

Horrors 991

Chapter 991: Hidden Clue [2 in 1]

Chen Ge believed that with how the people at the futuristic theme park viewed him, even if he went there, he would not be able to get any information from them. The workers there evaded him the moment they saw him. In their eyes, Chen Ge was probably as scary as an actual ghost. Chen Ge had a feeling that they had misunderstood him a little bit, but with the time crunch, he did not have time to explain the situation to them.

“Since I can’t go through the theme park’s security with the hammer, I should head to the hospital.” Chen Ge turned his attention to his previous victims. “When I went in for the visitation, the futuristic theme park arranged for their people to follow me on the visitation. They experienced the terror for themselves, so they should have some connection with me.”

People were the most fragile when they were sick. Chen Ge planned to have a chat with the workers who had fainted inside the Haunted House at the hospital tomorrow, but of course, the premise had to be that they had already woken up.

“Worrying will not change the situation. I’d better get a good rest while I can.”

He set an alarm and then drifted off to sleep. At 8 am the next morning, after brushing his teeth and washing his face, he summoned Ol’ Bai and Doctor Wei. “I will leave the management of the Haunted House to you. I have something else to do in the morning.”

“Xiao Chen, what kind of problem are you facing?” Doctor Wei only needed one glance to realize how different Chen Ge was from normal. “Yesterday, I heard from Zhang Yi that the ghost fetus is going to come soon. Is that what you’re worried about?”

“I am slightly worried about that, but the problem is not as serious as he made it out to be.” Chen Ge flashed a bright smile. “Just take good care of the Haunted House and leave the rest of me.”

“Actually, you can rely on us when you need it. After all, this place is our home too.”

“Okay, don’t worry.” Chen Ge had Doctor Wei and Ol’ Bai return to their respective scenarios. He opened the gates of the Haunted House and walked out. Since it was the holiday season, the employees had arrived earlier than necessary.

“Go in and do your make-up. For the next few days, I might not be around the Haunted House during the day, so I will leave everything in your capable hands.”

“Boss, doesn’t you normally go out at night? Why are you suddenly changing it to the day?” Gu Feiyu was a man without much cunning, and he asked that question directly.

“I have something to deal with. It should be able to be completed within nine days. After that, I will give everyone a chance to have a good break.” Chen Ge entered the dressing room and applied the make-up on the few employees seriously. “Thank you so much for all of your dedication.”

The competition between the New Century Park and the futuristic theme park had reached its climax. The workers had prepared a long time for this, so Chen Ge would not go and trouble them. He went to greet Uncle Xu. Before the theme park opened for business, Chen Ge carried the heavy backpack and

left the theme park. He stopped a passing cab. Once he got into the car, the smile on Chen Ge's face slowly disappeared.

"Where are we going?"

"The major crimes unit of the city police station."

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When Chen Ge arrived at the station, he glanced at the guard and then at the backpack he was carrying. After a moment's thought, he decided not to barge in just like that but pulled out his phone to give Lee Zheng a call.

"Brother Zheng, it's me."

"Chen Ge? How can I help you?"

"I am outside the station now. Can you fetch me? There are certain things that I need to confirm."

"You are the first person who dared speak in such tone to an inspector from the major crimes unit. Wait a minute, I'll get you in a bit."

Ten minutes after hanging up the phone, Lee Zheng appeared at the door.

"So, tell me, what do you want to confirm?"

"Can we go in and talk?"

"We do not allow normal citizen into this place." Lee Zheng glanced at Chen Ge and then slightly shook his head. "Never mind, come with me."

The two entered the station, and Lee Zheng led Chen Ge into an empty conference room.

"Everyone is working. It's not too good for people to see you inside the building even though everyone knows you." Glancing at Chen Ge's backpack, Lee Zheng had a guess what was inside it. "Relax, do you want something to drink?"

"Brother Zheng, I have two things to ask you." Chen Ge got to the chase immediately.

"Go ahead."

"Has Chang Gu woken up?" Chen Ge cared a lot about Chang Gu. He was a director, and he specialized in using ghosts as actors in his movies. Other than that, he was the person who knew Chang Wenyu the best in this world. At the School of the Afterlife, Chang Wenyu had sacrificed herself to destroy the door, but she had ended up being 'killed' by the combined effort of several Top Red Specters. Theoretically speaking, her soul should have been torn apart already, but the black phone still had Chang Wenyu's page even after her 'death'. The black phone said that Chang Wenyu had not officially died. Chang Gu was Chang Wenyu's only family, so if Chang Wenyu had to place her trust on a person in this world, that person would definitely be Chang Gu.

Chen Ge wished to get in touch with Chang Gu to find out what Chang Wenyu had held back, how she had managed to stay alive. It was never wrong to be too careful. To be able to reach the top among the

Red Specters, she should not be underestimated. That was what Chen Ge had gained from his past experience.

“The physical wounds on his body have been healed, but he has not woken up. The doctor has done an MRI scan on his brain, and they did not find any problems.” Lee Zheng felt that Chen Ge was being exceptionally severe that day. “What’s the second thing?”

Chen Ge took in a light breath and then turned to Lee Zheng. “Inspector Lee, do you still remember Li Wan City?”

When Li Wan City was mentioned, Inspector Lee’s expression slowly changed. He moved his chair to sit before Chen Ge. “I only remember parts of it, and I have forgotten a lot.”

“That day, you were chasing after Jia Ming and entered Li Wan City. Then you ran into me inside the small town. In the end, it was me who carried you out, but in that chaos, Jia Ming managed to escape.”

Chen Ge had no idea how much Lee Zheng remembered about that night. That was an unspoken truce between him and Lee Zheng. After leaving Li Wan City, neither of them had asked the other about what happened on that night. Lee Zheng’s eyes moved away from Chen Ge. He looked at the vapor that rose from the hot water inside water glass. No matter what had happened that night, there was a truth that could not be changed. It was Chen Ge who carried the fainted inspector out from Li Wan City. The young man before him had saved his life.

“Of course, I remember all that. Actually, we have been continuing our search for Jia Ming. All the signs point to the fact that he has not left Jiujiang.” Lee Zheng stood up. “Jia Ming’s case is being personally handled by Captain Yan. I will take you to meet him.”

The two left the conference room, walked down the corridor, and reached an office on the third floor. When they knocked on the door, Captain Yan was talking to someone on the phone. The man whom Chen Ge associated with patience and kindness had a bright red face from anger. At certain agitating points, he even slammed his fists repeatedly on the table.

Two to three minutes after the phone call ended, Captain Yan slowly returned to his jovial self. When he saw Chen Ge, a smile naturally appeared on his face. “Lee Zheng, why did you bring Xiao Chen over today? Is he here to ask for more reward money? We are not the finance department. You’re at the wrong place. Haha.”

“Captain Yan, Chen Ge is here to ask about the case with Jia Ming.” As if worried that Captain Yan might refuse to answer, Lee Zheng added kindly on Chen Ge’s behalf, “After all, he was present during the event. He is one of the victims and also one of our witnesses. I do not think we should hide the details of the case from him.”

“Currently, the case has gotten so big that it involves too many things.” Captain Yan had Lee Zheng close the door of the office before he continued. “Thirty-six hours after Jia Ming escaped from Li Wan City, we found Jia Ming outside a residential house very far away from Li Wan City. But the problem was that he was not alone.”

“Jia Ming has reappeared?” Chen Ge remembered that Jia Ming should still be trapped inside the door. This time, he was here to persuade the police to help him with something else, but he did not expect to

get a surprise discovery like this. “Captain Yan, where is this residential building that Jia Ming reappeared at? I wish to go take a look.”

“It was an old building. A fire once happened there, and it was right next to Pei Zhi Academy.”

“It has been burned before?” One would need to go through a door to leave the red world. Chen Ge knew that there was a door in Eastern Jiujiang inside a building that had been razed by a big fire before. Ghost Fire! The scenario whose door pusher had been consumed by Doctor Gao!

Captain Yan pulled out a document from the lowest layer of his drawer. “There were four people who appeared alongside Jia Ming. There was a young man about twenty, a middle-aged man about forty, a woman who seemed like she suffered from a mental illness, and a child about four to five years old.”

Flipping through the document, Captain Yan had already confirmed all their identities. “The young man’s name is Bei Ye. He killed his own father and younger brother, Bei Wen. His mother shouldered the blame on his behalf and is currently locked up in prison.

“The middle-aged man around forty is a gambler. His name is Zhen Chun. He has no fixed occupation. There have been many complaints about his attitude, and he has been booked several times for domestic violence, shoplifting, and drunk driving. We have a thick case on him.

“The woman’s name is Wang Qing. She is not a local. Her family does not have any history of mental illnesses, so her mental problem should not be hereditary but caused by some kind of trauma.

“Last is the boy. Strangely enough, we cannot get any information on him. We have visited all of Zhen Chun’s previous neighbors. They could only tell us that the family had a daughter, but the daughter went missing a few years ago. They were shocked when we told them that Zhen Chun actually had a boy as well.”

Chen Ge had an impression of all the people that Captain Yan had mentioned. Needless to say, he remembered Jia Ming. There was another evil spirit living in him, and he had once served the ghost fetus. The family of three were once the passengers on the Hearse, and they entered Li Wan City with Chen Ge. Last but not least, Bei Yu was a local of Li Wan City. He was a murderer that once hid himself in the hotel with the cannibalistic owner.

How did the mix of them end up together?

Jia Ming was exceptionally cunning, and Bei Ye was a mentally unstable killer. How could the two of them even tolerate hanging out the family of three? In Chen Ge’s mind, of the family of three, the father was a worthless person who bullied the weak but was fearful of the strong; the mother never spoke to anyone and would not give any response to any outer stimulus; the boy was very cute, but that was everything to him. In the eyes of a murderer and a madman, being cute would not save him. If anything, it would only invoke the cruelty and madness hidden inside their hearts.

Jia Ming and Bei Ye did not kill the family of three?

To understand the logic of a murderer, one had to look from the perspective of the murderer and see the problem from their angle.

Li Wan City was not that far away from the scenario of the Ghost Fire. It was not that close nor that far. So, how did this group of injured, old, and defenseless people pass through the world behind the door safely?

Chen Ge's brain started to spin, and various speculations appeared in his mind.

Perhaps one of them knew a safe path. It could be Bei Ye or Jia Ming. They slithered away during the commotion, and their aim was to find the other door.

The family of three were normal citizens, but Jia Ming and Bei Ye wasted so much energy to protect them, going so far as to bring them out of the door. They have to be after something. The middle-aged man is a gambler. To obtain the thing that he wants, he could even do something like sacrificing his own daughter. Bringing him around is just a burden.

As for the circumstances around the mother, she seemed to have been through a huge trauma. She was just a walking human shell. Since both of the adults are so normal, it is quite clear that the reason Bei Ye and Jia Ming protected the family of three to escape from the world behind the door was the child!

Chapter 992: I Know What He Looked Like as a Baby

There has to be something special about the child. But what could it be that would cause Jia Ming and Bei Ye to willingly risk their lives to help him?

Chen Ge slowly narrowed his eyes, and only one possibility came to mind.

The child is one of the candidates for the ghost fetus. The ghost fetus is possibly in possession of that child.

Based on all the known information, Chen Ge came to a conclusion that was very close to the truth.

"Chen Ge, what are you thinking about?" Captain Yan prompted Chen Ge seeing how silent he was.

"It was nothing. I was just thinking how weird it was that the family of three would end up together with two wanted individuals." Chen Ge looked at Captain Yan. "And the strange thing is that it does not feel like the family of three are being taken hostage, but they are being protected by the two."

"We have considered this. Our top priority is to capture Jia Ming and Bei Ye." Captain Yan took out another document. "They have been moving around different hiding places over this period of time, but strangely enough, they did not leave Jiujiang, like there was something very important to them in this city. Even with the risk of being captured, they refused to leave this city."

The more Captain Yan said, the more unusual Chen Ge felt the child was. The boy had to have some kind of connection with the ghost fetus.

"Captain Yan, we mustn't give them any more time to escape from the judgement of the law anymore. I have a very bad feeling about this. We have to bring them in as soon as possible." Chen Ge was really running out of time. He currently had so little information that it was practically impossible to find the ghost fetus within eight nights.

"We have already started to triangulate their location, and the range is slowly being drawn closer and closer. We will have them in custody within the next three days." Captain Yan was personally handling

Jia Ming's case. This proved how serious he treated the case. After all, Jia Ming was wanted for very serious crimes. He had murdered his wife, attacked the police, and taunted the law enforcement more than several times.

"Within three day?" Chen Ge nodded lightly. "Captain Yan, can you bring me along on that operation?"

There was an evil spirit hiding in Jia Ming, and the boy could be related to the ghost fetus; Chen Ge was worried about possible injuries on the police's side.

"You'd better stay quietly at your theme park. I heard that your theme park has recently gotten in serious competition with the futuristic theme park, so you should focus on that and stop running around aimlessly."

"Fine." Chen Ge gave him promise verbally but used his Yin Yang Vision to scan the documents that had been left open on the table. He realized with some shock that of the three locations that the police had been watching closely, he was very familiar with two of them. One was Li Wan City, and the other was Jiang Yuan Apartments.

"If there is nothing else, you can go for now." Captain Yan seemed to notice that Chen Ge was stealing looks at the documents on his table, but he did not stop him. Perhaps he was using this method to help Chen Ge. It did not technically violate the law, and it did not go against his own principles.

"Actually, there is one other thing." Chen Ge did not hide the information from Captain Yan. "I wish to look for a person at Jiujiang."

"What kind of person?"

"He should be younger than me..."

"Is that the only clue you have? There are so many people who are younger than you—how do you expect we help you with that?"

Chen Ge felt helpless, hearing Captain Yan's reply. The information that he had was limited, and part of what he knew could not even be shared with the police.

"I know what the person looked like when he was a baby. With a photo comparison, you should be able to find that person!" Chen Ge revealed yet another piece of information. Back on the rooftop of the building at the edge of Li Wan City, the shadow had been surrounded by Zhang Ya and Doctor Gao. In the end, he had needed to borrow strength from the ghost fetus, and during the final phase of the battle, there had been the skull of a baby that appeared on the chest of the shadow. The baby's face had been twisted in a horrible grimace, consumed by curses and anger. The baby was supposed to represent the birth of new life, but its eyes were filled with venom and the wish for destruction.

Chen Ge had a deep impression of that baby's face. At the time, he had considered that he might run into the situation like this, so he had memorized the baby's face as best as he could. This was the most direct clue that he possessed regarding the ghost fetus; he knew how the ghost fetus looked like when he was still an infant.

"Chen Ge, these two clues that you have are too general. Just looking through the database will exhaust a lot of manpower and time, and it might not even give us any real results." Captain Yan tapped the

surface of the table lightly. "I can help you, but you have to give me a reasonable reason that will be able to persuade me to do so."

"Someone wants to kill me, and the killer left behind three clues. He is younger or of the same age as me, I know what he looked like when he was very young, and he leaves behind altars that contain mud statuettes inside them."

Since he was there to seek help from the law enforcement, Chen Ge would not hide too much information from them. He had seen many horror movies in the past, and he did not approve of the actions of the many main characters where they only thought about finding help from the police when the danger was right before the eyes. The ending would be that the phone could not be connected because the telephone line had been severed or something along those lines.

But Chen Ge was different. The mission that he had only lasted for nine nights. On the first day, he went to the police for help. He would leave no chance for any accidents to occur.

Chapter 993: Trap or Opportunity

Chen Ge told Captain Yan and Lee Zheng all the information that he could share with them. Once the two heard that someone planned to take Chen Ge's life, their expressions changed immediately. They knew that Chen Ge would not joke about something like that. Since he said that someone was out to get him, it could only be true. Furthermore, Chen Ge had to be under a lot of pressure from the threat, or else with Chen Ge's personality, he would not have gone to the police for help without any concrete evidence.

They talked for another hour, and Chen Ge told the police everything that he could. Then Captain Yan called over the station's profile expert. Based on Chen Ge's description, they drew a picture of the ghost fetus when he was a baby. After leaving everything with the police, Chen Ge left in a hurry to the next location.

"The child with Jia Ming probably corresponds to one of the altars. He knows the shadow and the ghost fetus better than Zhang Yi. After he is captured, the fog around the ghost fetus will disperse."

After taking the cab to the hospital, Chen Ge went to the hall for fainted patients. There were many patients who had left after they woke up, but their empty beds would quickly be taken by new patients. As the popularity of Chen Ge's haunted house continued to grow, there would occasionally be times when there were not enough beds, and they would have to add new beds temporarily. Carrying the heavy backpack, with the nurse leading the way, Chen Ge was brought to one of the sickrooms.

The employees from the futuristic theme park enjoyed good benefits. The upper management at them park had arranged for their six workers to share a private room at the hospital. After knocking, Chen Ge entered the room. The police officer, Xiao Ling, and the woman with the long hair were playing cards. When the three saw Chen Ge, they shivered on instinct and the memory that they had forgotten with difficulty had started to surface.

However, they were different from the visitors that had fainted at Chen Ge's haunted house. These workers did not think that their horrible nightmare had anything to do with Chen Ge. One thing that confused them was why everybody had fainted but Chen Ge was able to walk out from the haunted house on his own two feet.

"I visited a haunted house with them a few days ago, and what we are going to discuss will involve the business secrets of the two theme parks, so..." Before Chen Ge finished, the nurse nodded to show that she understood, and she left the room.

"Chen Ge, sorry for what we did that day. We have made such fools of ourselves." The police officer thought that Chen Ge was quite a reliable person. If not for their employers, they might even have been friends.

"There is a problem with your haunted house." Chen Ge sat down beside the three with a serious expression. "I hope that you will not tell another person what I am about to tell you."

"Okay."

"I came here just to confirm one thing with you." Chen Ge's eyes scanned the three in the room. "Did we run into actual ghosts... that day?"

The three workers from the futuristic theme park did not say anything, but their expressions were complicated. Chen Ge dropped his backpack in the corner of the room and then took out his phone and placed it on the table. "Don't worry. I am not recording any sound bites or videos. You can search my body if you want. I just want to clarify what happened that day."

The police officer and Xiao Ling both turned to the woman with the long black hair. The three shared a look. In the end, it was Xiao Ling who went up to check the door, and after ensuring it was locked, she began to whisper, "It is not only you who feels that way. We also have been shivering in fear when we think back about what happened."

"Of the ghosts and monsters that we ran into that day, many of them were not supposed to be in the data base," the police officer said with a bitter smile. "That can only mean that the scenario possesses things that should not be there in the first place. In any case, I will not go to the haunted house to help around anymore. If they insist on posting me there, I will have no choice but to quit."

"But why would something like that happen? Is it really because of the dead people's spirits that possess the old objects? Like the altar inside the cursed Japanese house?" Chen Ge was slowly directing the conversation. He wished to get some information, but he could not make it sound too obvious.

"Other than that, we cannot come up with another explanation."

"I heard from someone that all of the old objects were moved into the haunted house by a director with the surname Jiang. Is it possible that Director Jiang knew that something like this would happen?" Chen Ge asked with obvious curiosity. "Who is this Director Jiang? Building such a large haunted house requires a lot of money. Why would the upper management at your theme park agree to something like that?"

"Jiang Jiu is one of the bigwigs at the theme park. He is also one of the shareholders of the theme park. He was in the real estate business, and I heard he had an altercation with your theme park's Director Luo about ten years ago." Xiao Ling sat back down on the bed. "In any case, he is a very important person, and small employees like us will not know anything about him."

“He had an altercation with Director Luo?” That was something that Chen Ge did not expect. He felt like he was standing inside a spiderweb that was weaved through the years. He was slowly getting close to the truth, but the spider that spun the web had its eyes on him as well.

“Yes, they were both in real estate in the past, but for some reason, they both wanted the same piece of land in Western Jiujiang. In the end, it was taken by director Luo.” The woman with the long hair seemed to know many things. The presence that she carried herself with separated her from other normal workers.

“Is it the land that New Century Park is currently sitting on?”

“Yes, at the time, the piece of land looked normal, but now I cannot help but be impressed by the foresight of the bigwigs.”

“Normal?” On the surface, Chen Ge knew it looked normal, but it was definitely not normal underground. He memorized this detail and changed the subject.

“The history of the older generation does not have anything to do with us. I just wish to understand the reason for Jiang Jiu purposely moving those old objects into the haunted house. Don’t you think he’s up to something?” Chen Ge asked. “I went to check up on the information regarding this after I left your theme park. I realized that altar was not a shrine to honor the gods; it is to feed the ghosts with curses. Every altar has a mud statuette inside it, and anyone who comes into contact with mud statuette will be cursed. That is such a trivial attitude regarding the safety of the visitors.”

“There must be some kind of misunderstanding there.”

“If the altars are just placed there, something bad will definitely happen,” Chen Ge said in a serious tone. “You have personally experienced how scary the haunted house can be when it goes out of control. This is related to human lives. I must have a good chat with the management of your haunted house. Does any of you know how to contact Jiang Jiu?”

The few were just employees, so Chen Ge did not expect they would help him gain contact with one of the futuristic theme park’s bigwigs, Jiang Jiu. Instead, he was trying to fish for information about Jiang Ming from them, and then he would make his move that night. That was why he did not have the police intervene into the issue at the futuristic theme park. The Specters at the cursed house had seen a mud statuette with Jiang Ming’s name on it before. This meant that Jiang Ming was one of the nine children. The intervention from the police would ruin his plan and complicate the situation.

This Jiang Ming looks about the same age as I am. When the shadow separated from the ghost fetus, he would’ve been about ten. I saw him before at the theme park. He looked normal and had a friendly presence about him. Why would someone like him be selected by the ghost fetus? Could this be a trap set by the ghost fetus?

The chance of the ghost fetus being inside Jiang Ming was not high, but Chen Ge still planned to meet him in person that night. When the employees from the futuristic theme park heard that Chen Ge wanted to contact Jiang Jiu, they all acted strangely. They did not deny Chen Ge’s request but turned to look at the woman with the long hair.

“Wait, you can really contact Jiang Jiu?”

"I can't contact Jiang Jiu, but his stepson, Jiang Ming, is my ex-boyfriend. We were together for three and a half years, but we broke up for a ridiculous reason." The woman had the air of a powerful woman. Even if she was feeling sad, she would not allow it to show on her face.

"A ridiculous reason? What kind of ridiculous reason?" Chen Ge was intrigued.

"When I went to his home for the first time, I realized that there was a child about four or five years old staying at his home. The boy's name is also Jiang Ming. I asked him what his relationship with the boy is, and all he could do was stammer."

Chapter 994: If You Don't Help Me, There Might Not Be a Chance in the Future!

"There is a child by the name of Jiang Ming who's Jiang Ming's child?" Chen Ge did not expect to be given such surprising news with his casual question.

"Yes, I didn't think much of it at the time. I just thought it was weird until the boy suddenly called Jiang Ming 'dad'." The woman with the long hair elicited a bitter smile. "I had not heard Jiang Ming mention having a family before. That day, we had a horrible dinner. Before we parted, I asked him what his relationship with that child was. For some reason, he got mad at me and told me to stop asking random questions.

"Was I being too unreasonable? If the boy wasn't his, if he'd adopted him, I could fully understand that, but he refused to say anything. How was I supposed to take in all that?"

"It shouldn't be his biological son. Why would his own child share his name?" Chen Ge was not there to listen to someone else's love story. Before waiting for the woman to continue, he asked, "What does the child look like? Is there anything physically different about him?"

"The child is quite pitiable. He is deaf in both ears, and I believe he is forbidden to leave the house. His vocabulary is very limited." The woman sounded worried. "Jiang Ming comes from a wealthy family, but I don't think they plan to send the boy to receive any treatment. During dinner, whenever I raised the topic of the boy, Jiang Ming would get angry at me."

"When you visited his home, did you hear Jiang Ming tell the boy anything? Things like altars, mud statuettes, curses, or anything like that?"

"During dinner, Jiang Ming locked the boy in his bedroom. He appeared to have something against the boy communicating with the outside world."

"Okay, I understand." Chen Ge nodded. "One last question, what is Jiang Ming's address? I wish to visit him in person."

"How about I give you his phone number?"

"These things are better said in person. Things get muddled in the phone."

At Chen Ge's insistence, the woman finally gave him Jiang Ming's address.

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When Chen Ge left the hospital, it was already afternoon. He arranged all the information that he had gotten in the sickroom. The many scenarios that he had experienced hid a lot of different information. What had appeared useless now became clues for him to look for the ghost fetus. If the truth was a giant puzzle, what Chen Ge was doing now was piecing the puzzle together.

He took a cab back to New Century Park. After ensuring that there were no issues at the haunted house, he took the taxi to Eastern Jiujiang again. The countdown had already started, so there was no time to lose. When Chen Ge arrived at Eastern Jiujiang's White Dragon Tunnel, it was already dark.

"When I first came here, I found many bad things hidden in the surrounding woods, but this time, it's much quieter."

He waited until 8 pm before he dragged the heavy backpack into the tunnel. The abandoned tunnel was deserted. The ground was littered with rotten tree branches and trash. Chen Ge did not open the light. He placed his hand on the cold tunnel wall and slowly walked into it. Light disappeared behind him, and he entered a world dominated by darkness.

"Is anyone home? The ghost fetus is coming alive, and this might be the first place he attacks. Before that happens, I wish to share all of the information I know with you so that you can be prepared."

Chen Ge had not been so desperate to run into a ghost in his life. He had gone there to look for the Red Specter from the car accident and her son. Of all the Red Specters that Chen Ge had met, the son was the most unique one. Most door pushers had their door inside a certain building, and that building became a bridge that connected the real world to the blood world. But the door pusher in White Dragon Tunnel was different. When he died, his body had been stuck inside the car window. The fire in the car had melted his body to the car window, and the door that he pushed open was inside his body!

After entering the world behind the door many times, there was one thing that Chen Ge was certain of. It was easy to enter the world behind the door, but to exit it, one needed the door pusher's permission. The School of the Afterlife was a four-star scenario. After being led unwillingly into the world behind its door, Chen Ge had been worried about this issue.

If the ghost fetus ambushed him and dragged him behind his door, Chen Ge would be dead. To avoid that from happening, the best solution that Chen Ge could think of was to stay with the Red Specter from the car accident and her son. That way, even if he was trapped in the world behind the door, he could escape easily through the door inside the son's body.

The reason the shadow had gone to the tunnel was probably because he wanted to gain access to this unique door as well, but the boy had avoided him every time. However, it was also because of the shadow that the Red Specter from the car accident and her son did not dare wander away from the tunnel. Once they left, bad things would happen.

Leaning against the wall, Chen Ge reached the spot where he had first met the Red Specter from the car accident. Changes slowly appeared in the tunnel. The air turned wet, and even with his Yin Yang Vision, the things around him became blurry like there was a dark fog rolling out from the deepest part of the tunnel. A scratching sound echoed in his ears like the sound of many bugs crawling on the wall. Chen Ge stopped moving.

He's here.

In the dark tunnel, a pair of red eyes slowly opened. Following a shrill wail of mercy, a large 'spider' appeared. Six carved appendages pierced deeply into the wall, and the enormous body was filled with wailing faces and in the middle of all the faces was the head of a small boy. Black and red tattoos crawled on the boy's face, and his bloodshot eyes looked down on Chen Ge. There was another Red Specter sitting on the spider's back. She wore a tattered dress, but she looked at Chen Ge relatively kindly.

The boy seems to have gotten stronger.

The door of White Dragon Tunnel was inside the boy's body. A normal Red Specter was not his match. If he ran into someone whom he could not win, he could open the door inside his body and escape. No wonder even the shadow could not do anything to him. But this kind of special power was gained after an unimaginably painful sacrifice.

"We've cooperated before, at Li Wan City. That time, your mom came with me. She's the best witness." Chen Ge wanted to build a bond first. After realizing that the woman did not have a bad impression of him, he continued. "Last time, we worked together to kill the shadow, but in reality, the shadow had long separated himself from the ghost fetus. Now, no one knows what the ghost fetus is, but one thing's for sure—he is very scary and is capable of killing all of us very easily."

Chapter 995: Old Friends!

It was not that difficult to persuade the woman and her son. They knew about the horrors of the shadow better than Chen Ge, and they knew about the ghost fetus' existence. They just did not expect him to arrive so soon. The two Red Specters agreed to help, but they only agreed to let the woman follow Chen Ge. The son refused to leave the tunnel no matter what. This time, the situation was different from Li Wan City. Chen Ge had more than enough Red Specters to help him. One more Red Specter was not going to change the situation. What he needed was that unique door, and the door argued about this for a long time.

Chen Ge slowly understood what the two Red Specters were worried about. The door that the son pushed opened toward the tunnel behind the door. No matter where he opened that door, it would lead to that same place. But the problem was, the son had only opened the door in the real world. He had not attempted to open the door inside the world of another Red Specter. He could not guarantee that his door would lead them back to real life.

This was the first problem. The second problem was that the son had a very curious power—Dream Weaving.

After he consumed a Specter, he could gain a part of the Specter's memory and use that memory to weave a dream. The intensity of the memory impacted how long the dream would last. Most of the dreams dissipated after a moment, but there were a small handful of dreams that could exist for a long time, as long as the boy continued to feed them. The son had spent many years rigging the tunnel with many dream traps. Once one accidentally stepped into them, even for the shadow, it would be a difficult trap to escape from. These dreams were scary, but they needed the son to continue repairing and feeding them. If he left for an extended period, the dreams would all dissolve on their own.

When the ghost fetus arrived, nowhere would be safe. Chen Ge argued with the ferocity of truth on his side. After enough persuasion, the son finally agreed. Within the next nine days, he would follow Chen Ge and leave for one night. One night was more than enough for Chen Ge. He was very appreciative of the two Red Specters' help. After they had made their agreement, he left with the woman from the car crash and hurried toward Li Wan City.

"Danian, one day, if every page of your comic is filled with Red Specters, will you feel too pressured?"

"You are the strongest Specter beneath a Red Specter; you have to have confidence in yourself! You can do it!"

"No matter what other people say, you are the best!"

"I mean, take a look at Ol' Bai now. Look how amazing he is. He should try to consume other Specters. When you become a Red Specter, you'll become the strongest Red Specter beneath Demon Gods!"

Chen Ge walked for a long time before he got a taxi driver who was willing to take him. On the way to Li Wan City, he talked to himself while hugging the comic. The driver thought that he was talking on the phone, but when Chen Ge got out of the car, he realized that Chen Ge was not wearing any earbuds.

Chen Ge managed to reach Li Wan City before midnight. He found the door, and when the door was covered in blood at midnight, he carried the backpack and pushed the door open. The blood fog stuck to his skin, and his breathing became difficult. Every breath filled his lungs with the scent of blood. Chen Ge activated the recorder to summon Xu Yin, and then he wandered down the red streets. Compared to his previous time there, the place had not changed much.

"When the door was pushed open, Xiao Bu should have realized my presence already." Li Wan City was a 3.5-star scenario, and the blood covered almost half of the city. After the shadow died, most of the locals had slipped away, but many new ghosts had migrated there to replace them. Chen Ge only took few steps when he felt many malicious stares on him. They were very interested in the living human, but due to Xu Yin, they did not do anything. "It must be quite tiring for Xiao Bu to manage such a big place alone. If I have time in the future, I should come and help her."

Narrowing his eyes, Chen Ge smiled at the buildings around him. "Don't just stand there and watch. Why don't you come and join me?"

There was no answer. Chen Ge wanted to release Yan Danian, have him stop drawing, and get him involved in some fighting. "Consider yourself lucky."

After walking past several deserted streets, the blood fog thickened. Bloody raindrops fell on Chen Ge, and a figure appeared in the rain. She wore a red raincoat, and her lips were sewn together. Her bloodshot eyes followed Chen Ge and Xu Yin. The woman in the red raincoat!

Chen Ge stopped moving and waved. "Have you found your child?"

The woman slowly walked toward Chen Ge, and when she reached his side, she shook her head lightly.

"If he's not behind the world inside the door, is it possible that he's actually not been killed by the shadow but is hidden somewhere around Jiujiang?" Chen Ge looked into the woman's pair of clear eyes.

“The ghost fetus is possessing one of the children, and your child might be one of them. I have done a lot of research and have narrowed down the candidates to nine children...”

Chen Ge was about to speak when the woman suddenly grabbed his arm. The chill seeped into his skin, and the chill crawled up his bones and into his heart. The woman’s lips were sewn shut, so she could not speak, but a pleading cry escaped from her mouth.

“Calm down, I came to get you to leave with me. For the next eight days, I will track down all nine children, but during this period, you have to listen to me and cannot act on your own.” Chen Ge struggled loose from the woman. “Where is Xiao Bu? Bring me to see her. I have something that I need to clarify with her.”

The woman in the red raincoat slowly turned around and signaled for Chen Ge to follow. They walked through Li Wan City and came to the building where Zhang Ya and Doctor Gao had battled the shadow. The innocent red little girl was lying against the wall, using her own blood to slowly clean away the curse left behind by the shadow. It would take years or even decades to remove the curse that the shadow had left on Li Wan City, but Xiao Bu did not seem to mind.

Before Chen Ge got close, Xiao Bu sensed Chen Ge. She pulled back all her blood vessels and walked toward Chen Ge. The girl reacted curiously when she saw Chen Ge. Her eyes only stopped for a second on Chen Ge’s face before she turned to Chen Ge’s shadow like there was something interesting that captured her attention there. She stared at his shadow and started to daydream.

“Xiao Bu, what are you thinking?” Chen Ge wanted to walk forward to tussle her hair, but considering that she was the door pusher in Li Wan City and could be as powerful as a Top Red Specter, he cleverly gave up that idea. “I’ve come to see him due to something important. The ghost fetus that separated from the shadow years ago is about to be born. He is currently in Jiujiang, hiding in one of the children. I wish to invite you to come help me find him.”

Her hazy eyes wandered between Chen Ge and the shadow before Xiao Bu nodded.

After leaving the door at Li Wan City, Chen Ge glanced at his phone. “It’s still earlier. I should take a detour to the Third Sick Hall. I haven’t seen Men Nan in such a long time. I kinda miss that little guy.”

Chapter 996: Door Beside the Bed

The third sick hall was a turning point for Chen Ge. Before this mission, he had been on the defensive. It was at this place that he started to resist and realized that the ‘bad guys’ could also feel afraid.

Returning to where it all began, Chen Ge jumped over the wall and found the door. Since it was already past midnight, Chen Ge could only try another method to open the door. Actually, he had been meaning to try this, but he had not had the chance.

There were still many puzzles around the ‘door’. Many door-pushers knew so little about the doors that they pushed open, much less a normal person like Chen Ge. Summoning Xu Yin and the red high hells, Chen Ge used the blood vessels and curse, but it did not affect the door. He then summoned the stench and the headless woman. The number of Red Specters increased, and the hellish winds blew. Many blood vessels crawled on the wall as if they were trying to dye the whole corridor red.

Each Red Specter used their own power, but they could not make the door budge. Chen Ge held the comic and was about to summon the other Red Specters when the door suddenly shuddered. Fresh blood leaked from the gap, and footsteps echoed in the empty room.

“Finally, there’s a reaction. Could it be Men Nan?”

The footsteps approached. When the blood covered the door, the door was opened. A boy slightly taller than Chen Ge’s knees leaned against the door and peeked out.

“Men Nan, long time no...”

Slam!

The door was closed instantly; Chen Ge did not even have the chance to react. Several seconds later, the door opened again. Men Nan’s eyes scanned the lineup of Red Specters, and he raised his little hand to slap himself. The door opened, and more than a handful of Red Specters were eyeing him like he was some candy. There was no realer nightmares than this.

Slam!

The door was closed again, and the blood on the door quickly faded away.

“Men Nan, Brother Nan, I’m here on important business. The ghost fetus separated from the shadow is coming back. He is mad and extremely vengeful.” Chen Ge knocked on the door. “It’s very dangerous now. I need you to open the door.”

Several seconds later, the door creaked open a sliver. Men Nan leaned against the door and peeked out. “You’re not here to kill me?”

“Why would you think that? We’ve been through so much, and we’ve survived many dangerous incidents. I would never harm you.” The door slowly opened, and Men Nan’s eyes wandered around the surrounding Red Specters. He was afraid. It felt like he was a primary school student being surrounded by a group of tattooed gangsters.

“I know about the ghost fetus. I’ve heard about him from the people of the Ghost Stories Society. The thing is very scary, and I’ll be vanquished with one glance.” Men Nan raised his hand toward Chen Ge. “I really can’t help. See you around. I have to go fix the window. Who knows what happened in that red city? Recently, the amount of red fog has increased drastically, and I have to fix the window before tragedy strikes.”

“Men Nan, there is no need to be so humble. Yes, you are not as powerful as other Red Specters, but perhaps because you are too weak, you have retained human rationality, and that is the most important thing.” Chen Ge squatted before Men Nan. “You can communicate freely with me, and your intelligence is incredibly high. If something happens to me, you can come to your own decision with your own analysis.”

Men Nan was the weakest among all the Red Specters, but he had something that the other Red Specters did not. He had retained his sanity and was not consumed by negative emotions.

“How come your praise doesn’t make me feel any happiness? If anything, I feel offended.” Men Nan scratched his neck as his small brows creased together. “Let me think about it.”

“No door pusher will be able to survive this. If we can’t stop the ghost fetus, he will eventually come to you. Have you forgotten the days when you were trapped by the Ghost Stories Society? The ghost fetus will be crueler than them.”

After a few minutes of conflict, Men Nan promised, “Fine, I’ll help you one last time.”

“After we deal with the ghost fetus, I’ll bring you back here immediately.” Chen Ge flipped open the comic. He valued Men Nan so much because of a plan that he needed to complete. The plan would work without a hitch even if he had lost his consciousness and was dying.

“Okay, that’s a promise. If you dare lie to me, I will haunt you forever.” Closing the door to Third Sick Hall, Men Nan was sucked into the comic.

“The child has a sharp tongue but a soft heart.” Chen Ge summoned the Red Specters back one by one. Finally, only Xu Yin was left. The two stayed on the empty corridor. Chen Ge took out the recorder. “Xu Yin, one night, if you can’t find me anymore, do not do anything rash. You can come and consult Men Nan. He is a very clever ghost. He will help you make the correct choice. Do you understand me?”

With an unresolvable melancholy in his eyes, Xu Yin nodded lightly.

“Come, let’s head to the next location.” Chen Ge left the third sick Hall. He did not go to rest but took a cab to the place where Jiang Ming lived. “After tonight, I will only have seven nights left. Time flies.”

Jiang Ming lived in a high-end residential area at the center of Jiujiang. According to the employee from the futuristic theme park, this house belonged to Jiang Ming. Only Jiang Ming and the boy lived there. The cab stopped at the gate of the area. The gate was closed, and the guard was playing on his phone. Walking in from the front door was going to be difficult. After getting out of the car, Chen Ge carried the backpack and came to the other side of the gated residential area. He sat by the road and summoned Men Nan.

“The fourth floor of the third block in Area A, I need you to scout ahead for me. The target is a child about your size. He is deaf in both ears. His name is Jiang Ming. He should be one of the nine candidates chosen by the ghost fetus.”

Men Nan was the only choice to do something with such a high difficulty. His intelligence was sharp, and he was a Red Specter. He could move freely at night, and he was powerful enough to deal with any normal threats.

“You want me to go alone? If the ghost fetus is really in him, wouldn’t I be dead?” Men Nan shook his head rapidly.

“The ghost fetus will only wake up in eight nights’ times. I just need you to confirm this for me and observe if there’s anything weird about this boy and his home.” Chen Ge pointed at the surveillance camera. “There is a blind spot at the left side. If you make any discoveries, I will hurry over to join you.”

“How come I feel like you’re trying to scam me?” Men Nan grumbled as he headed into the residential area. Chen Ge used his Yin Yang Vision to follow his movement. Ten minutes later, Men Nan suddenly reappeared in Chen Ge’s gaze. His hands were cold, and the blood vessels on his shirt were dancing.

“Have you fought with them? Are there other Specters in the room?”

“It’s not that.” The shock in Men Nan’s eyes was still evident as he turned his head up to Chen Ge.
“There is a semi-visible door in the room. It is right next to the child’s bed.”

“There’s a door by the child’s bed?”

“Yes, and something was coming out from the door!” Men Nan was confused. “When I tried to get close, the door vibrated like crazy, and then something weirder happened. The boy who was sleeping opened his eyes! Didn’t you say that he was deaf?”

“Wait a minute. Even if he had normal hearing, do you think a living human could hear the door to the other world open?” Chen Ge was surprised, too.

Chapter 997: I Am Normally a Very Reasonable Person

“After the boy woke up, the door disappeared. He couldn’t see me, but he seemed to know that there was someone else in the room. He used a very low whisper and called out, ‘Daddy’.” Men Nan sat next to Chen Ge. The boy and the man stared at each other. “He seemed to want to express something else, but that appeared to be the only word he knew.”

“Can you describe the door beside the boy’s bed in more detail? How is that door different from your own door?”

“It was very unreal, like it would disappear at any moment. The blood vessels on the door were very faded, and they were all focused at one location like they were pieced there.” This was the first time that Men Nan had seen a door like that. “It’s hard to explain. I suggest you go and see it in person.”

“Upscale apartments like these have password locks in their stairwell, and there are cameras everywhere in the courtyard. If I do anything, I’ll be discovered, and that will only expose our tracks and tip off the enemy.” After observing for some time, Chen Ge had noticed that the surveillance effort of the upscale residential area was very good. He had no chance of slipping into the child’s home without notice.

“A change of plan.” Chen Ge looked at the phone. When he left the Third Sick Hall, it had been 12:50 am; it was now 1:30 am.

“Are you going to barge in?”

“Not necessary. We’ll return when Jiang Ming leaves for work tomorrow morning.” Chen Ge stood up and went to the nearby stall to buy something to eat. “Would you like some?”

“Thanks, but it’s fine. Call me when you return tomorrow. I am quite interested in that boy.” Men Nan returned to the comic. After Chen Ge had his fill, he took another cab to Jiang Yuan Apartments.

Originally, Chen Ge planned to leave for Coffin Village, but if he entered the mountains then, he would reach the village around dawn. “There’ll still be time to go in the future. I should be qualified to know more things about that village now.”

At 2 am, Chen Ge arrived at Jiang Yuan Apartments, he carried the loaded backpack and entered the corridor. He had returned to the same place with the same people, but his emotions were different. Chen Ge did not forget about the things that happened that night during his nightmare mission. This

time, he purposely stuck to the scary corners. But probably due to the warning of the Red Specter in the building, nothing came out to scare Chen Ge.

"I remember, on this floor, that someone tried to drag me into a room." Chen Ge took out the hammer and politely knocked on the respective door at 2:30 am. He waited for a long time, but no one answered the door. Just as he was about to use the hammer to knock down the lock, a child's laughter came from the stairwell.

"The person who lived there moved the night you came." A boy, around eight years old, sat on the banister. His red shirt was soaked, and it dripped blood. His eyes were bulging and filled with whiteness. If anyone ran into a child like this in their own apartment, they would be scared witness.

"I am a water ghost. I was drowned. I drifted around for a long time before I found this door, and it was lucky that I managed to become a Red Specter." The boy jumped down from the banister. He had long hair, and his white eyes stared at Chen Ge. "The promise we made that day was that you would bring the real door pusher here at 2 am in three days. This isn't the third day. Why have you returned earlier than promised?"

"I have found the clues about the real door pusher!" Chen Ge put down the hammer and picked up his bag. "It was not me who pushed open the door here but my shadow. At the time, I told him all my negative thoughts. He couldn't take them anymore, so he pushed open the door, but since he was just a shadow, the door wasn't pushed open completely." Chen Ge was just speculating left and right. He did not know the truth, but he knew how to push the blame onto the shadow.

"You said your shadow pushed open the door?" The water ghost took one step and appeared before Chen Ge in an instant. His face was leaning in to Chen Ge. "Only a person at their deepest despair can push open the door! Are you trying to trick me?"

"It's all real. The shadow has now separated himself from the ghost fetus. He wants to be reborn as a human!" Chen Ge told him everything he knew about the ghost fetus. The boy did not believe him initially, but the more he listened to Chen Ge, the more he was persuaded. Finally, when he heard Chen Ge mention the names Jia Ming and Bei Ye, his expression changed, and that did not escape Chen Ge's attention.

"Do you know Jia Ming and Bei Ye?" Chen Ge knew from Captain Yan that Jia Ming and Bei Ye were indeed once spotted at Jiang Yuan Apartments. Chen Ge felt like it was normal for the boy as the owner of this place to have heard their names before.

"I don't know them, but..." The boy pointed at the door next to Chen Ge. "They were the former tenants of that room. The night you came, it was Jia Ming who tried to drag you into the room to kill you."

"That was him? Impossible! I remember that the person who dragged me had zero warmth; it was not a living person."

"There is a very wicked spirit living in Jia Ming. It was the spirit who made the move that night. I have no idea why it was so determined to kill you." The boy did not have the need to lie, so he should be telling the truth. Chen Ge did not expect this coincidence! Now he regretted not opening his eyes, but the person with the biggest regret should be Jia Ming. If the man knew that Chen Ge did not carry any

employees with him that night and Zhang Ya was still in hibernation, he would not have passed up the chance to murder Chen Ge!

Thinking back, with how close he had escaped from death, Chen Ge shivered in fear.

"I suspected that there was history between you two. They failed to kill you, and as if afraid of you taking revenge on them, they ran away that night."

"You should have stopped them. The ghost fetus might be inside the child with Jia Ming. After killing the ghost fetus, you'll be the real door pusher." Chen Ge sighed.

"How do I know you're not lying to me?" The boy felt like Chen Ge sounded more confident this time, and his tone had become pushier.

"The door here has no use for me. I just want to live a normal life." Chen Ge calculated the time and felt like there was still a chance to salvage this. "You are the owner here. You even know about their names and the spirit hiding in Jia Ming, so you should have eavesdropped on other information as well, right? Why did they come here?"

"They came here searching for an altar, and there indeed is an altar here." The boy's white eyes turned twice. As if reminded of something, he hurried to leave.

"Where is that altar?" Chen Ge reached his hand into his backpack.

"That is not a question you should ask. Leave. I've already told you many things." The boy was about to escape when the sound of static and a heavy stench filled up the corridor.

"Don't be such a hurry to leave. I believe you have more things you can tell me." Chen Ge flipped through the comic, and blood red shadows appeared behind him. "Now you understand why Jia Ming was so desperate to leave after he failed to kill me, don't you? But don't worry. Most of the time, I am a very reasonable person."

Chapter 998: Phones Have Their Own Thoughts

One, two, three, four... The Red Specters that the boy met in a few minutes were far more than the total of Red Specters he had met in the past decade. He wanted to escape, but it was too late. The corridor was swallowed by red, and a tsunami of resentment was rushing through the area.

"I have no interest in your door, so we have no conflict of interest. You wish to get the door's approval and become the new door pusher, and the simplest way to do that is to kill the original door pusher, the ghost fetus. Thus, we have a common enemy." Chen Ge looked at the boy who was surrounded by multiple Red Specters. "No matter how you look at it, we have a basis for cooperation. What do you think?"

"I..." The boy's white eyes darted about. He realized that all his exits were blocked off, and all the Red Specters were looking at him like he was a piece of meat. "I believe you are right. We are not enemies, and we shouldn't be enemies. If we fight, it'll only benefit the ghost fetus."

"So, have you remembered more details that you can share with me?"

"Ah, yes. The altar is just underground. I'll lead you there."

Surrounded by Red Specters, the boy led everyone to the basement. The basement was very humid, and there was a moldy smell in the air. The corridor was filled with abandoned trash. There were even two rusted bicycles blocking the door.

“Many rooms in Jiang Yuan Apartments have been rented out before, but when the tenants left, they didn’t take their stuff with them. The owner was too lazy to throw them away, so the stuff got moved here.”

The group came to the deepest part of the corridor. There was a wooden altar at the end. The insides of the altar’s walls were covered in the death characters, and it was also covered in spiderwebs and insect carcasses. The only thing missing was the mud statuette.

“Did Jia Ming’s group come here before?”

“No.” The boy’s tone became softer. “This altar was left behind by an old tenant. He sold his home to settle his debt. The new owner wanted to toss away the altar due to how cursed it looks, but they were afraid of offending the ‘spirit’ inside the altar, so they left it in the basement.”

“Do you know where the family has moved to?” Chen Ge was surprised at how successful things were going. He had found a clue to another child.

“On the night they moved, I heard the tenant say that they were going to send the child to a Pei Chi Academy in Western Jiujiang, so I believe that is where they are now.”

“A child? Pei Chi Academy?” Chen Ge had once more confirmed this child was one of the people he was looking for. “You still remember what the child looks like, right?”

“Yes.”

“Okay, for the next eight days, you will follow us to find the ghost fetus.” Chen Ge did not give the boy any choice—he did not know even ask the Red Specter for his opinion—he merely gave an order.

“I can’t stay away from here for too long. The door will become active at night. If I ignore it for too long, the building will create a fourteenth floor.” The boy hoped that Chen Ge would understand the severity of the situation.

“No worries, I will give you time to come back to close the door.” Chen Ge invited the boy into the comic. He stood before the altar and started to consider something else. “The child that this altar corresponds to shouldn’t be the child with Jia Ming, so how did Jia Ming find this place? Can he sense the location of the altars? Is he staying at Jiujiang to look for the other altars? If that is true, I have to find him as soon as possible!”

Chen Ge really did not expect that the few people that he let go previously would become so important now. The comic had another new Red Specter. Including the woman in the stage costume, the number of Red Specters around Chen Ge had reached a very scary point. However, even with so many Red Specters, Chen Ge did not feel safe. There was a gulf between baleful Specters and Red Specters; it was the same with Red Specters and Demon Gods. To use the Red Specters’ power to kill a Demon God, one needed a complete plan that made use of all the Red Specters’ power perfectly.

“Yet another fulfilling night.” Chen Ge left Jiang Yuan Apartments and returned to New Century Park. It was already dawn. Entering the haunted house, Chen Ge did not go to sleep but summoned Men Nan and Tong Tong to do an experiment. After a few minutes, Chen Ge climbed into bed. He slept for only three to four hours before he crawled up to prepare for another day of business. After putting on make-up for his employees and leaving them some simple orders, Chen Ge carried his backpack and left again.

“It feels like we’ve been seeing less and less of the boss, or is that my imagination?”

“He probably has something important to do. We’ll focus on our work. When he comes back at night, we can ask him about it.”

Running out from New Century Park, Chen Ge saw a taxi parked by the side of the road. He walked over, and coincidentally, it was the driver who driven him from Jiang Yuan Apartments the previous night.

“My shift’s about to end. Why don’t you call another cab?” The driver glanced at Chen Ge. “Boss, haven’t we met somewhere before?”

“Perhaps, I like to go out at night in taxis.” Chen Ge opened the door and got in. “Eastern Jiujiang’s futuristic theme park and step on it. Something huge is happening tonight.”

...

At the gate of the futuristic them park, Chen Ge found the worker and stated his reason for being there. He wished to meet Jiang Ming. If the latter was too much, he would buy the ticket to find him at the haunted house and start a few more livestreams. As the face of New Century Park, Chen Ge was labelled as one of the most dangerous characters by the futuristic theme park. After the workers recognized him, they raced toward the office.

Ten minutes later, Jiang Ming came toward Chen Ge in his employee outfit with furrowed brows.

“Why are you looking for me?” Jiang Ming maintained his distance from Chen Ge. “We should not have met before, right?”

“I have something that I need to confirm with you.” Chen Ge signaled for Jiang Ming to follow him to a more secluded area. “There is an old mansion at the center of your haunted house, and there is an altar placed there. Inside that altar was my decapitated mud statuette. I wish to know what the meaning of that is.”

“How would you know that’s your mud statuette? Does it have your name on it? Perhaps it just looks like you.”

“Now that you mention it, it does have my name on it.” Chen Ge took out his phone. “Here is the photographic proof.”

Jiang Ming’s reaction was different from what Chen Ge expected. The man genuinely seemed surprised by this and did not know what the altar and mud statuette represented, or he could be a very good actor.

“Perhaps it’s the prank of one of the employees. Don’t worry, we’ll conduct an investigation into this and give you a satisfactory answer.” Jiang Ming gave a PR answer. “If there’s nothing else...”

“Wait!”

“I will help you deal with this, but you have to have patience.” Jiang Ming just wanted Chen Ge to leave. “It is my working hours. I know New Century Park is a lot freer, but we are very busy here.”

“Leave me your contact details before you go, or else I won’t be able to reach you in the future.” Chen Ge took out his phone and showed the QR code of his WeChat for Jiang Ming to scan.

“Haha, you’re an interesting one.” Jiang Ming took out his phone and scanned the code. After the friend request was accepted, Jiang Ming pushed the phone back into his pocket. He did not notice the smile on Chen Ge’s face, much less the two ghosts that had slipped into his phone.

Chapter 999: Everyone Is Missing Something

Tong Tong’s item of possession was a phone, and he was the only Specter that one could communicate with from a distance. At the time, Han Bao’er from the Ghost Stories Society had used this uniqueness and Gao Ru Xue as bait to lure Chen Ge out from his haunted house. But there was a weakness to Tong Tong. He was very weak, and his power would be seriously weakened in the day. It had big limitations, like his power not working in crowded places and being powerless when under direct sunlight.

It was in consideration of these things that Chen Ge had conducted an experiment the previous night and had Men Nan and Tong Tong possess the same phone. Being sheltered by a Red Specter, Tong Tong would not suffer so much in the day. As long as nothing happened to Men Nan, Tong Tong could use his power many times, but he would expend more energy than he would at night. With the protection from a Red Specter, Chen Ge was not that worried about Tong Tong’s safety. When discovered, Men Nan could escape with Tong Tong. There were so many people at the futuristic theme park; they could find any phone to hide in.

Jiang Ming had not realized the severity of the situation. He probably did not think that Chen Ge was a threat. Seeing Jiang Ming walk away, Chen Ge put away his phone. Tong Tong and Men Nan had left his phone. “Hopefully, they can find something useful.”

For Jiang Jiu to have survived so long, he must be an old fox. To get anything from him would be difficult, so the only method was to find opening through people around him. Collecting information was one of Chen Ge’s plans, but there was another mission he had given Tong Tong and Men Nan. When the day darkened, he would repeat the same thing that the Ghost Stories Society had done to him on Jiang Ming. After dealing with the things there, Chen Ge rushed toward Pei Zhi Academy in Western Academy. Before entering the school, he found a corner and flipped through the comic to communicate with the drowned boy.

“After I enter the school, notify me if you see the child.” He wandered about at the gates for a while. Before he got in, a young woman about twenty came toward him. “Hello, how I can help you?”

Chen Ge looked into the school. There were children playing on the field. He hesitated before saying, “There have been issues at my relative’s house recently. Their child has been sent to an orphanage. The child is a bit quiet, he doesn’t like to communicate with others, and his condition is getting worse. I’m afraid his life will be ruined if this continues, so I wish to bring him here to get an education.”

“Our school accepts students with mental handicaps and other problems. If the condition is that serious, you should bring him here.” The woman was kind. “We are a private institution, so the fee might be a bit expensive. However, we design a special teaching plan that will be tailored specifically to each child.”

“The fee will be expensive?” Chen Ge’s lips turned down, and his hands twisted together. He thought for a long time before saying, “Can I please go in to take a look at how the classes are conducted normally first?”

“Of course. All our staff here are professional, and you’ll find the atmosphere very conducive for study.” The teacher invited Chen Ge into the school. On the field, the teachers were playing games with the children. They were simple games. The main purpose was for the children to communicate with others. Past the field was the education block. The wall had a motto written on—‘every child deserves an education’. The classrooms were bright and filled with sunlight. They looked clean and neat.

“Our school focuses on three main criteria: development of intelligence, societal assimilation, and practical living. Based on the condition of each child, we have set up twelve different types of classes,” the teacher explained patiently to Chen Ge, and the latter listened patiently.

Initially, he was there to find the candidate selected by the ghost fetus, but when he was there, he suddenly felt touched. This world was unfair and cruel to these children, but even so, they were trying their best. Their smiles under the sun were beautiful. Chen Ge looked at the children in the classrooms.

Will the ghost fetus be among them?

After they reached the last classroom, there was a wetness that came from Chen Ge’s hand that grabbed his backpack. He lowered his head to look and saw a bloody palm.

The child is here?

Before anyone noticed, Chen Ge quickly wiped his hand clean. He did not expect the drowned boy’s hint to be so obvious.

“Can I go in to take a look?” Chen Ge scanned the classroom. Chen Ge pointed at the last row. The other children were sitting around the teacher, but there was a child who stood at the back of the class with his bag. “Why is that boy standing over there?”

Seeing Chen Ge walk in, the teacher in the class answered his question. “Wu Sheng hit some other students during class, so I gave him time out as punishment. We have to give him a correct understanding of right and wrong since they are young, letting them know that there are consequences for doing bad things.”

“His name is Wu Sheng?” Chen Ge walked up to the boy, and when he was next to the boy, his hand that held the backpack started to bleed again. It shocked Chen Ge so much that he quickly clamped them before his chest. The teacher and other students did not see it, but the boy who stood before him saw it clearly.

“Well, looks like we’ve found him.” Chen Ge wiped the blood from his palm. He squatted before the boy as the female teacher walked over.

“Since his birth, the child hasn’t said a complete sentence. He dislikes being with others, and it has escalated to full refusal to communicate with others.” The teacher signaled for Chen Ge to move away from the boy. “Wu Sheng’s father is a wandering singer. He is not a bad person. Initially, he thought that it was because he gave the child a bad name that he refused to speak, so he changed the boy’s name to Wu Yousheng[1] and then Wu Busheng[2], thinking perhaps two wrongs made a right, but in the end, it was the name Wu Sheng[3] that stuck.”

“Wu Sheng’s situation is similar to my relative’s child. Can I chat with him?”

“I’m afraid not. We have a responsibility toward the children. Your careless words might injure their fragile hearts.”

“Then, can I talk with his family? After all, we’re in the same boat.”

“I can understand that.” The Mr. Handed Chen Ge Wu Sheng’s father’s number. They chatted for a while and Chen Ge left. Walking out from the school, Chen Ge called Wu Sheng’s father directly but there was no answer.

“Of the few confirmed kids, one has lost her memory, one has lost his hearing, one is mute. Other than myself, everyone has lost something important.” Chen Ge stood beside the road and studied the passing car. “Now that I think about it, if I am one of the nine children, then I should have lost something important to but the question is what? It is because I have lost my own shadow?”

[1] Wu Yousheng can also mean ‘Got Voice’.

[2] Wu Busheng can also mean ‘No Voice’.

[3] Wu Sheng can also mean ‘No Sound’.

Chapter 1000: Adoption

Every child that was selected by the ghost fetus had a defect to them. Chen Ge should be no exception, but what he had lost might be different from the other children. His memory, shadow, and even parents—Chen Ge had lost so much that he could not tell for sure.

There are seven nights left. I am getting closer to the truth.

Leaving the Pei Zhi Academy, Chen Ge returned to New Century Park. With everything that he could do for now done, he deserved a good rest. At around 8 pm, Chen Ge’s phone vibrated, and he got a message from ‘Jiang Ming’.

“I’m home.”

This was a code decided between Tong Tong, Men Nan, and Chen Ge. When Chen Ge received this message, he would take all the employees and leave the haunted house. Chen Ge arrived at the city center around 9 pm. He did not head directly to Jiang Ming’s residential area but found a nearby restaurant to sit and eat.

At 10:30 pm, Chen Ge received the second message from ‘Jiang Ming’. It was only then that he moved slowly toward his destination. He had scouted the place out the previous night, so he knew where the surveillance blind spots were.

At 11:20 pm, Chen Ge received the third message from 'Jiang Ming'. He took immediate action. He leaped over the wall and took only few seconds to complete all his actions.

Chen Ge carried his backpack toward one of the buildings. At the same time, Jiang Ming rushed out from the stairwell, heading toward the underground parking lot. After Jiang Ming drove away, Chen Ge walked to the apartment entrance. The door that was installed at the stairwell was opened from the inside as Men Nan poked his head out. "The plan was successful; Jiang Ming was completely fooled by Tong Tong."

"Is the boy asleep?"

"Yes, follow me."

Chen Ge's plan was simple. After the young Jiang Ming fell asleep, Tong Tong would mimic Jiang Jiu and send orders to him via his phone and have him travel all around the city that night.

"The stairwell and his home both use a password lock. I memorized the password when he opened them earlier." Men Nan led Chen Ge to the fourth door and opened the door.

"Wait a minute." Chen Ge took out plastic bags to wrap around his shoes and a pairs of gloves before entering the house.

Even though this was the silk-stocking district in Jiujiang, Jiang Ming's house was sparsely decorated. A lot of furniture was old and dilapidated. It felt incongruent with the rest of the place. It felt like the old furniture had purposely been put there.

"This whole day, Jiang Jiu has not contacted Jiang Ming. He acted very normal, just like a normal employee at the theme park."

"Is there any information about the boy on Jiang Ming's phone? Like who the mother is and when the boy lost his hearing?" Chen Ge whispered.

"The phone has no incriminating information and no clues. There was not even a picture related to that boy."

"Basically, the boy's existence is a secret. If not for Jiang Ming's girlfriend's accidental discovery, probably no one would know about a boy who shared his name at his home."

"You can see it that way."

The information about the boy was a blank slate. Chen Ge conducted his search around the house. To save time, he released Ol' Zhou and his friends to help. The lights were not turned on, and shadows moved across the room.

Several minutes later, Chen Ge really did find something. He found a crumpled letter inside the study's trashcan. The content of the letter was as follows. The sender needed a lot of money, and if they were refused, they would come to take the child and not let him stay with Jiang Ming anymore.

"The child is a bargaining chip?" Chen Ge studied the letter. "The boy lives with the older Jiang Ming, but there is no information on his mother. Could the sender of this letter be the mother? Is the boy Jiang Ming's biological son?" Chen Ge and his employees stood inside the study. Other than the letter, they

found nothing else. “Whether the boy is his biological son or not, there must be something to prove the child’s identity inside this house. Jiang Ming can’t have moved all of that to Jiang Jiu’s place, right? Or, is there a hidden room inside this house?”

With another search, Ol’ Zhou finally found a hidden safe behind the bookshelf. Chen Ge did not need to open the safe. He only needed his employee to slip into the safe to check its contents. Ten seconds later, Ol’ Zhou crawled out from the gap.

“The boy is not related to Jiang Ming or Jiang Jiu by blood. They are taking care of him on behalf of someone else. There are adoption papers inside the safe. The husband and wife agreed for their child to stay here for the five thousand RMB that Jiang Jiu would pay them monthly. From the signature, it reads that the boy’s real father’s name is Jiang Dawu.

“There is a mud statuette inside the safe with the name ‘Jiang Ming’ on it. That confirms that Jiang Ming is one of the selected candidates. Other than that, the child’s real ID is stored inside the safe. His real name is Jiang Ming, but it turns that it’s the young man who works at the theme park that has changed his name.

“Jiang Jiu’s adopted son’s original name was Jiang Wei. It was after Jiang Ming was arranged to stay here that Jiang Wei changed his name to Jiang Ming.”

“Why would he do that? Does he want to use this to take something away from Jiang Ming? But there is nothing worth taking from the boy, other than the fact that he was selected by the source of misfortune, the ghost fetus.” There was no free love in this world. Jiang Jiu must want something from the boy, and that was why he had agreed to adopt the child.

“Perhaps Jiang Jiu wishes to trick the ghost fetus. He wants to become the ghost fetus’ father,” Ol’ Zhou analyzed.

“The evil spirit possessing Jiang Jiu and Jia Ming were both left behind by the ghost fetus. They probably wouldn’t dare infringe on the ghost fetus’ plan.” Chen Ge stood in their perspective, a normal person would not choose to have any relationship with the ghost fetus.

“That might not be true. What if Jiang Jiu has underestimated the ghost fetus’ power, or the ghost fetus has underestimated the greed of the living.”

“You have a point there.” Chen Ge nodded admiringly at Ol’ Zhou. He felt like Ol’ Zhou had a bright future. “Tong Tong’s plan to lure Jiang Ming away can only be used once. When dawn arrives and Jiang Ming meets up with Jiang Jiu, they will realize that something is wrong, so we only have one chance tonight.”

Since there were no other clues to find, Chen Ge decided to meet the boy. Pushing the door open, Chen Ge looked into the room. The boy was already asleep, and he did not notice the additional ‘people’ that had entered the house.

To prevent Jiang Ming from being scared awake, Chen Ge summoned Ol’ Zhou and the rest back into the comic. Only he and Men Nan entered the bedroom. On the surface, the boy looked normal, just like any other child. One could not make the connection to the scary ghost fetus.

Chen Ge and Men Nan walked to the window, and they waited for midnight. The atmosphere in the room started to change, and a door appeared quietly next to the boy's bed.