with the concept of reincarnation. It combines elements from various urban legends and horror movies to create a unique and isolated world on its own, but through the concept of reincarnation, they all cleverly and expertly join together.” Qing Ming sounded proud of their accomplishment.

“I haven’t even started my livestream. There’s no need to start your sale pitch just yet.” Chen Ge patted Qing Ming on his shoulder. “Brother, I am going to queue up here. You should go and do whatever you are supposed to do. There is no need to mind me.”

“My work for the day is to accompany you during your visit. By the way, have your friends not arrived?” Qing Ming asked with some hesitation. From the bottom of his heart, he did not believe that Chen Ge would come alone to take on the challenge.

“Oh, don’t worry about that, I came alone.” Chen Ge took out his phone and clicked into his livestream services. Ever since his livestream was banned by the police, he had not used this service for quite some time. Once he started the livestream, before Chen Ge even said anything, the chatroom was already exploding with activity. The most annoying was the bunch of users who were spamming the chat feed with “Brother Gang is a Real Man”. In a few short minutes, the number of online viewers had shot through 50,000, and the number was still rapidly climbing.

“Good afternoon, everyone! Yesterday, I promised everyone that I would come to challenge the futuristic theme park’s Haunted House alone, and I am here already.” Chen Ge panned the camera to capture the themed building. “Honestly, I am quite scared that I will have to challenge this Haunted House alone. Liu Gang’s group challenged my Haunted House with eleven people in total, but all of them are now inside the hospital. But I am just one person, and I have to face this challenge all on my own.”

When Chen Ge said that, Qing Ming, who stood next to him, felt that something was not quite right. Liu Gang’s group of eleven all fainted during their visit, and Chen Ge came to visit on his own, so even if he fainted during the process, in the end, it would feel like Chen Ge was the more impressive party of the two.

This is too cunning!

Qing Ming gritted his teeth in anger, but he could not do anything to Chen Ge but smile and wave at the camera to show the kindness and openness of the futuristic theme park.

“The person standing right next to me is a worker at the futuristic theme park. He is also one of the designers for their Haunted House. Speaking of which, I am quite concerned about his colleague. At the end of the day, he fainted at New Century Park. I wonder if he has woken up at the hospital yet. I do not wish to have other people say that we are trying to shirk the responsibility...”

Before Chen Ge could finish, Qing Ming quickly jumped in to cut him off. “Mr. Chen, we are all ready, you can start the visit any time.”

Qing Ming was very afraid of that gab of Chen Ge’s. The man was highly sarcastic, and if he was allowed to continue, the futuristic theme park would end up the brunt of the joke.

“We’re starting so soon?” Chen Ge followed Qing Ming as they cut through the crowd and came to the entrance of the building. There was a super large screen hanging outside the Reincarnation scenario. The videos showing on the two sides of the screen were slightly different.

Chen Ge was studying the videos when the sound of an argument came from the visitors who were lining up. A few young men were making loud noises and complaining, “Why is it that he does not need to line up? We have even purchased the special VIP tickets. This is too much! We are going to make complaints about this! Just you wait and see!”

“Excuse me, I will go and deal with this.” Qing Ming ran over and discussed with the few young men before he came back. “Mr. Chen, I am so sorry. Initially, we wished to follow your intention of

completing the visitation alone, but the few visitors refused to allow that. Do you mind if you let them enter the scenario and accept the challenge with you? Well, with the addition of more people, it should help lower the difficulty of the challenge and the terrifying factor.”

“Lower the difficulty of the challenge and terrifying factor?” Chen Ge stared at the faces of the few young men, and the corner of his lips curled up. The timing of their ruckus was too perfect, almost as if it was planned. This should be part of the futuristic theme park’s plan, and those so-called visitors should be park workers in disguise.

“They need to be trained to be better actors, but never mind, the more the merrier.” Chen Ge pointed that out directly to show that he had seen through their plan. Qing Ming’s expression froze, but there was nothing he could do but to continue to act dumb. “Then I will go and tell them to be ready.”

Chen Ge ignored Qing Ming. He turned to his own livestream. Many people on the internet saw through the futuristic theme park’s plan as well, and they were all trying to remind Chen Ge.

“It will be fine. This way, there will be a fair comparison.”

About ten seconds later, three men and three women walked out from the crowd.

“Alright, the whole group is ready. So, I will now explain briefly the rules of the game for everyone.” Qing Ming pointed at the super large screen outside the building. “Our reincarnation Haunted House combines the many latest 3D technology to highly recreate the scenes from various ghost stories and horror movies. This a world dominated by ghosts and a recurring nightmare created by man.

“You will encounter many classic scenes from various horror movies inside the haunted house, and you will be able to experience the most intense sense of terror.

“There are ghosts inside the scenario that are portrayed by our workers, but some are projections, and there are others that you will have to be careful about. To recreate the terrifying effect to its maximum originality, we have placed some of the ancient paraphernalia from the original ghost stories inside the scenario. If you feel that something is wrong, please do cry for help; I’m not kidding with you.” Qing Ming’s tone was serious, and when he was done, he even purposely turned to look at Chen Ge. “Do not push yourself. Safety first.”

Patting his own backpack, Chen Ge said with an equally severe tone, “You have successfully made me excited.”

“Our scenario is controlled by the central computer. The difficulty is split into easy, normal, difficult, and hellish—four different categories. Clearing the simple scenario will earn you one point, the normal scenario will earn you five points, the difficult scenario twenty points, and if you can clear the hellish scenario with one go, you will be able to get one hundred points. This big screen here will show the point ranking. Currently, the visitor who is placed first at our theme park is a Haunted House aficionado. He has managed to clear two difficult scenarios and several normal scenarios, so in total, he has gained 105 points.”

The higher the point, the higher the ranking. It was as if Qing Ming was purposely luring Chen Ge to pick the hellish difficulty.

“Is the most difficult category the hellish difficulty?” Chen Ge asked Qing Ming.

“Since we opened this scenario, there hasn’t been anyone who has been able to clear the hellish difficulty. Theoretically, that should be the hardest difficulty, but...” Qing Ming paused for dramatic effect before continuing. “There is a method where you can increase the difficulty level, and that is to challenge two hellish scenarios at the same time. Since the scenarios are controlled by the central computer, if you choose to challenge two scenarios at the same time, you will encounter the ghosts from two different ghost stories.”

“You can do something like that?”

“Theoretically, yes, we can. For example, if you combine the scenarios for Ju-on and The Ring, while you receive a call from the cursed spirit, you might be ambushed from the back by the ghost from Ju-on. In other words, your encounters with ghosts will increase.”

Qing Ming was just showing off his own Haunted House. He did not think Chen Ge would be dumb enough to challenge the hellish scenario.

“First, all visitors need to sign the disclaimer and then set up their own account before finally selecting the difficulty. Then, I will bring you into the scenario.” Qing Ming signaled for Chen Ge to come over to the control panel.

The disclaimer at the futuristic theme park was ‘signed’ using fingerprints and facial recognition technology. It was more official than Chen Ge’s Haunted House, which still relied on pens.

After signing the disclaimer, Chen Ge set up his personal account. Considering that the name would appear on the ranking on the big screen outside the Haunted House, he did not hesitate and set up his new account with the name ‘New Century Park’.

I suppose this can be counted as a chance for promotion.

Once he had keyed in those few words, the system showed that there were sensitive terms in the account name. Chen Ge was speechless; the futuristic theme park had even considered something as little as this.

He gave it several more tries before going with his real name—Chen Ge. Then it was time to pick the difficulty. The other visitors and Qing Ming all turned to look at Chen Ge.

“You guys want me to pick?” Chen Ge pointed at the other scenarios. “Are they going to enter the same scenario as me?”

“Yes, the same batch of visitors will enter the same scenario,” Qing Ming explained patiently. Hearing that, Chen Ge turned to the other visitors. “Are you guys sure you want to follow me? How about you wait for the next batch?”

“Are you looking down on us?”

“Acting tough, is it? Laughable!”

“This man is so funny.”

Since the other ‘visitors’ insisted on following him, Chen Ge had no choice. He clicked open the panel for the choice of difficulty and very smoothly moved to the choices for hellish scenarios.

“What should I do if I want to combine two scenarios?” This was the first time that Chen Ge had dealt with such a high-tech control panel.

“First, you click the tab at the bottom of the page for the hellish difficulty, and then you tick the scenarios that you wish to combine among the available hellish scenarios. After you are done, you can click confirm.” A smile finally appeared on Qing Ming’s face when he saw that Chen Ge was about to take the hellish scenario.

“Got it.” Chen Ge followed the given instruction and then put his phone away. His ten fingers were like those of a pianist, and he ticked almost more than forty hellish scenarios that were available for him to choose.

“Wait, wait a moment!” Qing Ming wanted to stop him, but he was too late. Chen Ge had already pressed the confirm button. At that moment, the control panel lagged slightly. It was probably because the central computer had to deal with too much data at one time. Even the lights inside the building flickered for a moment.

“Have you lost your mind?” Qing Ming quickly rushed to the side of the control panel.

“Why would you say that? You did not tell me that I cannot combine forty scenarios at the same time.” After saying that, Chen Ge lightly nudged the ‘visitor’ next to him. “You guys are on my side, right? He didn’t say that, did he?”

Seeing more than forty horror movies, ghost stories, and scary scenarios that were being combined on the screen, the few visitors’ faces were as gray as ash, but Chen Ge looked perfectly fine. In fact, he took out his phone again to resume the live stream.

“Honestly, I did not expect your system here to suddenly go down. Don’t tell me your designers here have not considered a situation like this happening? How unprofessional is that?”

Chapter 952: Giving a Class to the Young Boss

The overloading of the data by the central computer caused the system to lag. This was something that no one had expected.

“When your people came to challenge my Haunted House, I provided the perfect service and served them to the best of my ability. Now that I’ve come here to challenge your Haunted House, before it’s even started, the machine broke, and your designer even shoved me out of the way earlier.” Chen Ge pointed at Qing Ming. “I’m not the kind to hold on to grudges, so I shall forgive that slight. I only have one question to ask—when will this be ready?”

As Chen Ge dropped these cynical remarks, he walked around with the camera like this was his own home, and that naturally caused the workers at the futuristic theme park to get angry.

“Isn’t it your fault that this has happened?” one of the visitors who was supposed to challenge the Haunted House with Chen Ge growled darkly.

“How is this my fault?” Chen Ge fetched one of the workers and pointed the camera at him. “Bro, you can represent the futuristic theme park. Tell the viewers, is this my fault? Don’t feel pressured. Just say what you believe is the truth before millions of viewers.”

“This... this is indeed not your fault. It is because our theme park failed to foresee this possibility. Sorry, Mr. Chen, you’ll have to wait a moment longer.” The worker then hurried away as if worried that he would fail to control his expression anymore. Chen Ge wanted to say something else when he noticed that the workers at the theme park all used random excuses to stay away from him, and no one dared to even meet his gaze. The lights at the entrance kept flickering. The control panel could not be used, and it showed that it was loading. Visitors were escorted out from the three exits of the Haunted House, and the workers kept apologizing to them.

“The system is still combining the scenarios; you’ll need to wait for a while.” Qing Ming’s face was dark. He took seven black wrist bands from the counter. “We might as well use this time to explain the rules to all of you.”

He gave each visitor one wrist band.

“This wrist band will show your body temperature and heartbeat. When your heartbeat goes over a certain limit, our people will come and lead you out, so no matter what happens, do not remove the band. The account that you registered earlier can be used to activate the wrist band, and each activation will employ you in a random occupation. Each occupation has different abilities, and using them reasonably will help complete the mission much faster.”

After the explanation, the visitors activated the wrist band.

“So, my occupation is a detective?” A man with glasses looked at the band. “Whenever I enter a new scenario, the band will send me a message, telling me a clue hidden inside the scenario.”

“I am a doctor. If my teammate’s heartbeat goes over the limit, I can use my power to stop the workers from forcibly taking them away. This ability can only be used once. It will be important to clear the scenario, but it might be dangerous,” a woman with long black hair who stood behind glasses said. She looked more like an office worker. When this lady spoke, the other visitors naturally lowered their eyes like they were afraid of her.

“I’m also a doctor.”

“This is such a coincidence, me too.”

All three female visitors were doctors. At this point, Chen Ge realized that the supposed randomization as fake like everything else. The doctor’s ability could only be used on their teammates. When one was scared until they fainted, with the presence of a doctor, the workers would not come.

So, they wish to scare me over the limit three times. Chen Ge looked at the band, and his action was noticed by all the other visitors.

“Hey, what’s your occupation?” The man with the glasses was curious.

“Me?” Chen Ge did not keep it a secret and showed them his band. “My occupation is volunteer worker. I have no power. It only says, ‘likes to help those in need, is spontaneous and casual’.”

“Volunteer worker... is there an occupation like that?” A very fashionable man laughed. “My occupation is police officer. When the murderer comes near, my wrist band will receive a warning message.”

“Friend, you should be careful. I’ve seen many similar scenes in horror movies where volunteer workers go into an abandoned home to help others but end up being killed by the ghost hidden inside the old house. Normally, the volunteer worker is the first to die,” the young man who stood at the back said. He looked like he was still in school, but the man was cunning and did not reveal his occupation.

“Thank you for your concern.” Most main characters of horror movies were detectives, police officers, and doctors. Volunteer workers were among the many extras, but Chen Ge did not mind that. He was not one to care about the rules. If he was ostracized by the visitors, he would not hesitate to join the enemy camp. Then, the people of the futuristic theme park would realize who would be scaring whom.

“You don’t seem to be worried at all.” The woman with long hair appeared to dislike Chen Ge. “I’ve followed your bet with Liu Gang on the internet. I know you’ve already prepared to get scared until you faint, so you came alone and challenged the highest difficulty. That way, even if you lose, you won’t lose that much face. That’s your plan, isn’t it?”

“I’m shocked that you see through my so cleverly-devised plan. Yes, I am so scared,” Chen Ge replied snidely. He was too lazy to deal with these people and walked up Qing Ming. “I am livestreaming, so before millions of viewers, I just want to confirm with you, what do I need to do to clear the scenario?”

“The normal scenario will have a main mission. Since more than forty scenarios have been combined together, the preset missions will be a mess, so you will only need to find the hidden exit within sixty minutes to clear the scenario.” With so many viewers watching, Qing Ming did not dare to make any false claims.

“So, I only need to find the exit? No matter what kind of strategy I use?” Chen Ge lowered his head to arrange his backpack.

“Of course. Our theme park utilizes the latest technology, combining the real and the fake seamlessly to create a horror world. As long as you do not harm the workers and other visitors, you can do anything you want.” Qing Ming wished to do more promotion for his Haunted House on Chen Ge’s livestream, so he did not notice the scary glow that passed by Chen Ge’s eyes.

“Remember what you said.”

Hearing the difference in Chen Ge’s tone, Qing Ming wanted to add something else when the control panel made a sound, and eighty percent of the lights inside the Reincarnation Haunted House went off.

“The generation of the scenario is completed!” Qing Ming signaled for everyone to gather around him. “One last check of your wrist band, and I will bring you into the Haunted House!”

He opened a door, and there was a row of seats. “Please take your seat and put on the safety belt.”

There was no light. It was almost complete darkness.

“You’re livestreaming, so hold onto your phone.” After inspecting the safety belt, Qing Ming walked out and closed the door. Darkness resumed, and one could not see anything. Crying slowly appeared from the darkness. As they tried to determine the source of the crying, the row of chairs started to turn.

Wish to confuse my sense of direction? The chairs turned downward and stopped after ten seconds. The scenario is underground?

His feet stepped on the ground, and Chen Ge felt much better. Moments later, some light appeared before his eyes.

Then he observed his surroundings. They appeared to be sitting inside a mini movie theater, facing a big screen.

Chapter 953: Very Interesting

“Are you guys okay?”

“Can we remove the safety belt now?”

“Do any of you smell that strange scent in the air?”

When the visitors conversed, the screen in theater started to play a movie. There were seven characters like the seven visitors, and they were seated at the first row of theater. The seven characters in the screen were facing away from the visitors, and the seven inside the screen were also watching a movie. The screen inside the screen started to play a recording.

“On the day of the Soul’s Return, the seven best friends came to the cinema to watch a movie. They did this in memory of their teacher. This respected teacher’s favorite movie was showing on this day of Soul’s Return.

“At the start of the movie, no one realized anything, but slowly, they noticed that something was wrong.

“There were shadows moving across the screen, and occasionally, there was this crying sound. A student went to use the toilet in the middle of the movie, but he didn’t return for a long time. When one of the others said that he was going to get the missing student, he realized that there were still seven people sitting in theater. Everyone panicked. They removed their safety belts and got up from their seats, hurrying outside, but they did not realize that what waited them outside would be far more despairing...”

The recording stopped there. The seven visitors inside the screen started to whisper among themselves. They seemed to think that the recording was quite interesting.

“Have you seen this scene somewhere? Is it from some famous scary movie?” the man with the glasses whispered.

“I can’t figure it out.” The youngest man shook his head. “Even if there is some similarity in the setting, you can’t solve this according to the movie. Don’t forget that thanks to a certain someone, we are facing a melting pot of forty different scenarios.”

“So, what should we do now?”

“We should wait. Perhaps there’ll be another hint.”

The other visitors started to discuss the scenario, but Chen Ge kept quiet. He listened to the discussion as he stared at the big screen. He realized that the scene in the screen was reflecting real life. The visitors were discussing the movie after it was over.

Since this is the combination of forty scary scenarios, the scare points should be more intensive and collected. Chen Ge thought back to the recording. It seemed to mention that everyone removed their safety belt and rushed outside. That should be the hint for the next step, right? We can't stay here for too long; we need to leave.

Removing the safety belt, Chen Ge was the first to stand up. "Guys, it's time to go."

"Why are you in such a hurry? The first scenario should be the simplest. We should try to get more information now because it'll only get harder from here." The fashionable man looked to the other visitors. "We have limited use of our ability, so I suggest we stick together and help one another. How about this? We'll go around and introduce ourselves so that we can make some plans and arrangements."

Before the man finished, Chen Ge had already started looking for the exit inside the cinema.

"Hey! What are you doing? Everyone is introducing themselves. Don't forget, you are part of this group."

"I am not interested in a dead man's name." With his Yin Yang Vision, the darkness of the scenario did not affect him. When he looked around, he noticed that the characters on-screen had stopped talking, and crying came out from the speakers.

"What do you mean by that? Who are calling..."

"Shut up! Look at the screen!" Chen Ge pointed at the screen. The characters inside the screen became agitated. Then, they slowly turned their heads around like they had discovered something very scary. The visitors inside theater followed Chen Ge's order and turned to the screen. They stared at the characters until their heads were fully turned around.

The seven characters on-screen had holes on their faces. Their facial features were dug out, and blood was pouring out from them. One of the female visitors clamped her hand over her lips. This had happened way too suddenly. Before they could react, the seven monsters inside the screen suddenly stood up and jumped out through the screen!

"AH!"

Visitors' screams echoed inside theater. Even Chen Ge's eyes widened. With the aid of various technology, the scene was very authentic. The seven projections appeared like real ghost.

"This is interesting." The other visitors were given quite a fright. Even they did not expect this to happen.

The Haunted House at the futuristic theme park is controlled by the central computer. While inside, their workers might be given various aids, but they have no idea what will happen next. After all, this is a combination of forty scenarios. The designers probably didn't expect this to happen.

Chen Ge studied the other visitors. They were not wearing any earbuds, so they could not be communicating with the people outside.

They wanted to scam me, but now they've been dragged down into hell with me.

Chen Ge smiled wickedly. He had already decided to make good use of these six 'visitors'.

With a dry cough, Chen Ge turned to the rest. "I told you to leave in a hurry, but you all refused to listen. These seven projections are just the beginning. If you paid attention to the story, you would realize that there are at least two more ghosts in this theater."

"Two more ghosts?"

"One is the teacher who likes to watch movies. He is probably the extra person that replaced the student who left. The other one is the ghost who has been following us since we sat in the chairs. She likes to cry. As long as the crying is around, it proves that she has not left us." Chen Ge's analysis stunned the visitors. They had experienced the same things, and they had only been in the scenario for less than three minutes—how did he manage to come up with so many observations?

"Stop wasting time. Let's find the exit." As Chen Ge turned around, he saw an additional figure sitting on the chair behind him. He was curled on the seat, as if preparing something. The light in theater was dark, if not for his Yin Yang Vision, Chen Ge would not have noticed this person.

At the same time, the crying became more obvious until it sounded like it was ringing in their ears. The few visitors were panicking as they hurried to find the exit.

As long as they can help me find the exit, that's fine. That will save me some time so that I can explore the scenario further.

Chen Ge purposely walked around the hiding spot of the person before heading to down the other direction, making the person feel lucky that they had not been discovered.

The combination of forty scenarios means that no one knows what will happen next. I can make use of this in two ways—I can have my own employees to assume the role of a projection to follow the Haunted House workers, or I can take the roles of the actors myself to chase after the visitors.

Chen Ge scanned the walls of theater. It was covered in posters from many classic horror movies, like Saw, Doctor Skull-cracker, and Jack the Ripper.

"I agree that the occupation of volunteer worker matches me, but everyone knows that will only serve as a pastime..."

Chapter 954: It's Ruined at the Start

The ghosts on the screen inside the mini theater started to flicker, and the crying moved from inside the screen to outside like it was hiding among the visitors. The already dim lights began to flicker, and the seats were shaking. Even the floor itself started to spin, and a little girl's laughter appeared in the speakers. A woman's crying, a little girl's laughter, and the worker hiding behind the chair—this theoretically simplest scenario had three 'ghosts'.

“We should leave now.” Chen Ge’s gaze moved away from the movie posters. He had already determined what his future occupation should be.

“No.” The man who had the police role denied Chen Ge’s suggestion. From the cold sweat on his forehead, it was clear that he was afraid.

“The ghosts will come soon. Do you want us to wait and meet them?” It was not that Chen Ge was being kind. He just felt like bringing these people with him during the livestream would make the event more exciting. Other than that, he could use them to lead the way and his scenario completion speed.

“I... I came here yesterday to challenge the Haunted House. I was playing a medium difficulty scenario.” The fashionable man ignored the hinting glances from the others and spoke openly. “This theater is just the first level. In the medium difficulty, the theater is used to give the visitors some warnings for during the visitation and introduce the background of the stories. There are two scare points. One is the chair that will shake on its own, and the second is the ‘teacher’ that is hiding among us.”

“Please continue.” The man’s expression showed that he was not lying, and Chen Ge did wish to know what the man was trying to say.

“But this time, there was not only no introduction and warning, there wasn’t even the most basic safety information when exploring the haunted house and not even a hint. Plus, the last time I was here, I didn’t run into the seven ghosts that suddenly jumped out from the screen, the crying, and the laughter, so I suggest we stay here for now and get to know everything we can before we move onto the next scenario. After all, this first scenario should be the simplest.”

To be more accurate, the role played by this ‘visitor’ should be the ‘guide’. He knew the locations of all the scare points and traps, but the situation that they were in had completely strayed away from his expectations.

“This is all his fault for challenging forty scenarios at the same time! The danger level has basically increased by forty times.” A smaller girl pointed her finger at Chen Ge.

“I wanted to do this alone. It was you guys who insisted on following me. So, how is this my fault?” Chen Ge did not turn around to answer. He had already found the exit. There were two curtains of black cloth next to theater, and behind the cloth, one could see a doorknob.

“Now is not the time to discuss that.” The youngest man walked to stand between Chen Ge and the other visitors. “We’ll vote for this.”

When the visitors were conversing, the female office lady with long hair silently took out her phone like she was communicating with someone. The combination of forty scenarios had hiked up the difficulty to an unimaginably level, and they too were afraid. The visitors were discussing hotly among themselves, but Chen Ge ignored them and walked to the curtains of black cloth alone.

If the actor hiding behind the chair wishes to get me, they will have to go through the visitors. The visitors are clearly not on my side, but they will serve as a good meat shield.

Chen Ge ignored the dead body projection that was on the screen and pulled back the black cloth.

“The exit is this way.”

The moment his hand landed on the doorknob, static interrupted the speakers, the girl's laughter turned shrill, and the whole scenario appeared to be changing.

"There is a second layer to this place?" Chen Ge pulled on the doorknob. He was about to pull the door open when five pale fingers suddenly reached through the gap to grab his wrist. A chill came from the back of his hand. Before the owner of the hand could react, Chen Ge grabbed the hand back.

This should belong to a girl. The fingers are too slender for a man...

Before he could find out more, the five fingers slithered away from his palm like the girl behind the door was given a shock. He pushed the door completely open. Outside the theater was a small path that could only fit two people at a time. The sides of the path were sealed up by wooden boards, and human body parts were pinned on them like some grotesque art.

"This is not good!" The police officer knew something. When he saw Chen Ge open the door, he screamed, "Once the door to the next scenario is opened, all the ghosts in this scenario will make their move! We must leave now! The ghosts are coming!"

The seats shook harder, and the dead people in the screen moved. As the crying and laughter grew louder, a girl hugging a doll poked her head out from the corner, and the four walls around them leaked blood.

Something snapped, and the worker who had been hiding on the back row slowly stood up. He wore the same outfit as the dead teacher inside the video, but there was no blood on his face. "My good children... you're finally back!"

Then something in his mind seemed to snap as he charged at the visitors.

"Run!" Chen Ge was the first to get out from the room. He had just stepped out when a bleeding cleaver aimed for his neck like it was going to decapitate him. With his senses sharper than most, Chen Ge bent over to evade it.

"They are going so far as to kill me outright?" With a frown, Chen Ge took another glance. The cleaver was also a projection. "That was quite realistic."

Being attacked like that, anyone would be scared, and Chen Ge had instinctively ducked to evade the danger.

Chen Ge's reaction was calm, but the visitors behind him were not so lucky. The 'police officer' followed behind Chen Ge. When he saw the cleaver come at his neck, he almost fainted.

"Even the police officer didn't know about the cleaver... Did they not tell him about this?"

With the combination of forty scenarios, even the workers themselves did not know what would happen next.

"Quick! We must go! The wrist band is telling me there are murderers getting close to us!" Before he could calm down, the police officer saw his wrist band glow red. This was the police officer's ability. Even though he could not sense Specters and monsters, he could sense the approach of murderers and madmen.

The end of the narrow corridor echoed with the sound of whistling and blades hacking on the wall; something was approaching!

Some of the visitors still had not escaped the theater. Considering what had happened earlier, Chen Ge volunteered to bring up the rear of the group. The police officer led the way and took the other visitors hurriedly away. Chen Ge waited for the last visitor to come out before he grabbed hold of the doorknob and closed the door to theater. He was about to leave when something strange happened. A scream came from inside theater, and it sounded like it was elicited by the 'teacher'.

Chapter 955: Recurring Midnight

"Why would the actor scream?" Chen Ge was a Haunted House operator himself, and he had heard multiple screams in his life, so he could be certain that actor was not acting. He had really run into something scary; that scream could not be faked. "This is getting interesting. Even the workers themselves are getting the scare of their lives."

The door that led out from theater was being knocked on, and the scream grew louder. Chen Ge wanted to open the door to take a look, but he realized that the door was locked. "Combining projection technology and actual actors is a good idea, but there's bound to be some accidents."

The scream had not stopped, and the whistle from the other end of the corridor was getting close. The lights went out. With his Yin Yang Vision, Chen Ge saw a man wearing a chef's outfit at the end of the corridor. He was fat, and the white outfit was stained with blood. The pocket around his stomach was even stuffed with half of a human head.

A man-eating chef?

The shoes worn by this actor were custom made and softened his footsteps. Now that the lights in the corridor were off, he was walking toward Chen Ge with his laughably huge cleaver. In a few seconds, when the chef was close to him, the lights would come on again to scare him.

That's not a bad idea, but I can see in the dark.

The chef swiftly approached Chen Ge, and the latter started to run.

No wonder the corridor is so clean; it's to prevent the actors from tripping when they are chasing after the visitors. After all, there is no light.

Chen Ge glanced at the wooden boards on the wall.

Should I pull one off and place it on the ground? The chef won't expect a surprise like that.

Chen Ge quickly abandoned that thought. What if he injured the actor? Ten seconds later, the lights came on again. The chef waved his cleaver madly with a guffaw, but he soon realized that there was no one before him. Chen Ge had already run down the corridor.

"Ah?" Catching his breath, he laughed like an idiot for so long before he realized he was laughing to air. When the chef saw that Chen Ge was looking at him from the other end, he had no choice but to continue that maddened laughter to keep up his character.

“That is the Butcher from Hell! He will make stew out of his captives! I’ve seen him in a movie before!” the youngest man shouted as he ran.

“He’s coming to get us!” A girl turned back and saw the chef, letting out a shrill scream. Probably due to the awkwardness from before, the chef waved his cleaver and ran faster toward the visitors.

“This way!” As the distance was closing, at the last moment, the police officer found a door.

“Wait! Don’t go in there!” The man with the glasses wanted to remind him of something, but it was too late. The police officer pushed the door open. The other visitors did not think too much as they followed him. Chen Ge was the last one to enter. By then, the chef was very close behind. After he got in, he closed the door.

BANG!

The wood chips flew over their heads. A large crack was chopped open by the cleaver at the top of the door. The wooden door shook; someone was crazily banging against the door!

“This door won’t hold on much longer! We have to find another way to leave this room!” the police officer shouted. “When I visited this place last time, the difficulty was not this high. We only needed to find a mannequin that represented a dead person before the clock on the wall struck twelve! By the way, the mannequin was needed in a later scenario, so we should carry it with us!”

“I have a question.” Chen Ge raised his arm. “Since you have already visited this place and knew what will happen in this room, how many pieces of the carcasses do we need to find to be considered successful?”

“Pieces?” The police officer was startled. “Aren’t dead people normally counted in bodies?”

“Look at the fruit plate on the table.” Chen Ge pointed at the exquisite china bowl on the coffee table. On it sat three plastic apples, a cluster of grapes, and five broken fingers. “Fingers should be a piece of the human body, right?”

“This wasn’t here last time!” The police officer looked at the other visitors in shock. After a temporary exchange of glances, he rushed into the bedroom. “The last time I was here, we found the dead body under the bed!”

Before the rest caught up to him, the police officer pulled back the bedsheets. He was shocked when he saw that the space was empty. “That’s impossible!”

“How is that impossible? When the difficulty increases from medium to hellish, it’s normal that we need to search for more things.” The man with the glasses was calm. “My occupation is a detective, so when I entered this place, I got my first clue.”

He looked at his band. “The skull is inside the freezer on top of the fridge.”

Two of the girls immediately moved away from the fridge. Only the woman with the long hair did not mind it. She personally walked to open the fridge door.

“Now I have good news and bad news. Which would you like to hear first?” The woman’s face was pale.

“What’s the good news?”

“Other than the head, there are the mannequin’s small arm and the other five fingers inside the fridge.”

“Then what’s the bad news?”

“The mannequin is chopped up even further than I expected.” The woman felt her stomach turning. No one had experienced the hellish version of the Reincarnation Haunted House; they would be the first batch. Even though they knew about the general plot, with the central computer controlling everything, the difficulty of the most basic mission had been increased to an impossible level.

“We need to move faster; we still have four minutes.” Chen Ge looked at the clock on the wall. It was 11: 56. “The knocking is still going. The fat chef is outside the door. Other than that, listen up. The crying hasn’t stopped following us. It is merely covered up by the louder knocking.”

Holding his breath, Chen Ge added, “By the way, the girl’s laughter hasn’t disappeared either. So, if we do not hurry, we will be cornered by a cruel chef and two ghosts.”

“This is the hellish difficulty...” The police officer was nervous. “At the beginning, we’re ambushed by three ghosts, and we’re only at the second scenario.”

“You are being too optimistic. Don’t forget, there might be a new ghost hiding in this new scenario. As time goes on, more ghosts will be following us. Even though most of them are actors and projections, there is a small chance that they are things that we cannot explain. After all, it is your designer who told me this Haunted House is filled with authentic haunted objects.”

Chen Ge was still livestreaming. He cleverly let slip a few hints to build up for what he would do later. When he released his own employees, he could push all the blame to the futuristic theme park.

Walking to the fridge to take out the head, Chen Ge realized that the mouth was puffy. There was something stuffed inside. He reached his hand into the mouth and soon found a ball of paper.

“What are you doing?” The woman with the long hair saw what Chen Ge was doing and felt disgusted.

Too lazy to explain, Chen Ge took out the ball of paper and read the message on it.

‘I realize I have sunk into a recurring nightmare. Every night at midnight, I am murdered in different ways, and just as I am about to die, I wake up from my dream. Most despairing of all, the time at which I wake up from the nightmare is always 11:56 pm.’

Chapter 956: Weakness of the Projection [2 in 1]

“Every time the man wakes up, it’s 11:56 pm. When I was glancing at the time, it was exactly this time that was showing on the wall.” Chen Ge turned his head to the wall again. The clock had moved the time to 11:57 pm. “A recurring nightmare does fit the overall theme of the Haunted House quite well, so the perfect way to clear this scenario should be to break through this circle of nightmares.”

Chen Ge moved the fruit plate on the coffee table to the side and placed the pieces of the mannequin that they had found so far on the table, "The first change to this scenario will probably happen in three minutes. You guys had better find the remaining parts of the mannequin before the time runs out."

"We all belong to the same team. Can you please use a more polite tone when addressing your teammates?" One of the girls wanted to say something else but was stopped by the man with the glasses. The group split into two, and they started to explore the scenario. The scenario was not that big; it only had four rooms in total. With the living room that they first entered as the center, the room on the left-hand side was the bedroom, and the right-hand side led to the kitchen and bathroom. The visitors ransacked the places and overturned all the drawers and cupboards to look for pieces of the dead body while Chen Ge sat on the sofa in the living room studying the mannequin head.

"On medium difficulty, the visitors only need to find the mannequin of the dead body to move on from this scenario, but will the condition of clearing this part of the scenario change now that the difficulty has been upgraded to hellish difficulty?" He held the paper note that he had pulled out from the mannequin's mouth. "Every day at midnight, he is killed with various methods. Is he in a nightmare that he cannot wake up from, or are the deaths that befall him every night real?"

"Ah!" A scream that came from the bedroom interrupted Chen Ge's thought. Moments later, a female visitor ran out from the bedroom, and the youngest man followed closely behind him. He was holding a bloody axe in his left hand and the leg of a mannequin that had been chopped into three parts in his right.

"I found this under the dresser, and other than that, I also discovered this." The man tossed a windbreaker onto the sofa. "There are parts of the mannequin stuffed inside the pockets. I suggest you all come and take a look. I do not think I can manage this alone."

Chen Ge placed the mannequin on the coffee table and then followed the young man into the bedroom. The dresser's doors were open. All the clothes inside had traces of blood on it. There was a base of a lamp that was bloodied lying at the corner of the dresser.

"The axe was also found inside the dresser. It is just a prop; the blade is not sharp." The young man's expression was calm. It did not appear like he was scared by this discovery.

"The dead body was placed together with the murder weapon." Chen Ge seemed to understand something as he turned to look at the living room. On the coffee table sat a fruit plate, and on the fruit plate sat five fingers and the blade of fruit knife. The fridge had a human head, and the tray underneath the human head had a dining knife.

He took out all the clothes from the dresser, emptied all the pockets, and placed all the mannequin pieces that he could find on the table. The other visitors all looked at him. Even though they knew that the pieces were fake, it did not stop them from feeling disgusted and affected. The more they studied it, the more they felt fear toward Chen Ge. The man not only did not show any fear, he even placed the pieces of the mannequin back together. Looking at how focused he was, it was as if he was completing a jigsaw puzzle.

"Doesn't he own a Haunted House? Why would he be so familiar with human anatomy?"

“Perhaps he used to attend Jiujiang Medical University. That would explain why the students often go to visit him. They are there to support their senior.”

An increasingly complete mannequin started to appear on the table. With his two talents of Living Doll and Mortician’s Makeup, Chen Ge had a deep understanding of the human body. After turning out all the pockets, Chen Ge finally found the thing that he had been looking for. He found a second paper note inside one of the coat pocket—‘This is an inescapable nightmare! I have to find a way to end it! I can’t sit here idly for it to crush me!’

“What did you discover?” Just as the man with the glasses asked that, the clock on the wall suddenly chimed. It was finally midnight. With a cuckoo sound, the small door under the clock opened, and a cuckoo bird sprang out. Strapped to it was a black-reddish heart.

“Be careful!” the youngest man suddenly screamed. He looked at his wrist band and retreated into the crowd. No one knew what the occupation of this young man was, but from his reaction, his occupation appeared to be one that could sense danger.

A creaking sound echoed in the room, the sound of water came out from the bathroom, and the curtains in the living room moved on their own. Other than a woman’s crying and a girl’s laughter, there was a third voice. It sounded like someone mumbling in his sleep. It was very incoherent, but it was certainly the sound of a man.

“Something’s coming.”

The dresser in the bedroom creaked noisily. The visitors turned to look at it. The dresser that Chen Ge had emptied earlier somehow had a piece of clothing hanging in it. It was a blood red jacket. Blood trailed down the clothes, and it swayed lightly inside the dark dresser. The police officer and the other visitors were squeezed in the middle of the living room. This event appeared to be something that was outside their expectation again.

“A Red Specter?” Chen Ge narrowed his eyes and focused his pupils. This was his natural instinct when he saw bloody clothes.

The hanger of the dresser dropped to the floor, but strangely enough, the blood jacket was still floating in the air. When everyone’s attention was attracted by the Red Specter, the television in the living room flickered, and it switched on by itself. The sudden light caught everyone’s attention, and they turned their heads. The television screen kept flickering, and between the different images, one could make out a blob of something dark. The dim lights above their heads fluttered several times before they went off completely. Now they could only borrow the glow from the television screen to look at their surroundings.

“Wakey wakey...”

“Who is speaking!”

A strange man’s voice came out from one of the rooms. All the visitors turned to look at it.

“Bedroom! Look at the bedroom!” The swaying red jacket had already floated out from the dresser. While everyone’s attention was pulled by the television, the jacket had moved from inside the dresser to hang on the door of the bedroom.

“Don’t be afraid. We’ll go and take a look at it together!” The police officer sounded so nervous that Chen Ge started to suspect that they were not workers at the futuristic theme park but actual innocent visitors. The police officer and the man in the glasses approached the bedroom. Just as they were about to reach the door, the half-open bedroom door was pulled back, and a wounded arm suddenly reached out to drag the red jacket behind the door. Before the police officer and the man with the glasses could react, a decapitated head poked out from behind the door. He held a bloodied axe and swung it right at the police officer’s head. The police officer was so scared that he crumbled to the ground. He screamed as he ran away from the attack. The strange man charged out from the bedroom and waved the axe at everyone in the living room. The harrowing screams of a man could be heard echoing around the living room.

“Go to hell! Go to hell! Go to hell!”

The visitors were busy as they tried to save their lives. Only Chen Ge stood where he was. The waving axe cut through his body. The strange man ran past him and crawled into the bathroom.

“There are Red Specters among their projections.” When Chen Ge saw the man, he knew that it was only a projection. As realistic as the blood on the man was, the blood did not drip to the ground, and the door that the man touched was not stained by blood either.

“Only when the lights dim will the projection be able to appear; that should be the limitation of this technology.”

“That was too scary!” The police officer stood up while holding his chest. “We need to find the rest of the body. We can’t stay here any longer!”

“There is no need to be in such a hurry, I have basically understood what happened inside this room.” Chen Ge picked up the head that was sitting on the table. “The clue was hidden in that projection earlier. If you look closer, you’ll realize that the projection had the same face as this human head.”

“What does that explain?” The police officer looked at Chen Ge holding the head, and for some reason, he felt like the man had done this exact motion many times before.

“The first paper note says that the owner of this place was killed by someone with various methods at midnight; pay attention to the words that he used here—killed by someone. How could he be sure that his killer is a person and not a ghost?” Chen Ge then showed the rest the second piece of paper note. “The new paper note says that when he prepared to resist, a murder weapon was placed beside each piece of dead body. That can only mean one thing...”

“We do not have the time to listen to your story. You only need to tell us what we should do now!” The door was chopped by the cleaver again. The chef could be coming in at any moment.

“The owner of the room was killed every night, and the killer is himself. That is the recurring nightmare that has trapped him.” Chen Ge was quite impressed by the scenario constructed by the futuristic theme park, but probably due to the time constraint, it lacked some polish, so the details were not as perfect as he would have hoped.

“Then how are we supposed to escape? Kill the house owner again?” the man with the glasses asked Chen Ge when a scream came from outside the door. It seemed to be the scream of the chef.

“What is this? Open the door! Open the door! Please let me in!” The chef suddenly banged incessantly and heavily on the door. The frame shook violently before it was followed by a heavy thump, which sounded like the chef collapsing to the ground. Then there was silence.

“What is the meaning of this?”

The visitors inside the room looked at each other. The woman with the long black hair made a silent and quick signal at the police officer. The police shook his head lightly, and his face was getting pale.

“How come the noises stopped?” Chen Ge walked to the door and grabbed the doorknob. He looked through the gash that had been made by the chef’s cleaver on the door. The chef was no longer there, and in the eerie corridor stood a little girl who was holding a doll. The girl had appeared in theater earlier. Half of her doll’s face was burnt off, and it looked scary. Chen Ge used his Yin Yang Vision, but he got nothing. There was nothing out of place that he could see from this little girl.

“What did you see?” the police officer asked Chen Ge in a whisper. Chen Ge was leaning against the door. His eyes were looking through the hole made by the cleaver. He was worried that the chef might suddenly appear, and the cleaver might land on the same spot again.

“The chef is gone. I believe this is purposely arranged by the Haunted House.” When Chen Ge said that, he made sure to pay attention to the reaction of the people around him. The ‘visitors’ in the room did not seem to anticipate something like this happening.

His grip tightened, and Chen Ge was about to open the door when the police officer next to him stopped him. “Just now, the chef desperately wanted to enter. That means that he ran into something scary outside the door. If you open the door now, the thing that the chef met earlier might just get into the room.”

“But if you do not open the door, you will never know what he ran into.” Chen Ge was on another extreme from the other visitors.

“We are a team. You might not care about your personal safety, but you can’t drag us down with you.” The police officer was so desperate that he grabbed Chen Ge by his arm. He used extreme force to stop Chen Ge from opening the door; he was not acting. Through all these details and other observations, Chen Ge was certain. There really was something hiding in the futuristic theme park’s Haunted House. The police officer knew about it, but he did not share it with his colleagues.

“Fine, then we will continue with the puzzle solving.” Chen Ge lifted his head to look at the wall. When the projection of the Red Specter ran into the bathroom, the time had returned to 11:56 pm. Time had essentially reversed, but the crying and the girl’s laughing did not stop, and the lights did not come back on.

Chapter 957: Reflect on It

“With every reincarnation, the situation becomes worse. We’d better find the rest of the mannequin as fast as we can. I have no idea what kind of new monster will appear at the next midnight.”

With the experience from before, all the visitors started to become more serious in their search for the body parts. Chen Ge showed incredible promise. He stood from the angle of a Haunted House designer and found a half of the body parts alone. Many body parts were hidden in very secluded corners like underneath cracked tiles, behind the toilet, in the sewage pipes, and so on. His professional technique and acute senses caused the 'visitors' around him to feel a strange chill.

At 11:59 pm, the group placed the pieces of body parts on the coffee table. The situation was scary to say the least. The visitors stayed far away from it. Only Chen Ge was sitting alone at the coffee table.

"The five internal organs, spine, four limbs, head, and human skin—the design of this dead body is very detailed, but the feel of the touch is the drawback. It does not feel like the touch of normal human skin at all."

The difficulty of a hellish scenario was too high. If not for Chen Ge, they would have spent a lot of time trying to find the dead body parts, and then putting the parts back together would take even more time.

In less than a minute, Chen Ge basically had rearranged the body parts to their correct position. The clock on the wall chimed again, and the second midnight had arrived. The television gave off this static noise, and the pots and pans in the kitchen fell to the ground. The dresser door slowly opened, and everyone saw a wounded man curled up inside it. His face was frozen in fear, and he held a sharp knife in his hand. Then the group saw him crawl out from the dresser and charge at Chen Ge at an incredible speed. Sitting on the sofa, Chen Ge did not even budge, and he allowed the man to phase through his body.

"Yet another projection?" Even though this was the second time, they had seen a projection of a dead man, so the group was given quite a fright. The time on the clock returned to 11:56 pm. The second reincarnation was not that scary. It was a mere repetition of the scares from the previous reincarnation.

"There will a projection that appears at midnight. As long as we get used to that, this scenario is not that scary." The man with the glasses laughed drily.

"Are you glasses fogged? Can't you see that the flickering frequency of the television has changed? The time that we are left stranded in the dark has gotten longer and longer." Chen Ge did not raise his head. "The walls around us have started to bloat with blood. The little girl from the previous scenario should have joined us this time. The bedsheets have been replaced on the bed. None of you have reentered the bedroom, so this proves that other people entered the room this time. At the next midnight, a real person might appear, and the first two times are just the system trying to make you lower your guard."

Chen Ge said a lot and the man with the glasses was stumped. In the end, he could only mumble, "The room is so dark. Even if my glasses aren't fogged, no one would notice these details."

When they conversed, Chen Ge had completed the dead body. He turned to look at the police officer.

"How did you get out the last time you came to visit?"

"We found the dead body under the bed, and there was a diary inside its pocket. It recorded the things about the owner and the map of the surroundings as well as the key to open the window." The police honestly volunteered the guide.

"The key to open the window?"

“Yes, there is a big lock on the key, and by jumping through it, we will reach the third scenario.” The police carefully entered the bedroom. He pulled back the heavy curtains, and behind it was a black window that was embedded into the wall. “Previously, I assumed the key would be inside one of the body parts, but now I realize that things are not that simple.”

“We need to find the key to leave.” Chen Ge looked at the rearranged dead body on the table, and his expression changed.

“What’s wrong?”

Everyone gathered around him, and they saw Chen Ge pick up the phone that had a black screen. He had been too focused on piecing the body parts back together, so he had placed the phone on the table, and it had livestreamed the whole process. When he was done, he finally realized that his livestream had been banned again. He quickly logged out and restarted the stream, but it showed that the service was blocked because the host had violated the streaming rules. The livestream was blocked, but the number of online viewers was still close to a million. The viewers who had been watching laughed their asses off.

“I am a new fan. I’ve seen the host’s streams thrice, and of those three times, the stream was blocked in the middle for the two of them. Now I don’t even know whether it is my problem or the host’s problem.”

“Cao¹!”

“Impressive host, piecing back a dead body online!”

“Hopefully the host will learn from his mistake and reflect on why the platform targets him every time.”

“Brother Gang is a real man!”

Chen Ge did not know whether to laugh or cry when he saw the comments in the chatroom. It was not often a stream would get so popular. The donations that he had received from this stream were enough to fill up the School of the Afterlife scenario with security cameras at every corner.

“I also have no idea why my stream is banned every time. Perhaps because it is too gory,” Chen Ge explained as he grabbed the mannequin by its spine and tossed the pieced mannequin to the side. “I just wish for a simple livestreaming experience to provide good content to my fans, but I still get banned.”

Chen Ge reached into his pocket and activated the recorder. Then he walked alone to the living room door. At that moment, the woman’s crying and the girl’s laughter were approaching. The other visitors quickly stopped Chen Ge.

“Do not go out there!”

“We are close to solving the puzzle! We will find the exit soon!”

“Exit?” Chen Ge grabbed the doorknob. “Isn’t this a door?”

“It is a door, but...”

“Since it is a door, then it is an exit. Since it is an exit, we will be able to walk through it.” Holding his backpack with one hand, Chen Ge opened the door and looked down the corridor.

Chapter 958: Bad Feng Shui

The chef could not be seen in the dark corridor. Chen Ge held the wall and stood in the middle of the corridor, his eyes narrowed as he stared down the corridor.

There is a camera in the upper left corner of theater exit and the corner of the corridor. Just how rich is futuristic theme park that they would install two cameras to watch one corridor?

Chen Ge wanted to summon Xu Yin, but he had to avoid the cameras and the other visitors. This was not his own Haunted House, so he had to be more careful.

I need to find the appropriate time. The best solution is to actively attract the attention of the lingering spirits at this place, and when they appear, I will have Xu Yin or other Red Specters replace them.

A Haunted House should be haunted, but the ghosts should have nothing to do with Chen Ge. The static from the recorder travelled into his ears, and Chen Ge’s emotions slowly calmed down. The woman’s cries and the girl’s laughter elicited no response from him.

“Come back! What are you doing?” The police officer and the other visitors crowded at the door. They saw Chen Ge bend down to pick up a doll. “What are you doing?”

His fingers caressing the burnt face, Chen Ge looked at the doll’s dark eyes. “Did any of you notice a little girl holding this doll earlier?”

“I did. She seemed to come out from theater.” The police tried to remember. “But why would you suddenly ask about that?”

“When I looked out through the gap on the door, the chef was gone, but the girl was walking toward us holding this doll. Yet, when I opened the door, there was no one in the corridor, except for this doll with a burnt face abandoned on the floor.”

Chen Ge carried the doll in his embrace, and after some thought, he added, “No, it was not abandoned. It was more like someone had purposely placed it there, like they wanted the doll to follow and study our movements.”

Then, Chen Ge turned to the other visitors. “Do you think the Haunted House would hire a little girl as its actor?”

“First, you need to stay away from me.” The police officer stared at the doll in Chen Ge’s embrace like it was cursed. “I’m not sure whether the haunted house would employ a little girl or not, but the last time I was here, I didn’t see any girl and didn’t hear her laughter. Even the crying that we have been hearing, that only appeared at the end of my previous tour.”

“In other words, the girl is not an actor, and she isn’t a visitor either, so what could she be?” Chen Ge purposely led the ‘visitors’ down a road of no return.

“Perhaps she’s just a projection?” the man with the glasses said softly.

“Have you seen a projection walking around with a doll? And this doll is much heavier than you think.” Chen Ge then tossed the doll toward the man. As the doll flew toward them, the other visitors all moved away from it. They seemed very afraid of the doll. Chen Ge noticed this and remembered it. “Why are none of you willing to take it?”

The doll landed on the ground with its limbs twisted at strange angles. The burnt face looked up at the surrounding visitors, the black eyes staring at everyone.

None of the visitors dared get close to the doll. After a long time, the youngest man took several steps back. “In horror movies, children and dolls are a classic pair. When you run into these two in a Haunted House, it is wise to stay away. Also, there is one thing you need to remember; when we entered the Haunted House, didn’t the worker tell us that to create an authentic feeling, they have placed many ancient objects of unknown origins inside the haunted house?”

“Then, how can you be sure that this doll is one of those things?” Chen Ge picked up the poor doll again and placed it inside his backpack.

“Hey, this belongs to the theme park. Are you sure it’s okay to take it like that?” one of the female visitors asked.

“This could be an important clue, so we might need to carry it with us. If you don’t trust me, I can hand it to you to take care of it.” Chen Ge’s one sentence silenced everyone else.

“You sure are brave. Aren’t you afraid that something might be possessing it?” the police officer grumbled softly. He would not get near Chen Ge anymore.

“If you’re guilty of something, everything you see could be possessed, but the truly possessed thing is your pair of eyes.” Chen Ge held the backpack with one hand and walked toward theater. He wanted to understand how the girl appeared. Turning the corner, Chen Ge tried to push theater door, but something heavy was blocking behind it that it would not budge. He leaned against the door and used Ghost Ear to listen, but he could not hear anything.

The first scenario was seven students bringing the ghost teacher back to theater to watch movie on the day of Soul’s Return. It’s a reincarnation of the soul. The second scenario is the owner of the house waking up from his nightmares every night, killing himself again and again. It can be considered a physical reincarnation. Connecting the two scenarios is a corridor filled with guts and internal organs, watched over by a ‘chef from hell’. Do these three scenarios appear randomly, or is there an internal connection to them?

The camera was above it, so Chen Ge would not just burst through the door.

There’s a problem with the girl, but since she’s not a Red Specter, she can’t leave her item of possession. As long as I have the doll, she will eventually return. The key problem is that this Haunted House doesn’t appear to have only one ghost. When I entered this place, I felt a chill. Initially, I thought that it was some kind of new technology, but now that I think about it, the chilliness could only be caused by lingering spirits and baleful Specters. There are no other possibilities.

Chen Ge knew the difference between Eastern and Western Jiujiang. His parents did not dare to build a Haunted House in Eastern Jiujiang, but the futuristic theme park had done exactly that. A Haunted

House was a heavy Yin location, and it was an attraction for lost souls. The futuristic even purposely placed some old objects in it. This was not increasing the difficulty but playing with fire. Eastern Jiujiang was not a lucky location; Chen Ge knew that too well. The problem of the ghost fetus had not been resolved, and who knows how many doors were hidden in Eastern Jiujiang? Considering the location of the futuristic theme park, it was squeezed in the middle of Li Wan City and Jiang Yuan Apartments; they would form a straight line across Eastern Jiujiang.

The theme park is situated at a problematic location. Perhaps after the bridge is built, it'll be much better, but can they hold on until then?

The theme park was stuck between two doors, and the Haunted House theme attraction was at the deepest part of the park where the Yin energy gathered. It would attract not only the visitors but also the Specters and ghosts.

The managers sure have business acumen, finding such a strategic location.

Chen Ge did not know Feng Shui, but he knew that his family had to move away from Eastern Jiujiang.

Theme parks are popular, and the crowds in the day should be enough to temper the spirits, but what will happen after theme park closes at night? Even if I didn't come here, eventually, something bad would happen.

Chen Ge felt the heavy responsibility on his shoulders. He found another reason to protect New Century Park, and that was to stop the futuristic theme park from harming more innocent people.

Chapter 959: Two Cycles

The road back had been blocked, and Chen Ge did not think that it was wise to break down the door with the camera there. He was afraid the futuristic theme park might use this against him.

The crying and laughter are still there, so the ghosts haven't wandered off, but I can't see them.

Returning to the room, Chen Ge studied the dead body on the table.

For medium difficulty, the key is inside the mannequin, but this is just a passing scenario. For hellish difficulty, we have to solve the puzzle of this room to move on.

Normally, that would not be a problem, but the key was the combination of many scenarios. Various projections and 'supernatural events' might appear in places that they should not, and that greatly increased the difficulty of puzzle-solving. The few visitors wasted their time at the door. The clock on the wall chimed again, and the ugly cuckoo bird crawled out from the box. The heart around it had been removed, but the blood of the heart stained the bird red.

"If the owner's reincarnation is endless suicide, then we will have to stop him to break this nightmarish cycle. There are two ways to do this; one is to protect him from himself, and the second one is to kill him ourselves."

Chen Ge picked up the axe next to the sofa. Before the room changed, he aimed the axe right at the mannequin that had just been reconnected not long ago. The mannequin was chopped into pieces again, and fresh blood prints were left on its body.

It doesn't work? Should we try to use different murder weapons to kill him? But then that would drop us into the same cycle as he did.

Killing the mannequin would not break the cycle; Chen Ge realized that.

The Haunted House has to operate normally, so they wouldn't encourage something illegal like murder. They need to stay on the right side of the law.

While Chen Ge was thinking, the curtains of the living room were pulled open to reveal half a human face. The owner in bloody clothes grimaced at them. He stared at a certain spot before rushing out with a blade in his hand. Unlike the previous two times, other than behind the curtain, two other projections appeared behind the toilet door and under the bed. In the dark, three bloody faces looked at the visitors from different angles and then charged at them like crazy.

The projections would not deal actual damage, but even if they knew they were fake, when the projections got near, they would feel afraid. Adrenaline rose, eyes were clamped shut, and people screamed. The visitors squeezed in the middle of the living room; only Chen Ge stood to study the fleeing projections. "How curious. Why would all the projections charge into the living room? No matter where they were hiding, in the end, they would commit murder, charge into the living room, and disappear. Is it to make sure that all the visitors are gathered inside the living room?"

Chen Ge used his finger to trace the movement of all the projections. To his surprise, he realized that, despite their different hiding spots, if he made a line from their hiding spots to the place that they disappeared to, the trajectories formed by the different projections crossed at a spot inside the living room!

"The target of the projections isn't us but the sofa at the middle of the living room!" Chen Ge nudged the sofa away and knocked on the ground underneath it. "It's hollow?"

His finger slid on the wooden floor and soon found a part that was uneven. He pulled hard to peel that part of the floor up. A light stench filled the air; there was a female carcass stuffed under the ground. The body had many wounds, and she was hugging a black tape in her arms.

"A second body?" All the visitors gathered with their eyes bulging.

Even the police officer was stunned. "Why is there a second body?"

"The answer should be inside the tape." Chen Ge entered the tape into the player under the television, and the flickering screen changed to show the recording.

"Lee's paranoia is getting worse. I thought love would be able to curse him, but I realize how wrong I was. When he saw me talking with another man, he assumed I cheated on him. I was worried that he might injure the kids in his illness, so I sent all the kids back to my parent's home. But he thought I was trying to ruin his relationship with the kids. He then started to doubt if the kids were even his, and they were sent away to prevent him from realizing that fact.

“Doctor, now he is starting to suspect you as well. He thinks we are trying to cooperate to kill him. When he’s acting up, it’s so scary! One night, I woke up and saw him kneeling on the bed, staring quietly at me! Imagine how frightened I was!

“I am really afraid. I no longer dare to stay in the same room as him. He sleeps in the bedroom, and I sleep in the living room. If he sleeps in the living room, I lock myself up in the bedroom. Doctor, your medicine is working; Lee’s current condition is very stable. Although we still haven’t moved back together to sleep in the same room, that is probably we’re both so tired. But now, even if we’re sleeping in different rooms, I feel uncomfortable at night. I keep feeling there is a thief hiding inside the house. Tomorrow, I’ll go install a surveillance camera in the house.”

After the narration by the woman, there was a recording from the surveillance camera. It was the quiet of the night, and the woman was sleeping peacefully on the bed. Her bedsheet suddenly moved, and half of a man’s face poked out. The man crawled out from under the bed with a cleaver slowly. Then, the screen flickered, and the image disappeared.

The screen returned to normal. This time, the woman was sleeping on the sofa. Then, the bedroom door was pulled open. A man held a table lamp and slunk to her side.

The image flickered again, and this time, the woman was lying inside the bathroom tub. The man was hiding behind the toilet door with a fruit knife.

It was clear from story-telling that woman was already dead, but the man chose to kill her again and again. He was unwilling to forgive her, and in the end, he cursed himself to end up in his own cycle of nightmares.

“There are two reincarnations in this room. One is the dead victim being killed again and again; the other is the man finally losing his mind after murdering his wife. He couldn’t tell whether he was the killer or the victim. His paranoia became so serious that he suspected it was he who killed himself.”

Chen Ge found the key to the window inside the female body’s pocket. The design of this scenario was interesting. The key to leave was with the wife all along, but the murderer did not know that. He could not escape the nightmares that he had created for himself.

“This plot is well thought out. The designer is a genius.” Chen Ge glanced at the police officer next to him. “I hear this place has many designers. Do you know who designed this scenario?”

“The scenarios are auto-generated by the central computer using a large data storage. At least, that’s what I heard.” When the police officer saw the key that Chen Ge was holding, he was truly impressed.

“The central computer?” Chen Ge asked. “How much does this computer cost?”

“I don’t really know that. A whole AI system probably costs more than ten million?” The police scratched his head, as if he did not understand why Chen Ge would ask something like that.

“Come, let’s move on.” Chen Ge replaced the wooden tile. He held the key and entered the bedroom to personally undo the lock on the window.

Chapter 960: Altar

The complicated pattern moved on the walls, and the dark window was gently pulled up by Chen Ge. A chilling draft rushed into the room. Chen Ge narrowed his eyes, and the muscles of his back tightened as he continued to push the window up.

“There is something hidden in this scenario!” Chen Ge was very familiar with this feeling. His pupils slowly narrowed as he assessed the new scenario before him. On the other side of the window was a Japanese-style room, with Japanese furniture and décor. However, what caught Chen Ge’s attention was not that but the walls. All four walls were covered with handprints. The light hanging from the ceiling flickered. Underneath the boxed light, there scattered the dead bodies of moths, and around them were traces of wax. It was as if someone had stood under the lamp and used a candle to slowly burn the wings of the moths one by one.

After the new scenario was revealed, the scenario behind Chen Ge changed. Blood dripped from the ceiling, the door to the corridor rattled, and footsteps came from beyond it. Before the visitors could react, the door that led to the corridor was shut, and the girl’s laughter boomed beyond the door like the child was standing beyond it at that moment.

“She’s back to look for her doll?” Even though Chen Ge felt like it was rather inappropriate for an adult to steal from a girl, considering that this might lead her to salvation, it made him feel better.

“Chen Ge, I’ve been to this new scenario before.” The police officer’s initial attitude toward Chen Ge was bad, but without him realizing it, his attitude had changed, perhaps because fear had gotten him without him realizing it.

“Is there anything to pay attention to?”

“The room is cursed, and the curse is planted on three items. We have to find the three items while being attacked by the ghosts, place them on the altar, and use the divine figurines on the altar to cleanse them.” The police officer tried to remember the details. “But since this is hellish difficulty, we might need to find more than ten cursed items.”

“Finding items won’t be too hard. I’m afraid that whole room is wrapped in a curse, and everything and everyone inside it is cursed.” Chen Ge possessed Yin Yang Vision. In his sight, everything in the room was dyed with misfortune, and any visitor that came into contact with them would have their luck affected. This was the difference between Chen Ge’s Haunted House and the futuristic theme park. His Haunted House allowed his workers to feed on the visitors’ negative emotions to balance out their mood, but the Haunted House at the futuristic theme park was in a completely out of control situation. The visitors would be harmed when they visited the place, and they would continue to spread misfortune after they left the place.

Curses are different from actual Specters. Chen Ge was reminded of his experience in Li Wan City. The shadow specialized in curses, and that seemed to be a specialty of the ghosts from Eastern Jiujiang. As he leaped over the window, Chen Ge heard a tingling voice in his ears. The voice appeared suddenly as if announcing the presence of new visitors.

“When you search for stuff, cover your hand with a layer of your clothes. Do not come into direct contact with anything in this room.”

Hearing that, the few visitors were confused. They looked at each other with questioning gazes. To prevent Chen Ge from seeing through their act, they did not communicate much, but with the signal from the police officer and the young man, they all followed Chen Ge's instructions.

"Empty bottles and trash are collected in the corner, and there are cigarette butts from three different brands in the cigarette bowl. The clothes and shoes that littered the room are of different sizes. It appears like this place once played host to a small party, and the party goers have all been drunk."

"Yes, when on my last visit, we found relevant information in the bedroom. A group of people came to a friend's house at the countryside to play, but it rained so heavily that it caused a landslide. They couldn't return, so they decided to stay at the friend's house overnight." The police officer confirmed Chen Ge's suspicion and was shocked by Chen Ge's sharp observation.

"The information was found inside the bedroom?" Chen Ge entered the bedroom alone. When he pushed open the door, the singing of a girl appeared in his ear. The voice was airy and light, carrying with it a trace of melancholy. Chen Ge could not capture the exact lyrics, but he heard the terms moth and butterfly. The entire Japanese-style scenario had six rooms, and the bedroom Chen Ge was in was the smallest room.

Blankets were placed on the ground, and random objects crowded the already small room. There were male shoes and clothes and many female hairs. But the most eye-catching object had to be the camcorder fixed on top of a suitcase. The device was screwed to the suitcase, probably because the theme park worried that their equipment might be stolen.

"Who would steal a cursed item?" Chen Ge opened the camcorder's display and saw the image of four men and three women flicker across the screen. In the day, they spent their time touring the countryside, admiring the scenery, and taking in fresh air, but when they planned to leave at night, the skies suddenly opened up. The elders in the village said that the only exit from the village had been blocked by fallen rocks. They had no choice but to stay at the village and leave the next day.

"The elders said the road was blocked? They didn't confirm that themselves and decided to stay based on other people's words?"

Chen Ge continued to look, and the other visitors gathered around. Of the seven, one was a local, and he placed his six friends in his ancestral house. The rain kept pouring, but that did not affect the group's good mood. They drank, played cards, and partied until midnight. At this point, the image turned darker. The seven were gathered in the main living room. The drinks were running out, and a fatty with glasses stood up to use the toilet when he saw an altar built in the darkest corner at the end of the corridor. Normally, altars were placed on a table, and this was the first time he had seen an altar that was built inside a corridor.

In the video, the drunk fatty staggered to the altar. He leaned closer to the altar and appeared to hear some weird noises coming from inside it. Reaching to grab the black cloth that covered the altar, as he was about to pull it back, someone called his name, and the person who screamed was the person who was recording the video. The fatty was given quite a fright and crumbled to the ground. He crawled up, ignored the altar, and went to the toilet. When he returned, he sidled up to the owner and asked him about the altar.

The owner said that he did not know much about it. He went to school in the city alone. One day, he got a phone call from the police that said his parents and grandmother had gotten caught in a landslide when they were coming home, and the whole family got thrown into the river with the car. Now, he was the only survivor of their family.

At that moment, another man put down his glass of wine and told the others in a mysterious tone that an altar placed on a table was for ghosts and divinity, but altars built in dark corners were for rearing of ghosts.