

Horrors 981

Chapter 981: Will Never Forget

"You can help Xiao Yu?" The aunty and uncle studied Chen Ge closely. "What are you? A psychiatrist?"

"I own a haunted house, but please believe me." Chen Ge looked at the two sincerely.

"What nonsense are you talking about now? Leave!" The old man waved the sword. "Before I pull the sword on you!"

"Please calm down and give me ten minutes, okay? Just ten minutes." Chen Ge used his phone to search for the news article where he had helped the law enforcement in Jiujiang. "Look at this. I am the one in the picture with the police. I really am a good person."

"A helpful citizen that has helped the law enforcement many times?" The aunty and uncle compared Chen Ge to the man in the article a few times before they believed him. "What do you want from Xiao Yu?"

"I just want to help her. Can you bring me to meet her parents?" After Chen Ge realized that the woman had body temperature, he understood that the ghost that he was looking for was the boy in the picture.

"Xiao Yu was raised in an orphanage. She doesn't have parents."

"Does she have any other relatives? Who takes care of her, and who provided her with a home?" Chen Ge felt like it was quite hard for the woman to live independently in her current state, so she should have a caretaker.

"We have never heard Xiao Yu talk about her family before. She was abandoned here about a decade ago. She was just a little girl then, standing in the middle of the road. A few officers and I sent her to the police station, and then the people from the orphanage came. They were so reluctant to take Xiao Yu back. I couldn't stand the look on their faces, so I allowed Xiao Yu to temporarily stay with me." The aunty was kind and generous.

"A decade ago?" This time skip was so large that Chen Ge did not know where to start. Ten years was a long time for anyone, enough to forget about the pain and joy that one had experienced, and even the most precious memory faded with time.

"Has she always been like this for this past ten years?" Chen Ge looked at the woman holding the picture, staring with such focus at the faceless boy in the picture. She seemed to be remembering, but there was no recollection in her eyes.

"Yes, Xiao Yu suffers from memory loss. To get to the bottom of the truth, I've personally been to her orphanage to ask around. They told me that Xiao Yu's memory has been bad since she was young. She couldn't even remember the names of the other orphans, and that caused her to make a lot of mistakes in her chores." The aunty sighed. "I don't know whether they told me this on purpose or the illness got worse as she grew older, but after Xiao Yu moved in with me, her illness did worsen."

"Her memory loss became more prevalent?"

“Yes, she would forget everything until she couldn’t even remember her own name. It was that day...”
The aunty stopped to look at Xiao Yu with some sadness in her eyes. “It was that day that she started to tattoo her own name on her body. The name seems to mean a lot to her, and she refused to forget it no matter what.”

“Who gave her this name? The people at the orphanage?”

“No, I heard that when Fang Yu was abandoned at the hospital, there was 271 RMB in her pocket and a letter. The letter said that her name is Fang Yu.” The aunty remembered these things very well. She was truly concerned about Fang Yu and had done many things for her.

“That letter...”

Before Chen Ge asked, the aunty knew Chen Ge’s intention. “The letter has been lost for who knows how long already. Now, the only way to help Fang Yu finds her parent is her name, Fang Yu.”

“That’s why she tattooed Fang Yu all over her body? No, there must be something you’ve missed!” Chen Ge stood in the rain. “A person wouldn’t spend so much effort to look for a parent that she hadn’t met. There is someone that she refused to forget at the deepest part of her memory. She believed that the person’s name is Fang Yu, and she didn’t want to forget that person!”

Chen Ge signaled for the uncle and aunty to get close to the woman. “Do you recognize the boy in this picture?”

“He doesn’t even have a face. How are we supposed to tell?”

“You can get many information from the height, build, head shape, and so on. After Fang Yu moved here, has a boy like this appeared around here? Chen Ge asked.

“Fang Yu rarely interacts with others, but she goes to the nearby park every night. How would she know a boy that way?”

“She goes to the park every night? Are you sure about that?”

“Yes, Fang Yu only goes to the doctor in the morning or stays at home. Even for the tattooing, she only goes there at night.”

“This information is very important.” Chen Ge understood something. “Before moving here, Fang Yu knew this boy in the picture, and they went to the park.”

Fang Yu looked about the same age as Chen Ge. The boy in the picture looked about eighteen, so ten years ago, Fang Yu should have been slightly younger than the boy.

“Fang Yu lived at the orphanage before this, so the boy in the picture probably grew up at the orphanage as well. They were childhood friends.” The rain started to get heavier, and water slid down Chen Ge’s face. “Fang Yu, do you know which orphanage Fang Yu comes from?”

“It’s Jiujiang’s Children’s Home. It used to be a private orphanage and very unprofessional, but it’s gotten much better in recent years.”

“Jiujiang’s Children’s Home? There’s where Fan Yu stays now!” Chen Ge prepared to take the picture, but the woman suddenly refused to let go.

“Fang Yu, I know that you wish to meet the man in the picture, and I will go get him to come meet you now!” Chen Ge pressed on the woman’s hands lightly. “Perhaps he also has been waiting to meet you.”

The woman slowly let go. Chen Ge put away the picture and ran away through the rain.

“Wait a minute!” The aunty had Fang Yu enter the building before she ran over with the umbrella. “Take this. Who knows when will the rain stop?”

“Thanks.” The backpack had the comic and picture, but Chen Ge did not deny the kindness.

“There’s no need to thank me. I saw it clearly just now. You wanted to take away the picture, but Xiao Yu refused to let go. This is the first time that she has cared about something so much.” The aunty handed Chen Ge the umbrella and took Chen Ge’s hands. “You have to help her, you understand? The first day she forgot her name, she broke the teacup and used the edge of the shard to carve the name Fang Yu on her body. When she woke up the next day, she forgot and repeated the whole process. No matter what, she has to remember that name, to stop her from injuring herself. It was me who took her to the tattoo artist.”

“I understand. I will get to the bottom of this.”

Chen Ge looked at the building. The woman was standing on the steps, staring blankly at the names carved on her arms. For other people, ten years would be long, but for her, it was just a mere repetition of the same day over the span of ten years.

Chapter 982: The Past [2 in 1]

Holding the umbrella, Chen Ge walked into the raining city. He could not tell whether he was doing this for the mission or really wanted to help the woman. Perhaps it was a mixture of both.

He took a taxi to Jiujiang’s Children’s Home. Even though it was already way past the visiting hours, due to various reasons, Chen Ge knew the guard that was posted at the door and the teacher who looked after Fan Yu at the Children’s Home. After waiting for a few minutes outside the door, Chen Ge was led into the children’s home by that same teacher.

“Are you here to see Fan Yu? The child has gotten so much better compared to before. I do not know what happened, but he stopped closing himself up inside his own world, and he started to attempt to interact with others. The paintings that he draws are no longer that scary. Other than black and red crayons, he has started to use other colors as well.” The teacher was very happy, and she could not stop praising the improvement that Fan Yu had shown.

Chen Ge had no idea whether Fan Yu’s change had anything to do with the painter at the School of the Afterlife or not. Perhaps the knot in his heart had been undone, or perhaps the painter had gone to visit Fan Yu after he snuck out from the door. Anything was possible because the painter was an entity that Chen Ge could not understand.

“Actually, I am here for something else.” Chen Ge followed the teacher into the building. He put the umbrella away and took out the picture from his backpack. “Do you mind leading me to the headmaster at the children’s home? I have something important to ask him.”

“The headmaster has left already. You can ask me any question that you have in mind. There is nothing at this children’s home that I do not know about.”

“The thing that I wish to know is from ten years ago. At the time, this children’s home was still a private orphanage. At the time, you would’ve been at school, right?”

“Ten years ago?” The teacher thought about it before saying, “How about you go and ask the guard? He’s the employee that has been on the payroll the longest. He has been watching the gates since this place was a private orphanage.”

“Okay.” Chen Ge invited the guard into the room, and he passed the picture to the old man. “Do you have any memory of this boy?”

“He does not even have a face. How am I supposed to tell?” The guard took the picture and placed it close to his eyes, his wrinkles folding together. “Besides, who can remember things that are from ten years ago that clearly?”

“Try to think about it. At the time, the orphanage should have had a girl with very bad memory. This boy should be the girl’s best friend.”

Hearing the information provided by Chen Ge, the wrinkles on the elder’s face deepened. He thought for a long time before suddenly tapping Chen Ge on his arm. “There was such a girl! Let me take a gander at that picture again!”

The guard held the picture by both hands and studied it for a long time. “I cannot remember the boy, but I have some recollections of the girl that you mentioned. She was abandoned by her parents when she was very young. Apparently, the reason was because she had a congenital deficiency of the brain. She had a poor memory and problems doing normal chores, and her intelligence was stunted.”

“Congenital deficiency of the brain?” That was a new term for Chen Ge.

“That was what I heard. The girl was quite pretty, and she was obedient, but she kept forgetting things. Many other children were adopted, but she was the only one left at the orphanage.” Looks like the elder’s memory was being jogged. “From the age two to around ten, she had spent more than ten years at the orphanage. Perhaps she missed the crucial period to cure her disease. The girl’s illness and symptoms became graver and graver.

“Initially, she could remember the names of her friends and teachers, and with the teacher’s training, she could not only live on herself but also help around the orphanage. Even though the girl had a bad memory, but she was very hardworking. She never complained when she was bullied, so the orphanage ignored the problems and allowed her to stay to help around.

“But who knew her conditions would get worse until she could not recognize people’s faces anymore? All she could do was the basics to keep herself alive, and anything else was beyond her capability. She was already too old, and she was no help around the orphanage. In fact, she needed other people to spend time to help her. Slowly, the people’s attitudes toward her changed.

“The children at the private orphanage were all still young, so she stood out even if she did not want to. After that, I do not know what got into the boss’ mind. He knew that the girl had problems with her memory, but he assigned her to watch the gates with me. The leader said that was so that she had something to do, and she would not waste the place’s resources, but I have a feeling that the real intention of the leader was to abandon her. He probably even hoped that she would go away on her own and get lost.”

At this point, the elder sighed.

“Hope that she would go away and get lost? How could you tell that was the leader’s intention at the time?” If that was really the case, everything changed. Chen Ge felt like Fang Yu’s change started then.

“The management kept sending me away to distant locations to deliver documents. I would run all over the city, and she would be left behind alone to watch the gates. There was one time after I returned that I realized the girl wasn’t inside the booth or the house. I ran all over the orphanage and its surroundings to look for her, and I finally found her under a big tree near the mountain behind the orphanage. At the time, I was so angry. I demanded to know why she wandered away from her post. She told me that she saw a kite that flew very high in the sky.

“I was so scared for her. Thankfully, the kite ended up stuck in the tree and did not fly away.” Even after so many years, when the elder thought about it, he still sighed with lamentation. The girl had left a deep impression on him.

“Sir, when the girl was guarding the gates with you, did any boys come to accompany her or treat her very nicely?”

“No, she was always alone.”

“This is hard.” Chen Ge looked at the picture in his hands and thought back to what he was told to find any clues that he might have missed. “Sir, when you said that Fang Yu got lost the first time, she saw a kite and ran after it. But according to her personality, she was not someone who would do that, so why did she chase after the kite after she saw it? Did she like kites a lot? Could the kite have been some kind of symbol for her?”

“You’re making this to be too complicated.” The elder was about to deny him when his eyes suddenly widened. “Wait a minute! Yes! The kite! There was a boy at the orphanage who was very close to Fang Yu. The boy was such a chatterbox. I believed he suffered from some kind of illness as well. He had a tendency to repeat the same thing. It was fine the first few times, but hearing him repeat the same thing every day would drive anyone nuts.”

“So, it was the boy who found Fang Yu?”

“Yes, Fang Yu has a bad memory, and she would forget what the boy repeated the next day. Every day was like a new day for her.” With the prompt from Chen Ge, the guard finally started to remember things from back then. “The two of them should have been friends, but they had different destinies. As Fang Yu got older, her illness worsened, but the boy’s illness became better as he got older. But even after the boy became normal, he liked to stay with Fang Yu. He was three years older than Fang Yu, and whenever anyone dared to bully Fang Yu, he would be the first one to defend her.”

“But what does that have to do with a kite, and where is that boy now?” Chen Ge had a feeling that the ghost he was looking for was that boy.

“I cannot remember which year it was, but that year, the teachers took the children from the orphanage for a spring outing. They were flying kites at the dam in Eastern Jiujiang. The boy and Fang Yu’s kites both got lost in the woods. They both went searching for it, but the boy got lost, and we only found Fang Yu, who’d fainted.”

“The boy got lost?” Chen Ge frowned. If the boy had gotten lost, his trail might have gone cold.

“After Fang Yu woke up, we asked her what happened. She said that she and the boy went into the woods to find the kites. They saw a path that led to a house that was surrounded by flowers, and the laughter of many children came from inside it. The kites dropped on the fence of the house. When they reached for the kites, a group of unknown kids came to grab them, wishing to drag them into the house. At the last moment, the boy pushed Fang Yu out of the way before he was dragged through the door, and he closed the door from the inside.”

The elder’s words might not have meant anything to other people, but it was different for Chen Ge. He had been to the little house with flowers next to the Eastern Jiujiang’s Dam before!

At the time, he had been studying at primary school, and it was the first year anniversary after he moved from Eastern Jiujiang to Western Jiujiang. His parents had forbidden him from going to Eastern Jiujiang, but that day was an exception because it was a school field trip. It was at the Eastern Jiujiang Dam, and it was the same house with the flowers and children laughter inside the woods.

Chen Ge managed to survive that ordeal was thanks to the doll that he had made, which he carried with him at the time. Director Luo’s daughter was living inside the doll, and she was now New Century Park’s guardian spirit.

“It should be the same place!” Chen Ge did not expect Fang Yu and the boy to have been to that place as well. Their past had somehow crossed his own past.

The object that I have drawn this time does not appear to be that simple. Chen Ge picked up the backpack, but he did not act rashly. “If you don’t mind, I still need one more thing from you.”

“Say it.” The teacher had a good impression of Chen Ge. She believed that Chen Ge was a very kind and loving person.

“Can you find me the information on the boy? I have a date here. I believe it is his birthday.” Chen Ge turned the picture around. The date written on the back was December 21st.

“I will try my best, but please don’t get your hopes up.”

“Thank you for your help.” After saying goodbye to the teacher and the old guard, he opened the umbrella, swung the backpack over his shoulder, and ran out of the children’s home.

It is not too late to take revenge for the incident that happened to my primary school self.

He did not stop for rest. He hailed a cab to Eastern Jiujiang’s Dam.

Whenever I come to this kind of isolated place, the weather is horrible. It's either raining or howling with winds.

The taxi drove away quickly after dropping Chen Ge off outside the dam. He walked by the roadside for a long time with the umbrella. The memory of his childhood was blurry, but thankfully, the surroundings had not changed that much. The dam water rippled quickly, and the rain pelted his body. The surroundings were dark, but thanks to his Yin Yang Vision, even without a light, he could see clearly, and it appeared like Chen Ge had melted into the darkness.

I remember walking into these woods.

Chen Ge had no idea what had happened around the dam for the past decade, but this place had gotten even more deserted than before. The few locals that stayed here had moved away, and the woods had expanded to cover the mountain.

Activating the recorder and flipping through the comic to summon the headless woman and the boy with the stench, Chen Ge finally made his trek into the woods.

The raindrops fell on the leaves, and it created a rhythmic sound in Chen Ge's ears. The world inside the woods seemed to be a different world compared to outside.

Not too far into the woods, Xu Yin appeared silently beside Chen Ge. Chen Ge did not call his name, but he appeared on his own. This meant that he had sensed something dangerous, and the thing could have killed Chen Ge before he had the chance to appear. There was nothing strange around them, but the few Red Specters acted strangely, like the danger was hidden around them.

The leaves danced in the wind, and the rain slid down the leaf veins. Chen Ge walked for quite a while in the woods until he lost track of the passage of time. The deeper he went into the woods, the lower the temperature and the quieter it became. Xu Yin led the group. Red blood mixed with the rain. He moved away the rotten branches, and a well-beaten path appeared before them.

Wilted flowers ran down both sides of the path, and at the end of the road, a gray little house could be seen through the gaps in the trees.

"When I was small, I came here with my own handmade doll. You didn't kill me, only heavily injured the doll. I have always been a fair person. Today, I will not kill you, but I will beat you to your last breath and then take you away in the comic."

In the raining night, the few Red Specters followed behind Chen Ge as they moved quietly forward. "Not everyone can discover this place. If not for Xu Yin leading the way, I probably wouldn't have found it so quick."

As he approached the little house, Chen Ge's memory started to overlap with real life. What he had forgotten surfaced in his mind, and his memory had never been so clear before.

"Be careful." He had almost been killed there, so Chen Ge could not be more careful. At the same time, though, he felt as if he was getting closer to the truth. The fence of the house was toppled over, and moss grew over it. There were many empty vases left in the yard. The vases were interesting. They were the same size, and they would fit the skull of an adult perfectly.

Other than the vases, there were some toys left outside in the yard. There was a broken wooden horse, a rusted seesaw, and a swing missing a rope.

Chapter 983: Monster Carrying the Altar

“This place seems to have been abandoned for a long time already.”

It was a good thing that it was abandoned. That meant that no children would be harmed again.

Walking down the muddy path, Chen Ge pushed open the door of the gray house. A horrible stench rushed out from inside the house. Chen Ge’s nostrils twitched. He stood at the door and did not go in. “I once smelled this in Li Wan City. It’s a very unique smell and hard to describe. It is not as thick as the smell of decay, but it contains a chill to it as if after you suck it into your lungs, your whole body will shiver.”

Using his Yin Yang Vision, Chen Ge looked into the room. Most of the furniture had been destroyed, and the floor was littered with broken plates and torn children clothes.

“This house didn’t look like this at the beginning.”

Chen Ge looked at the dilapidated room, but another image appeared in his mind. It was this same room, but it was surrounded by the laughter of children. Light blue and light pink wallpaper was pasted on the walls. The table was not high, and it was filled with toys and delicious food.

“Has the ghost who once stayed here left?”

Chen Ge was about to walk into the room when his phone suddenly vibrated. The caller ID showed an unknown caller.

“I have both Inspector Lee and Captain Yan’s numbers, so this should not be the police. Who would call me at this moment?”

He accepted the call, and a boy’s voice came through the line. “Chen Ge, when will you bring me home?”

“Fan Yu?” Chen Ge was confounded.

“Mr. Chen, it’s me. We just met not long ago.” Another familiar voice appeared. It was the teacher from the Children’s Home. “Fan Yu, let me talk to Mr. Chen for a moment.”

“Did you discover something?” Chen Ge had left his number with the Children’s Home, so he was not surprised that they would contact him. But Fan Yu, who did not like to speak, voluntarily called him by his name. Other than surprise, he was quite happy.

“We found something huge. All the files and medical treatment files before the Children’s Home was taken over by the government were locked inside the warehouse. We searched for information related to Fang Yu, and we realized that the information about a child in their class was missing.”

“The information for one of the children is lost?”

“Yes, it’s like his presence has been wiped out. You might not believe this, but according to the research we’ve done, there is always one person missing in the total count. In the class picture, there is a boy’s

face that is blurred out, just like the picture that you showed us!” The teacher had given Chen Ge a valuable hint. “I just called a few seniors who worked at the orphanage back then, and everyone remember this chatty boy. They all know about him, but no one can remember what he looks like.”

“Everyone has forgotten what he looks like?”

“Not only his looks, even his name and age.”

“Other than that, did you find any other clues?”

“I heard from one of the seniors that the boy used to be very chatty when he was young, and he slowly became normal after he grew up. Everyone thought that he had gotten better, but that was not the case.” The teacher had revealed another secret. “His illness had actually gotten more serious. But after he grew old, he was wise enough to understand that people did not like when he ran his mouth off, so he tried so hard to suppress his nature.

“The senior once saw that the boy would often run to an unoccupied corner and talk to himself like he was unloading the words that he couldn’t say before others. Other than that, he formed the habit of keeping a diary. She once stole a look at it, and the diary was filled to the brim with words, but none of them made any sense. It was impossible to tell what the boy was trying to express.”

“Is it possible to find that diary?”

“That will be hard. I’ll try to make some more calls. If I find anything, I’ll call you back.”

The teacher hung up. Chen Ge stood at the door and looked at the house that was different from how he remembered. “No one can remember his name and looks. Why is that?”

Almost everyone had forgotten him except Fang Yu, who had the poorest memory. She had been looking for him. After entering the room, the smell thickened. The first floor was for the children to play, so Chen Ge did not find anything there. With Xu Yin by his side, he climbed to the second floor. When he came to the wooden steps, Chen Ge covered his nose. The unique smell came from the second floor.

“Let’s go up together.” The wooden steps had been built many years ago. They creaked noisily when he walked up them, and it felt like the stairs would crumble at any moment. As they moved up the steps, Chen Ge realized that the steps started to have words carved into them. They appeared to be dug out with bloody fingernails.

“Fang Yu?”

The handwriting on the steps became more intense. When Chen Ge reached the second floor, his eyes widened, and he was stumped. The floor, ceiling, walls—every crook and corner was filled with the name ‘Fang Yu’.

At that moment, not far from Chen Ge was a man who was lying on the ground, using his bloody finger to grate at the ground.

He was so fully focused that he did not notice Chen Ge. He was kneeling on the ground, carrying an altar on his back.

The altar looked similar to the one that he had seen at the futuristic theme park, but the mud statuette inside this altar was not decapitated. Furthermore, it did not have Chen Ge's name, but instead, it was covered in Fang Yu's name.

Chapter 984: Special Power

"Be careful of the altar he's carrying." The altar from the futuristic theme park had appeared again. Chen Ge seriously suspected that there were more altars hidden around Eastern Jiujiang. "A Specter beyond the Red Specter is a Demon God. I can understand building an altar for one, but why would they place a mud statuette inside the altars?"

The mud statuettes should have been made by the same person. The handicraft was rough, like they were made by children, and the shape of a human was barely discernable.

"Altar, statuette, who is behind all this? They seem to be targeting children. Is there a ghost that specifically feeds off children in this world?"

When Chen Ge was thinking, the man kneeling on the ground finally noticed him. The hand stopped moving, and he slowly turned his face to reveal a featureless face. It was like a piece of white paper that had nothing on it. On a rainy night, in a room carved with names, a faceless monster knelt, guarding an altar. If not for Xu Yin, Chen Ge would have run away when the man lifted his head.

Since there was no face, Chen Ge could not tell his emotions and could not predict his next move. The monster had no ears, so Chen Ge could not tell whether he could hear him or not. The monster had no mouth, so the most basic communication was impossible.

After a temporarily pause, the monster suddenly pushed his hands against the ground and charged at Chen Ge on all fours.

"Xu Yin!" Even before the order from Chen Ge, Xu Yin had already stepped in front of Chen Ge. His upper body leaned forward, and black capillaries appeared on the back of his hand as he held the monster's head back. Blade-like fingers cut into the monster's face. The skin was cut through, but no blood leaked out. Black threads crawled out from the monster's wound and curled around Xu Yin's fair hand.

"A curse?" Each thread was marked with a wailing human face. This was similar to what Chen Ge had seen when he encountered the shadow in Li Wan City.

"Such a venomous curse hid under a pure, featureless face. I should have known that the vilest spirit would often hide under the purest appearance."

Xu Yin was not familiar with dealing with curses, but Chen Ge had one Specter who was. He took out the pair of red heels from his backpack and placed them on the ground.

"You seem to feed on curses. Give this one a taste. See if it matches your appetite."

Keeping the headless woman by his side, Chen Ge did not give the faceless monster any chance. He summoned Xu Yin, the red high heel, and the stench at the same time. Surrounded by three Red Specters, the faceless monster was immediately cornered. Threads of blood vessels covered the space around him like spiderweb, but they were as sharp as a blade.

The web surrounded the monster, and if he tried to move, his body would be shredded into pieces. That did not mean that the monster had surrendered, though. He did not seem to possess self-consciousness and would not feel pain or sadness. Even though the wounds on his body increased, he continued to attack the three Red Specters.

“This man is not a Red Specter, but he is surprisingly tough. He appears to have been given some kind of command to guard the altar.” Chen Ge had interacted with so many Specters that he spotted the problem immediately. “Ignore him for now. Take down the altar, but be careful to not break the mud statuette inside it.”

When the target changed from the monster to the altar, the house started to change. The names carved in the building started to bleed, and in just a few second, the whole second floor was dyed red. The smell in the air thickened, and the monster started to struggle. He tried to tear through the web of blood vessels, causing his body to be covered in ghastly wounds.

Endless black threads seeped out from the wounds and gathered together to wrap around the altar like a tongue. Chen Ge thought that he would have an easy win with four Red Specters, but as time moved forward, things became more complicated. The curses all rushed toward the red high heels. As the number of wounds on the monster increased, the curse that came out from his body became scarier.

The red high heel that was covered in bandages became the monster’s main attack target. If that was all, Chen Ge would not have minded it. The curse of the entire second floor could only stop the red high heels. Xu Yin, the stench, and the headless woman were not targeted by the curse. With three Red Specters on his side, Chen Ge would still win. The difference between a baleful Specter and Red Specter could not be overcome. Even for Yan Danian, who could control many Specters at the same time, he was only a Lesser Red Specter.

Soon, however, Chen Ge realized that something was wrong.

The stench and Xu Yin that attacked the faceless man were getting weird, and the headless woman next to him was acting strange as well!

The stench of blood thickened. Other than the red high heels, the three Red Specters stopped hiding their bloody presence and show off their bloodiest side.

“Is there danger around us? Have they sensed something dangerous?”

The room was still the same. With Ghost Ear, Yin Yang Vision, and Spirit Ear, Chen Ge was sure that there was nothing coming toward them. They were the only ones there.

“Why would they act this way if there’s no danger?” After staying for some time at the haunted house, these Red Specters would hide their natural presence out of habit. They would try to forget about their past pain and despair and used a new method to accompany Chen Ge. Of course, this had not been achieved overnight. It was done step by step with Chen Ge, building mutual trust. But now, the trust appeared to have been severed by something, and the most precious thing had been shattered.

A chill ran down his spine. The way the headless woman looked at Chen Ge became confused. Red and pale colors twirled in her eyes. Something was influencing her, causing her to forget who Chen Ge was. If

it was not Chen Ge standing before her but a normal person, what would she have done? What would a normal Red Specter suffering from endless despair do in that moment?

The answer was quite clear. Chen Ge tried to communicate with the headless woman, trying to help her keep her sense, but the effect was lacking. The headless woman was staying far away from the faceless monster and the altar, so she was not affected that much, but Xu Yin and the stench who were reaching to take out the statuette were different. Their conditions were worse. Ghastly faces appeared on their bloody clothes, and the two Red Specters were on the edge of going on a rampage.

“This monster has a power that can affect Red Specters?” Chen Ge had not experienced this before. Even Yan Danian, who was recognized by the black phone to be the strongest Specter under the Red Specters, could not influence a Red Specter that much.

“The consciousness of these three Red Specters has been affected. The faceless monster’s power can influence a Red Specter’s consciousness, huh? No, based on the situation with the headless woman, the way she looked at me turned unfamiliar, like she had forgotten who I am!” Chen Ge felt unsettled, and a speculation surfaced in his mind. “The monster’s power allows him to dilute certain memories?”

Chapter 985: The Second Mud Statuette

The reason Chen Ge could think of that was due to Fang Yu. As Fang Yu grew older, her memory became worse.

“The monster’s power should be related to memory. With the aid from the altar and the curse, his power gained some sort of improvement.” Chen Ge found the key immediately. “All the curses in the room rushed toward the red high heels. So, it’s clear that he knew his power is weakest on the red high heels, but why would the red high heels be immune to his power? Does this mean his power is a kind of curse itself?”

Regardless of the reason, Chen Ge knew that he could not allow this to drag on any longer. The man gave everything to protect the altar, so if Chen Ge wanted to turn this around, he had to target the altar.

“Xu Yin! Remove the altar from the man!”

Hearing Chen Ge’s voice, the pain in Xu Yin’s eyes intensified. He forced himself to grab at the edge of the altar, but once his hand landed on the altar, something unexpected happened. The mud statuette inside the altar suddenly opened its eyes. The death characters inside the altar started to bleed, and the statuette’s chest area where the name Fang Yu was carved started to crack.

When the statuette opened its eyes, other than the red high heels, all the other Red Specters became more crazed. They seemed to be reliving their despair, reexperiencing that painful memory. Wounds appeared on Xu Yin’s clothes like a blade was trying to split him in half. The headless woman held her neck like there was an invisible gash around her neck. The worst was the boy with the stench. His body kept growing, and his eyes were filled with black blood. The conditions of the three Red Specters became more serious. This was out of Chen Ge’s expectations.

“Only a Demon God should be able to wipe away the memory of three Red Specters at the same time. This monster’s ability affects memories, and with the aid of the mud statuette inside the altar, he is able to wipe away Red Specters’ memory temporarily.”

Even at this moment, Chen Ge kept his composure.

“This effect should be temporary. When he stops using his power or when the mud statuette inside the altar is destroyed, the Red Specters will recover their memories.”

The memory wipe was temporary, but even so, it placed Chen Ge in a dangerous situation. Red Specters who were reliving their hatred and despair might kill Chen Ge directly!

“The monster’s power is getting stronger, and the condition of Xu Yin and the rest is getting worse.”

Chen Ge had two choices. The first was to wait. The statuette had started to crack. This power was placing a lot of burden on the statuette. When the statuette crumbled, the monster’s power would be neutralized, but this choice was basically handing his life over to others. Chen Ge did not like that, so he chose the second option, which was to find way to remove the mud statuette from the altar himself.

“I regret not bringing the hammer with me. After a few days’ peace, I’ve become too careless. I must learn from this.” The second choice was dangerous, but Chen Ge decided to take this risk. Be it Xu Yin, the Stench, or the headless woman, they were Chen Ge’s family. Seeing them in such pain, Chen Ge felt like he had to do something.

“I have gone through so much to help them see the light in this world, and you wish for them to forget that?”

Chen Ge did not want the Red Specters to relive the worst periods of their lives. He used his Yin Yang Vision to follow the trace of the black threads.

“All the curses are going after the red high heels. There is no curse between the stench and Xu Yin, and the monster is pressed to the ground, so he shouldn’t be able to attack me. The inside of the altar is filled with the word ‘death’. The statuette is stained with some black blood. I must stay away from these two things.” Chen Ge looked into the altar that was open. “If I knock into the altar from the side, perhaps I can knock it off the monster or knock the statuette out from inside the altar.”

If this continued, even if one Red Specter went on a rampage, Chen Ge might be injured in the process. He had to take this risk before the Red Specters’ memory was completely removed.

Taking one step forward, Chen Ge suddenly picked up speed to rush toward the altar. Before he made the next move, the monster pressed onto the ground suddenly raised his wounded face. Seeing that faceless face, Chen Ge was confounded for a moment, but he snapped out of it. He rammed heavily into the altar. The statuette inside the altar teetered. The altar was much heavier than Chen Ge had anticipated. He failed to tip the altar over.

A thick scent of blood mixed with a horrible stench drifted over. A giant hand slowly rose, and the boy who had grown several times in size set his eyes on Chen Ge. Chen Ge appeared in his blood red eyes, but compelled by pain and anger, the Chen Ge in his eyes slowly changed into an unfamiliar middle-aged man.

“Father... don’t hit me! Don’t hit me! Don’t hit me!” The raised arm slammed toward Chen Ge’s head. A man’s dried skull appeared in the middle of the pain. The Red Specter moved too fast, so Chen Ge did not have the chance to evade. The hand grew larger in his eyes when a figure suddenly stood before him.

Bang!

Blood spurted everywhere. Ten fingers as sharp as a blade cut off the stench's hand from his wrist.

"Is it painful?" The lanky Xu Yin lowered his arms. The wounds on his body were completely open. His face was twisted from pain, and there was only madness and despair in his eyes. He had lost his sanity, but even so, he knew to protect Chen Ge. Without moving an inch, the red heart in his chest kept beating. Many blood vessels bloomed inside the room like a flower in the middle of a nightmare.

Suppression! Absolute suppression that belonged to Xu Yin!

There was a crisp sound that came from inside the altar. Perhaps due to Xu Yin's resistance, there was a clear crack that crossed through the statuette. Chen Ge did not expect Xu Yin to still guard him even after he had lost his memory. Perhaps from a certain moment, he had become the only person that Xu Yin could trust in this world. Not wanting to lose this opportunity, Chen Ge rammed into the altar again.

The cracked statuette fell into the altar's door, and that seemed to affect the death characters on the wall. The headless woman who was the furthest away was the first to recover her memory. She remembered Chen Ge's earlier request. She blinked to appear before the altar and took the statuette out from it.

The moment the statuette left the altar, all the characters in the room returned to normal. The curse that surrounded the red high heels started to disperse.

The headless woman held the mud statuette. The faceless monster struggled on the ground, but all his limbs were pulled off by Xu Yin.

The boy also returned to normal. The broken hand dissolved into blood vessels. Looking at his new arm, there was regret in his eyes. As if to show his apology, the boy picked up the monster from the ground. He was about to kill the man when he saw that there was another face hidden under the monster's wounded face.

The face was wreathed inside the curse. His eyes were screwed shut, and his expression was pained.

"Slow down. Can you guys remove the man from the curse wrapped around him?"

Chapter 986: She's Forgotten Her Name, But She Hasn't Forgotten You

The most dangerous thing in the room was the mud statuette. Now that it was in the headless woman's clutches, there was no victory chance for the man. The faceless monster had almost killed Chen Ge even though he was under the protection of four Red Specters. Yes, the altar and statuette had played a big factor, but it also proved how powerful the faceless man's own power was. He could wipe away certain memory, and if used wisely, it could come in handy for Chen Ge.

Specters with such power are very rare, and the crucial point is that he's not a Red Specter. Should he become one, his power will only get scarier.

From how Chen Ge saw it, if Yan Danian was the most powerful Specter under Red Specters, the faceless man would be the second most powerful.

The Specters that I draw from the wheel are getting better in quality.

After consuming the remaining curse, the red high heels and the stench worked together to pull the man out from the faceless monster's shell. There were cursed threads stuck to his body like he had been stuck inside a cocoon of curses earlier. When all the threads disappeared, the man collapsed to the ground. He was thin and did not look too old. In fact, he looked like he had just reached puberty.

"Can you understand me?" Chen Ge squatted next to the man. After the man was cleansed of the curse, his body faded like he could disappear at any moment. "I did not come to save you out of pure sympathy; I'm here on someone's behalf."

The man kept his eyes closed like he had heard this speech before. He used to being made a fool, and he had given up hope.

"It's Fang Yu who told me to come find you. She tattooed your name all over her body, and she visits the city park every night, sitting on the bench to wait for you." Chen Ge's voice became louder. "Now that the park is getting demolished, last night should be the last time she could go there to wait for you."

The man's expression did not change too much, but his eyelids fluttered.

"Fang Yu's condition is getting worse. Perhaps before she dies, her biggest wish is to see you one last time. She has many things she wants to tell you. You are her best and only friend."

Chen Ge did not know which sentence finally cut through the man. Perhaps it was the mention of Fang Yu potentially dying. The eyelids twitched before the man finally opened his eyes. His pupils were incredibly unique; they were like a cat's. There were two vertical lines in the middle of his pupils. Look at them too long, and he might be sucked into them.

"Fang Yu, Fang Yu..." Repeating that name, the man slowly returned to normal. After so many years, perhaps it was this name that had kept his spirit lingering. After a long time, the man lifted his head to look at Chen Ge, with his lips moving. "She has not forgotten me? Once she remembers me, the person will go find her. That is the curse that person left on me."

"Her memory is horrible, but even if she has forgotten her own name, she hasn't forgotten you."

It was a simple statement without any embellishment. After Chen Ge said that, the man lowered his head slowly and closed his eyes again.

"For this past ten years, she has been reliving the day that you left, she experiences the same pain every day. Even if you don't do this for yourself, at least do it for you. Do you really think your choice is best for her?" Chen Ge sat next to the man. He kept the man alive because he believed that the man's power was very unique. However, he also wanted to take him to meet Fang Yu.

"I am protecting her. A dangerous Specter has his eyes on Fang Yu! You don't understand how scary he is. You don't get it..."

"Is that Specter a shapeless shadow?" Chen Ge paid attention because the man was giving information about the altar.

"He is like a person's shadow, but he can grow, and he has a physical body. The crucial thing is that he's despairingly strong." The man lay on the ground, and tiredness laced through his voice. "The man is looking for a suitable candidate to possess their body. When I was playing with Fang Yu, Fang Yu often

heard someone calling her name. The voice came from the eastern side. Initially, I didn't mind it until the day we went to play at the Eastern Jiujiang Dam. Fang Yu heard the voice again. She seemed to have lost herself. She kept walking into the jungle, and I followed behind her.

"Then we saw this house. The door opened, and there were many children inside staring at us with scary smiles. I felt that something was wrong, so I dragged Fang Yu away, but she seemed frozen to the spot, and both of us were pulled into the house. At the time, I didn't think too much of it. At the last moment, I pushed Fang Yu out and slammed the door shut."

Chapter 987: A Bright Choice [2 in 1]

The man's body was fading like his spirit was leaving. He was not long for this world. It was only a matter of time before his spirit dispersed into nothingness.

"My nightmare started then. The house was surrounded by fresh flowers and filled with laughter, but it was really a house of nightmares. We were all the shadow's playmates, but everyone's laughter was forced. The shadow planted the curse on everyone, but since I let Fang Yu go, he hated me a lot, and for that, he planted many curses on me. I suffered more pain than anyone else but that also made me stronger than the rest. In a way, the shadow didn't act like a Specter. He was in fact growing like a real person.

"Eventually, he stopped having any use for imaginary friends. What he needed was a guardian. He slaughtered all his previous 'family' because he only needed one survivor.

"After surviving the most pain and curses, I was the last 'survivor', the shadow seemed to like that a lot. At the time, I didn't know why, but later, I realized that it was all part of his plan. The shadow kept coming and going until the day he brought this altar."

The man glanced behind him. "There was a mud statuette inside it, and it had Fang Yu's name on it. When I saw her name, I had a bad feeling. I needed to leave this place and tell Fang Yu to leave Jiujiang, but everything was within the shadow's calculations. He purposely let me get close to Fang Yu so that the curse could be planted on her and her body could be made into his."

The man's words surprised Chen Ge. That was something Chen Ge did not expect. "The shadow wanted to turn Fang Yu into his own body?"

"Yes, there appeared to be something else inside his body. The thing possessed his memory and emotions. He seemed like he wanted to use Fang Yu's body to nurture that thing."

"A ghost fetus?"

"Yes, I think I heard the shadow mention something like that." This time, it was the man's turn to get shocked. "How is it possible that you know that?"

"You don't need to know how I know that. Just keep on telling your story." Chen Ge kept his focus sharp and pointed. He refused to miss even the smallest word. This was the chance that he was given to get as much information as he could on the shadow and the ghost fetus.

“The shadow appeared to be being chased by someone or something, but as he continued to grow, he stopped caring about those things that had been chasing him. Of the entire Jiujiang, there was one place that he did not dare to go—Western Jiujiang.”

The more Chen Ge listened to the man’s story, the more he felt like the shadow in the story was the shadow that he had encountered in Li Wan City. But the shadow in the man’s story still had not separated himself from the ghost fetus, and his power was at its prime.

“The shadow searched all over Jiujiang and found nine altars in total. The one behind me is one of them. The nine altars contain nine mud statuettes that he personally made with his own hands. Each mud statuette relates to one person. Each represents one of his bodies.”

“Wait a minute, I do not think I get what you are saying. What do you mean by each mud statuette represents one of his bodies? Does it mean that I will have killed the shadow if I manage to destroy all the mud statuettes?” Chen Ge now had found three altars. There were two altars inside the futuristic theme park, but one of them did not contain a mud statuette, so that was probably a fake. They probably made a replica of the altar from the real altar that the shadow or someone from the management at the futuristic theme park had moved into the Reincarnation Haunted House.

“I have no idea what will happen after you destroy all of the mud statuettes, but I would advise you not to do that. The shadow is different from any other Specter. You won’t be able to kill him. No one is able to kill him.” The man did not hold back any information. After all, he had nothing to lose. He was going to die from the curse that the shadow had planted on his body. He told Chen Ge everything he knew. “I have been carrying this altar for many years. Eventually, I noticed that the shadow left his presence on the altar, like the altar is an extension of the shadow itself. I suspect that the shadow is using the altars to have the mud statuettes inside them get used to his presence so that it will be more convenient for him to attach the ghost fetus to the candidates.”

His voice was getting softer and softer, his breath getting ever weaker. “This altar used to be very scary, but some time ago, I don’t know what happened to the shadow, but the presence around the altar suddenly weakened, and it became a lot more normal.” This period that the man mentioned should be around the time when Chen Ge cooperated with Doctor Gao to deal with the shadow in Li Wan City.

Looks like the shadow’s death has caused a certain influence on the ghost fetus.

Chen Ge stood up and looked into the altar. The inside walls of the altar had the word ‘Death’ carved all over them, but different from the altars at the futuristic theme park, there were nine blood soaked paper dolls stuffed inside this altar at the old house.

“Yet another nine paper dolls?” There was nothing on the paper dolls. They had no names, and they all looked about the same. “Nine altars, nine mud statuettes, and nine paper dolls. What is the ghost fetus planning to do with all these?”

Chen Ge’s brows creased in thought. He tried to put himself in the shoes of the ghost fetus and see things from his perspective. “If I were the ghost fetus, at the most important moment when I’m about to reincarnate into a living person, I will ensure that there is no interruption from the outside world...”

Chen Ge felt like he had touched upon an important clue, but he did not have the time to figure it out because the man on the ground was about to fade away. Chen Ge turned his focus back to the man and tried his best to help him.

“You do not need to care about me. Just leave me be. The shadow’s curse still lingers on my body. When I exposed this information to you, it was destined that I would fade away and die.” The man seemed to have accepted his fate. “I thought I would surrender to the curse in the end, would be forced to do something that would harm Fang Yu, but this... this is the best ending that I could have hoped for.”

“You have injured both me and my employees, and now you wish to leave just like that? Do you think that is possible? Do you think I will allow that to happen?” Chen Ge had the red high heels look after the man and help him pull out the curse from his body little by little. “There are people who still remember you in this world. You are her anchor that attaches her to this world, so no matter what, you have to go and meet her.”

“As I told you earlier, I cannot!” The man’s attitude suddenly changed. Some fight had returned to the man. “The moment she remembers anything about me, the shadow will trigger the curse that he has been planted on both of us, and she will die!”

The man was very adamant about this. His protectiveness over Fang Yu was probably what had kept him going for so long under the shadow’s torture and the curse that was planted on him.

“I told you earlier, the shadow tricked me. When I saw Fang Yu’s name on the mud statuette, I sneaked out to find Fang Yu. I am a ghost. Being under the sun is like jumping into a pit of fire, but to suppress the curse on my body from harming her, I insisted on meeting her during the day. The orphanage was no longer safe; the entire Jiujiang was not safe. She had to leave.

“I knew about what had happened to her, and I knew how difficult it will be for her to just get up and leave, so I tried my best to teach her how to survive on her own, how to live independently without relying on anyone else. I taught her to sew everything that she needed to do daily on her clothes. I tried to make her cultivate the habit of putting her wallet, ID, and contact number into her pocket before she slept. Everything I did, I did so that she could survive just fine without me. But I did not expect that was exactly what the shadow expected me to do. Those who were selected by him appeared to have to agree to cooperate with him to complete the final step, and the shadow was using me.”

The man had lost the energy to struggle. There was anger, regret, disappointment, self-reprimand, and despair in his eyes.

“When the trace of the curse started to appear on Fang Yu, I did not know what to do. The only thing I could do was make her forget me, and that should be the simplest thing that she could do. I cleaned away my information from the orphanage and wiped away my faces from all the pictures. When I met Fang Yu at the park for the last time, I told her a lie.

“Every time she met me, she would have to ask for my name again. After hearing my answer, she would be very happy because it would have proven that she had not forgotten me. But on that last day, when she asked for my name, I did not tell her my real name; instead, I said her name. I told her that my name was Fang Yu. This was because I hoped that she would always remember herself and would never lose

sight of herself. We stayed at the park until very late that night. That night, I did not walk her home. I watched her walk past the junction, and I stayed where I was at the park.”

The story the man told filled the last piece of the puzzle, and Fang Yu’s whole life appeared fully in Chen Ge’s mind. Fang Yu and the boy had grown up together at the orphanage. One had a very bad memory, and she would always forget the past; the other had a language problem and would keep repeating the same thing. The two formed a bond and became best friends. Everything was fine until they went to the Eastern Jiujiang Dam, when the boy sacrificed himself to save Fang Yu.

Traumatized by that event, Fang Yu’s condition worsened. But it was also during this period that boy fell into the shadow’s plot. He sneaked out from the little house by the dam and wished to take Fang Yu away from Jiujiang. Based on the recollection of the old guard at the Children’s Home, it was during this period that Fang Yu disappeared from the Children’s Home. When he asked Fang Yu, Fang Yu only mentioned the word ‘kite’.

Thinking back, on the day the boy disappeared, it was on the day of the spring tour for the orphanage at the Eastern Jiujiang Dam. Everyone was flying kites. The kite itself was an important clue, but the guard did not think too deep into its significance. He could not make the link.

The boy knew that he was carrying the curse and could not accompany Fang Yu anymore, so he kept trying to help Fang Yu learn how to live independently. That should be the happiest moment they had spent together, but it did not last long. After the boy found out about the shadow’s plan, the only thing he could do was make Fang Yu forget about him.

The boy returned to the small house and must have been tortured endlessly by the shadow. The shadow planted so many curses on him and turned him into a faceless monster.

On the other hand, Fang Yu, whose memory became worse and worse, went to the small city park and waited for the boy to appear every night. Slowly but surely, she forgot who she was waiting for. She forgot the voice and the face of the person she was waiting for until there was only one name that was left in her mind—Fang Yu. Because that was the name that he had told her.

Now, the park was about to get demolished. When she thought that she would never wait for that person to return, Chen Ge found her. Their story was not that beautiful, but it touched Chen Ge.

He stood up and extended his hand toward the man lying on the ground.

“If you are worried about your curse harming Fang Yu, I will help you remove the curse. If you are worried that about revenge from the shadow and the ghost fetus, why not work with us to kill them? That way, no one will be able to harm the two of you anymore.”

The man did not think that Chen Ge could really harm the ghost fetus; he was just trying to console a dying spirit.

“The shadow that you are so afraid of has already been torn apart in Li Wan City. Let me try to remember the exact date.”

Then, Chen Ge gave an accurate date, and it was that day that the shadow’s presence on the altar had weakened. In his story, the man did not tell the exact date to Chen Ge, but Chen Ge had named the exact date himself; only then did he realize that Chen Ge was not lying to him.

His eyes wandered between Chen Ge and the four Red Specters. The man finally reached out to touch Chen Ge's hand. "What do you want me to do? I will listen to you."

Chapter 988: I'm Sorry, But Do You Know Fang Yu? [2 in 1]

"First, you need to follow me to meet Fang Yu. I have promised her that I will bring you to meet her." Chen Ge opened the comic. "I believe that you want to meet her as well too, right?"

The man nodded. "Yes, but I am afraid."

"You want to meet her, and she wants to meet you; that is enough. We will work together to overcome any difficulty on the way." Chen Ge communicated with Yan Danian and pulled the man into the comic. Taking out the black phone, Chen Ge had not received a new message. Even though the man agreed temporarily to listen to Chen Ge, he had not become an employee at the Haunted House. That was probably because he did not completely believe Chen Ge.

"Let's go. This trip to the dam has reminded me that one can't be too careful. This period is a very sensitive period; the ghost fetus is about to be born, so I have to stay on my toes."

Chen Ge felt like there was a need for him to keep Doctor Skull Cracker's Hammer on him at all times. He did not have any actual physical power that could threaten a ghost, but if he had the hammer, at least he had a chance to strike back. As the number of Trial Missions he had completed increased, Doctor Skull Cracker's Hammer changed. Thin threads of blood vessels appeared on the grip, and the blood grooves in the hammerhead had collected some deep dark substance.

"It will be inconvenient to bring the hammer around everywhere with me, but now is not the time to be concerned about that."

Putting away the red high heels and the boy with the stench, Chen Ge and Xu Yin once again returned to the altar. This time, without any other interruptions, they planned to give the altar a close study. The altar was definitely 'older' than Chen Ge. The shadow had probably found it from some blasted place, and it was not made by the shadow himself.

"Perhaps there was originally some Demon God that occupied the altar, but currently, the shadow has taken over their homes."

Chen Ge was reminded of the painting that he had seen at the futuristic theme park, the completed evil demon that was constructed from the body parts of twenty-four other demons.

"If these nine paper dolls correspond to the nine missing evil demon pictures, can I establish that the ghost fetus is trying to use these nine paper dolls to construct his own body? The picture of the demon has appeared at many places before. Both Doctor Gao and Chang Wenyu knew about it. And now even the ghost fetus has dabbled with the use of this demon. It appears like this demon is a symbol of something important."

Without any evidence and with too few clues, Chen Ge could only make some speculations. He wanted to take the altar home with him, but he was stopped by both Xu Yin and the headless woman. Getting such a reaction from the Red Specters surprised Chen Ge. The altar that was filled with the death characters appeared to be a very cursed object. Without touching the altar, Chen Ge placed the mud

statuette with Fang Yu's name on his own shadow. The black blood on the mud statuette slowly disappeared as if it was being absorbed by Chen Ge's shadow.

"There must be more than these few altars in Jiujiang. I will try my best to find more mud statuettes. Hopefully, that means Zhang Ya will be able to wake up earlier."

Chen Ge was somewhat stressed inside even though he did not show it on the surface. Normally, after a Red Specter consumed another Red Specter, they would hibernate for a long time, but due to many various reasons, even after Zhang Ya had a feast, she would only need a short time to rest before she returned to normal. Other than that, there were times that she had awakened from her hibernation due to certain incidents like when they were at the School of the Afterlife.

Even though the shadow had been separated from the ghost fetus, the shadow himself was a Top Red Specter. After he was split and ingested by Zhang Ya and Doctor Gao, Zhang Ya had awakened after a few days of hibernation, this caused serious damage to the Red Specter. Taking a tour around the house, after making sure Chen Ge did not miss any clues, he left the place. He was unable to get a taxi near the damn. To get back to the city as early as he could, Chen Ge raced down the highway.

Finally, he ran into a van driver who was kind enough to drive him to the city. Chen Ge returned to the residential area where Fang Yu stayed at around 11:45 pm. The sky was still drizzling, and through the hazy yellowish glow from the streetlights, the scenery took on a sepia tone. Chen Ge had no idea which floor Fang Yu stayed at. He first knocked on the door of the elder, and then with the elder leading the way, he went to the fourth floor. The fat aunty had not gone to sleep; she had been waiting for Chen Ge to come back with news.

The doors were pushed open. The aunty's expression became very excited when she saw that it was Chen Ge. "Did you find the person?"

Chen Ge first returned the umbrella to the aunty and then looked into the room. "Is Fang Yu here?"

"She lives in the innermost room. I'll get her."

"There is no need." Chen Ge took out the comic from his backpack. He walked to the bedroom door and knocked lightly on the door. "I have found Fang Yu."

The door was pulled open in that instant. Fang Yu, who was dressed in pajamas, stood at the door. Her exposed skin was tattooed with the name Fang Yu. The first impression it gave was horror, but as he looked at it longer, he felt something like pain and sadness.

"Where is he?"

Chen Ge's gaze leaped over Fang Yu and looked into the room. Inside the room that was not that big, all the items were neatly organized. There were paper notes stuck to wall, and the notes contained reminders that could not have been more normal for a person. 'Put on your clothes after waking up', 'brush your teeth', 'wash your face', 'place your identification card inside your wallet', 'place your wallet inside your left pocket'...

Fang Yu tried her best to live her life, repeating every day that was a new day for her. Taking one step forward into the room, Chen Ge closed the door and locked it. He pulled the curtains shut. Sniffing the scent of flower in the room, he reached out to switch off the light. With Yin Yang Vision, Chen Ge could

see Fang Yu clearly in the dark. Suddenly being placed in the darkness, Fang Yu was quite afraid. Flipping the comic pages, a man's figure appeared in the bedroom.

The streetlight filtered through the curtain, and it shone a weak light into the room. The gentle light fell on the spot behind Chen Ge, and the silhouette of a man could just about be picked out. Ten years ago, when they parted at the junction, the man had retained the look from that day, and Fang Yu had been repeating the memory of that day. The man that appeared inside the room at that moment overlapped with the person from Fang Yu's memory.

When they last met, Fang Yu had stood at the junction. She had turned back to look like usual, but she had failed to find the man who was supposed to stand there. She had stood alone at the junction before she was swallowed by the bustling city crowd. A decade had passed, but time did not seem to leave any trace on these two individuals. The room was very quiet. No one spoke, and it passed like that for several minutes.

The man and Fang Yu suddenly looked at one another, and they both uttered the same name.

"Fang Yu."

"Fang Yu."

Chen Ge very astutely walked to the corner and took out the pair of red high heels. Once the curse was triggered, he would have the red high heels suppress the man immediately. The room became quiet again. The two of them made one hell of a couple. One had retained his look from ten years ago but had experienced a torture that lasted for a decade; even though the other was no longer the young woman from ten years ago, her memory was stuck on that day from ten years ago. One had lived the past ten years suffering every single day in different kind of torment, but his appearance had remained the same; the other had whiled away ten years, with the decade leaving a clear toll on her physical body, but in her mind, only one single day had passed.

"I... was unable to walk you home that day because I had something else to do." The man lowered his head like he did not want others to see that he was unable to control his emotions. "You don't blame me, right?"

Fang Yu shook her head and she walked toward the man. When she took the first step forward, the man moved one step back. Fang Yu moved faster until she finally stood before the man. The distance of three meters took her ten years to complete. She raised both of her arms to give the man a tight hug like she wanted to grab him tight so that he would not escape from her again. When the hand touched the man's body, bitterness and chill came from the palms. The woman ultimately only managed to pull the hug around herself.

Small dark threads crawled out from the man's body, and his face was locked in an ugly grimace. The many curses that the ghost fetus had planted in him were triggered, and he was trying his best to control himself. The black threads that were yelling with pain rushed at Fang Yu. Just as they were about to swallow Fang Yu, drops of blood dripped from the ceiling, and they sealed the curses in their path.

"I'm so sorry."

The curse implanted at the deepest part of his soul was triggered. The man's body became more and more vague. He used his last shred of energy to whisper a final apology to Fang Yu. Then, his body shattered, and he was sucked back into the comic.

Fang Yu stood blankly in the darkness. Her energy seemed to have left her, and she slowly dropped to the ground. The weak light shone on her face. The clock struck midnight, and Chen Ge walked to switch on the light in the room.

"Are you already?"

Hearing his voice, Fang Yu turned around. Her pair of red eyes looked at Chen Ge. Her lips moved, and the tears that she could not control started to slid down her face.

"I'm sorry, but do you know Fang Yu?"

Fang Yu appeared to have lost her memory again. Chen Ge helped move her to the bed and poured her a glass of water. "I am good friends with Fang Yu. He will be busy for a little while, but when he is not so busy anymore, he will come visit you."

Fang Yu, who was lying quietly in bed, looked at Chen Ge. For some reason, she had an implicit trust in this man, and she felt like he was not lying to her. For reasons that she could not explain, Fang Yu knew that this man beside her bed would not lie to her and would make things better soon.

"Get a good rest and try not to worry over unimportant things too much. What you need to do now is focus on taking good care of your body. I am sure Fang Yu will return soon."

The body had just received a huge trauma. After one dropped down from such a high point in terms of emotion and agitation, it was easy to feel tired, so Fang Yu drifted off to sleep quite quickly. Chen Ge switched off the light and slunk out from the bedroom. The fat aunty was guarding outside the room.

"Is Xiao Yu feeling better? It sounded like she was very excited earlier. Have you really found that person?"

"Yes, I have found him."

"Can you tell me where he is?" The aunty looked like she was about to dole out justice on Fang Yu's behalf. "A man just went and abandoned Xiao Yu because she lost her memory. We will go and get him now. I have to teach him a lesson, or else I will not rest easy tonight!"

"The man has his own reason for staying away. The pain that he has suffered is no less than Fang Yu's suffering," Chen Ge said with a sad smile. "Aunty, thank you so much for having taken care of Fang Yu for so long. I will come and visit her more often during this coming period. One day, I might even be able to cure Fang Yu's illness."

"You mean her weak memory?"

"Yes." Chen Ge placed the comic inside the backpack. "I won't disturb you anymore. See you later."

"Hey! You need to explain it clearer! And it is still raining! Take the umbrella with you!"

...

Carrying his backpack, he jogged out from the building. The rain fell on his body as Chen Ge rushed through the streets. The yellowish streetlights stretched his shadow as the man raced through the city that was already asleep. Before he left, he turned back to look at the apartment behind him. "There are bad guys in the world, but there are quite a number of good guys as well. A city in the night hides many cruel and gory madmen, but there is also plenty of quaint and normal beauty."

Taking a cab back to New Century Park, Chen Ge carried his backpack and went straight underground.

Chapter 989: Life and Death Hide and Seek

"Is Doctor Wei around?" Chen Ge had the phone spirit Tong Tong summon the doctors from the underground morgue. "I need you guys to examine this person. He is not doing so well."

Flipping through the comic, Chen Ge released the man and the red high heels.

"Xiao Chen, the knowledge that we have accumulated is to help cure the living's illnesses. Even though in the spirit of research, we have started to inquire into ways of curing ghosts, the process of that is going very slowly." Doctor Wei looked at the man that was about to dissipate. "The core that maintains the existence of a spirit is their fixation. Once that disappears, the ghost will cease to exist. This gentleman possesses a very strong fixation to this world, but there is something else that has corrupted that fixation, causing him to waver in his conviction. This is a very rare situation indeed."

"What's corrupting his fixation is the curse that was left behind by the ghost fetus." Chen Ge knelt down next to the man. "Have some faith in yourself, okay? I will help you remove the curse so that you will be able to guard Fang Yu again, and you will never be separated from her anymore."

The man's body was wavering. He chuckled faithlessly. "I am really appreciative of your help, letting me see Fang Yu one last time, but you saw what happened earlier. As long as I am alive, I will harm Fang Yu. Furthermore, even if you manage to remove the curse, the ghost fetus will still come get me. Is it really worth it for you to anger the ghost fetus just for me?"

"I am not going to lie to you. Between myself and the ghost fetus, one of us will eventually have to die. Now, do you understand what I'm saying? Without you, he will want to kill me, and helping you is essentially me helping myself." Chen Ge was not lying. He was exuding sincerity with his every word. "Cooperate well with this Red Specter to deal with your curse. After the curse has been removed, we will work together to deal with the ghost fetus."

"Actually, you can just toss me away now. I have the ghost fetus' curse on me. He will come after me the moment he is able to do..."

"Please don't worry about things that are beyond you. Focus on removing the curse from your body. When we face off against the ghost fetus, I am afraid no one will even have any time to pay attention to you."

After saying that, Chen Ge stood up and prepared to leave.

"Wait a minute!" The man collapsed on the ground. He hesitated for a long time before he decided to tell Chen Ge something. "We do not have much time left. The ghost fetus has spent ten years looking for the perfect candidate. He is going to come soon."

“The ghost fetus has found the perfect candidate?” Chen Ge stopped moving. “What do you mean?”

“The shadow’s fixation is to become a living person. He wants to have a family, to possess happiness, to enjoy everything a normal person could, but at the same time, he hates everything that is good in the world. To complete his own desire, he has already parted from the ghost fetus and kept burying the fetus’ seed into many children. But most of the children were unable to suffer the pain that was brought upon them by the ghost fetus. Only those who were born in a family of nightmares, children who had already gotten used to the nightmare, had a trace of opportunity to assimilate the ghost fetus.”

“Shadow, children, seeds?” Chen Ge was reminded of the events that he had encountered in Eastern Jiujiang before he started the mission in Li Wan City. The memories were now being joined together to form a more logical timeline.

“The ghost fetus spent ten years in his search before finding nine children who could sustain his pain. The nine children correspond to the nine mud statuettes inside the nine altars.” The man’s voice was very weak, as if revealing these things would cause him great damage. The curse inside his heart was eating him up. “This project took ten years to complete. The nine children are from different age groups, they have different personalities and appearances, and the ghost fetus is currently growing in one of them!”

When the man said that last sentence, black threads crawled out from his eyes and mouth. If not for the red high heels, who was an expert at dealing with curses, the man would have crumbled and disappeared already. Not long after the man said that, the black phone in Chen Ge’s pocket started to vibrate. Taking out the phone and clicking on the app, Chen Ge clicked open the new message.

“Congratulations, Red Specter’s Favored, for obtained a new special Specter, Zhang Yi!

“Zhang Yi (Cursed): A strong fixation gifted him with an extremely rare power. He can deprive living humans and ghosts of their memories. He is brimming with potential.”

The black phone rarely praised the ghosts that Chen Ge had befriended, but for Zhang Yi, the black phone had stated quite clearly that he had a lot of potential.

“Looks like I need to spend more time in the future to try to upgrade Zhang Yi and Yan Danian into Red Specters. Both of them have immensely scary powers, but one is being tortured alive by curses, and the other has such low confidence in himself that the only thing he wants to do in life is draw.”

Chen Ge was about to put the phone away when he saw that there was an unread message on the black phone.

“The new employee tab for Zhang Yi has already been unlocked. Why is there another unread message?”

Chen Ge clicked on the message. He had just read the first few lines of it, and his expression dropped.

“When the curse inside the altar was broken, the ghost fetus became aware of your arrival! Four-star Trial Mission ‘Ghost Fetus’ has been forcibly triggered!

“With the whole city as the stage, this is a life or death version of hide and seek!

“The nine altars represent nine children, and the ghost fetus is hiding inside one of them! You need to find him within nine nights, or you will definitely die once he turns into a ghost!”

“Mission hint: Lucky Red Specters’ Favored, you are just one step away from finding out the whole truth!”

Reading the messages on the black phone, Chen Ge was frozen in place for a very long time.

Chapter 990: Jiang Ming

It took Chen Ge ten minutes just to digest the new information on the black phone. He had been silent, holding the phone. He knew that the ghost fetus was dangerous, and he knew that their conflict was inevitable, but he did not expect it to be so soon.

“Only nine days. If I can’t find him in nine days, I will die.”

The black phone never lied; all the information it had given had proven to be true.

“The four-star Trial Mission has been forcibly triggered, but this mission is different from the School of the Afterlife or any of the Trial Mission that I’ve done before. It doesn’t have a fixed location and doesn’t provide accurate information. It only gave me a general range—the entire city is the stage.”

Chen Ge frowned as he read the message on the black phone repeatedly. It was a four-star Trial Mission, but the introduction was so small, and the mission hint was only one sentence.

“The time limit is nine nights, and the phone specifically highlighted the nights. Does this mean that the children that are possessed by the ghost fetus will be weakened only at night?”

Chen Ge had played hide and seek many times in his life, but this would be the first time that he had placed his life on the line.

“At the moment, I only know the number of altars and children. Finding the ghost fetus that might be anywhere within Jiujiang with this is too difficult.” Chen Ge put away the black phone and took out his own phone. He opened the contact list. “I have limited resources, and now is not the time to take this on alone. I need to mobilize all the forces that I can.”

Chen Ge first turned to Lee Zheng and Captain Yan. After cooperating multiple times, Jiujiang’s law enforcement could be said to be Chen Ge’s reliable back up support.

“The police are better than me at finding people. Now, I might need to clarify the uniqueness of these children and the possible danger that one might encounter during the search.”

The game had already started. After the black phone triggered the mission, an hourglass appeared on the mission page. After it turned nine times, the ghost fetus would go to find Chen Ge.

“The black phone said that I will definitely die, which means the ghost fetus is probably also a Demon God. He has stolen nine altars and occupied them without the owners’ permission. Perhaps the altars’ owners have all been killed. The owners of the altar should be quite scary, but they were still no match for the ghost fetus. That proved that even among Demon Gods, the ghost fetus is a powerful one.”

Without any clues, Chen Ge could only make his own prediction.

“These nine days might be the only time I have left in my life.”

Chen Ge did not pull Zhang Yi back into the comic but had Doctor Wei and the red high heels cure him. The curing was just the red high heels pulling the black threads that represent curses out from Zhang Yi’s body. It was unknown how many curses the ghost fetus had planted on Zhang Yi’s body. To help him, this was the only way.

“I’ll leave him to you.” Carrying the backpack, Chen Ge returned to the ground. When he passed the Prop Room, he grabbed the hammer and shoved it into his backpack. “For the next nine days, I’ll have to carry this with me.”

To not influence the work at the Haunted House, Chen Ge custom-made a wooden ‘Skull-Cracker’s Hammer’ for Xiao Gu, the actor of Doctor Skull-Cracker. After he was done, it was already 3 am. He returned to the staff breakroom, but he could not sleep no matter what.

“It is hard to imagine that the four-star mission has already started, but I will spend the first night sleeping at home.”

Chen Ge got out some paper to list down all the information that he knew.

“Now I have found three altars. One of them corresponds to Fang Yu. Based on Fang Yu’s current condition, the ghost fetus is most likely not on her, so I can eliminate her. The second altar corresponds to me. There is a decapitated mud statuette with my name inside the altar, and it is covered in the word death. The ghost fetus hates me so much that anger and envy have caused him to lose his sanity.

“The futuristic theme park has two altars. If one is for me, who is the other one for?”

Initially, Chen Ge thought that the futuristic theme park only had one real altar and one fake, but he could not guarantee that to be true.

“The Haunted House at the futuristic theme park was built under the insistence of a Director Jiang. His adopted son, Jiang Ming, is about the same age as me. These are all suspicious points. The pair of father and son definitely know something. Perhaps they have done something to the altar without a mud statuette.”

With that in mind, Chen Ge activated the recorder to summon Xu Yin and then flipped through the comic and summoned all the Specters and spirits that he had found at the cursed Japanese house. Eerie wind gathered in the breakroom. The white cat dragged Xiaoxiao by her dress into the bedsheet. The cat and Xiaoxiao poked their eyes out from the darkness to observe the situation.

The little girl from the windchime and the grandson were the first to appear. They were holding hands like they were afraid of Chen Ge. Then the chair before the table slowly turned, and a sturdy looking old man appeared. He was facing away from Chen Ge, refusing to show Chen Ge his face like in the black and white picture.

The scent of blood thickened. Following a sad and resentful song, the woman in the stage costume appeared.

“Lian...” The man turned his head slightly. The woman’s body was flickering. She looked at the old man and started to move toward him.

“Do you think this is some dating game?” Chen Ge held the hammer and glared viciously at everyone in the room. “I don’t care about what you do in the future, but now I need you to answer a few questions honestly.”

His Yin Yang Vision swept the old man and the woman. He did not let the two children off the hook either. “The scenario that you stayed in had an altar. Tell me everything you know about it.”

With Chen Ge’s interrogation, he gained some important information from the old man. The woman in the costume had met the ghost fetus before. To protect the grandson and the girl, the woman had promised to help the ghost fetus protect the altar. In a way, she was like Zhang Yi; they were both protecting the altar. But the problem was, the woman promised the ghost fetus that she would only protect the altar with Chen Ge’s statuette in it, and she did not need to care about the other altar.

The old man said that the altar with Chen Ge’s statuette was the real altar originally in the cursed house. The altar that Chen Ge later saw inside the house was placed there by a young man named Jiang Ming. The key problem was that the replacement altar also had a mud statuette inside it initially. It had Jiang Ming’s name carved on it, but it disappeared without a trace later. It had probably been taken away by Jiang Ming.

“I am the first, Fang Yu is the second, and from the current clues, it looks like Jiang Ming is the third.”

If he left at that moment, he would arrive in Eastern Jiujiang at dawn. So, Chen Ge did not make his move immediately but chose to rest.

“Tomorrow, I’ll have to visit the futuristic theme park again, but I won’t get past the security with the hammer. That’s a problem.”