

Iyashikei 371

Chapter 371

371 Fear of Myself [2in1]

The group name that hadn't changed for 14 years was edited just like that, it was not that the new name, Ziggurat's Tenancy Right and Tenant Support Group was that bad, it simply didn't fit the overall despairing atmosphere of the group chat.

Blood leaked out from the cracked screen. The profiles of the dead typed out bloody red messages. When Han Fei's finger touched those strange messages, the sound of ghost wailing could be heard in his mind. The pained wailing contained an undercurrent of confusion. The souls who had been drawn into the darkest night opened their eyes and suddenly realized something had changed in the endless night sky of despair.

Holding the phone with both hands, Han Fei was flustered. He was only checking the extent of the manager's power, he did not expect for something like this to happen. "The previous name of the chat group was too depressing, I just feel like we should learn to look forward. Furthermore, it is not our fault that this happened to us. A pair of invisible hands was manipulating our lives from the dark. Perhaps by cutting off that pair of hands, we will all find salvation."

Han Fei looked at the blood that was about to leak out from the screen and the ghostly profiles in the chat group. He was unsettled. In the cryptic world, a phone was invaluable but the function of this phone couldn't be used casually. Every time Han Fei touched the phone, he would have to pay a certain price.

"Erm... Is it possible to close this chat group?"

The male student was like a zombie. He opened his mouth wide and the human faces inside his body spoke at the same time. "It's not possible. The phone is Firefly's deepest obsession and the connection between us and him. Also there is something we have to tell you. We have noticed that after we move into this building of despair, new tenants would often join in the chat group even though we didn't invite them. Unlike us, they will not be so caring and cautious around Firefly."

The boy in Room 4094 didn't expect Han Fei could change the chat group's name either. Before he could add something else, the phone in Han Fei's palm suddenly vibrated. "Laughing all Day is requesting a

video call!” Han Fei remembered this name from Firefly’s memory. The person was making a video call probably because they wanted to see and confirm certain things.

This was the first time Han Fei had a video call in the cryptic world, he had no experience at all. He freshened up and fixed his appearance because this might be the last recording of him alive.

He clicked the accept button. Before he understood what happened, the phone screen was dragged into a live video of a living room. The room was dark and a single chair was placed in the dim living room. A young man was seated facing away from the camera.

“Laughing lives in Room 4174, he has this illness where he will always laugh no matter his emotions. He could be sad or in pain but he would keep on laughing, he won’t stop. Because of this illness, he was always bullied. In one instance of school bullying, his mind broke. He pounced at his bullies like a mad dog. As he laughed madly with tears streaming down his face, he grabbed a nearby compass and aimed the pointy end at the bully’s eyes.” The student knew about Laughing’s past. “Laughing managed to pull himself back at the last moment. The compass didn’t puncture the bully’s eye. However, Laughing’s whole demeanor, how he was laughing and crying while doing something this crazy, was recorded by the other students. It was uploaded to the internet. After that, not only his bullies, but also his friends, teachers and strangers on the internet thought Laughing had mental problems. Later, Laughing was expelled after the school authority had a meeting with Laughing’s family. From then on, Laughing rarely left home anymore. His illness became more and more serious. His neighbours would often hear laughter filled with pain at midnight.

“To not disturb his neighbours, Laughing insulated his room with soundproof boards. His laughter was no longer able to escape. He too was forever trapped inside that room.”

When the male student told Han Fei about Laughing’s past, the young man who sat alone in the video slowly turned his head around to reveal half of his face. He had a creepy smile. The smile caused the blood capillaries to bulge on his face. They were branded on his face like a curse. However, different from the smile was the spirit in his eye, or the lack of. His pupil was grey, dim and lacking in mirth.

It was a quick look, it was less than 1 second but the face twisted by involuntary smile had seared itself into Han Fei’s mind. Any other person would be frightened by that horrifying, smiling face but not Han Fei.

“I am not Firefly but I am someone just like him. He has created a warm sanctuary for all of you in real life and I intend to create a real home for you in the cryptic world.” Han Fei saw himself as a professional

actor. Sometimes, he couldn't even tell whether he was acting or the habit had become his second nature that his calmness had become part of himself. He thought he would be afraid but when he saw the twisted and pained smile on Laughing's face, the fear in his heart was replaced by something else. "The forever greyed out profile pictures have all lit up. How much longer do you plan to stay inside your room?" After knowing about Laughing's past, Han Fei was determined to help him. This was not only because he needed aid from the young man but also Han Fei was sincere about helping the individuals inside the chat group.

Looking into that eye, Han Fei moved the camera to include Firefly. "He has protected your past so let me help you lead you into your future. Tonight is a vital night and it is the only chance for all of us. I do not need you to place your full trust in me. I only hope that you will give yourself a chance and give Firefly a chance.

"Firefly who is the pillar of your community has completed his promise, he is the last person to leave the group. He has guarded all of you until the very end, until his soul is wounded and his spirit is broken. Are you really going to sit back and watch him sink into darkness?"

Han Fei gave Laughing some time to think while he manipulated the phone. "One of my souls has entered Firefly's consciousness. One of my habits was retained by Firefly. Whenever I feel defeated and need a booster, I would read the words that I have left for myself on my phone. The advice that my soul left for me was, the best actor in the world is you going about life; but Firefly has left another advice for himself." Han Fei only noticed this when he got the phone and logged into Firefly's account. Firefly had a post that was viewable only to himself—"I cannot forget about them, their hearts can no longer warm themselves so I have to hold onto them tight. If I let go, their hearts will forever be frozen in ice and sink into the bottomless depth of darkness." Han Fei recited the words written down by Firefly, he didn't inject too much performance element into it. The purity and sincerity of the words were the power behind it.

"Firefly has thought about death many times. For him, death is not difficult, the real difficulty is to keep on living. I know you will be able to identify with that. Resisting the torture of the soul and combat the negative emotions in the mind before finding the courage to keep on living.

"Firefly has warmed you and in return, you all have provided him with support. But now you have been used by the manager to pull the man who carried everyone's spirit into Ziggurat.

"Do you know? If you let him die now, it is not a release for him but you would have destroyed everything that he has worked for. If you are really sincere about helping him, then you have to let him

go, let him return to the place where he belongs. Allow him to carry on with all of your hope and anticipation, then he will truly become the existence that proves that hope is real!”

When Laughing saw Firefly’s profile lit up, he sent the video call invitation immediately. Throughout the process, he said not a single word. Sitting alone before his phone, he was the perfect listener. Laughing couldn’t even remember why he made this call in the first place, his mind was just echoing with Han Fei’s words. At the Ziggurat, no one was like Han Fei. His face froze with yet another smile but this smile was slightly different from usual. Gradually the smile turned into a guffaw as blood tears leaked out from the man’s eyes. Underneath the maddening laughter, Han Fei believed he heard, “Firefly will not perish in the eternal darkness.”

After the video call ended, Han Fei had more confidence regarding the plan that night. He turned to look at Firefly beside him. He leaned over to help Firefly ease more comfortably onto the couch but was surprised to find that Firefly’s expression was no longer as numb as before. He stared at the screen. It was as if after the conversation with Laughing, Firefly’s weak consciousness was triggered and the memory inside him was awakened. Perhaps by chatting with more of Firefly’s chat group friends, Firefly could slowly return to normal. Han Fei instantly put that to the test and realized it was true. Thus Han Fei started to reach out to those profiles with familiar IDs from Firefly’s memory. Like Firefly used to, Han Fei consoled and encouraged these people. He approached them one by one and shared with them his thoughts. This masterful actor was also an experienced patient. He had done a lot of research into psychiatry so he knew what he was talking about. Han Fei soon gained the approval of some tenants. His role as the manager was accepted by more and more people. After he chatted with most of the group managers and was arranging their information in his mind, the phone vibrated again. “No. 4204 is requesting a video call!”

“Those who have received help from Firefly would have an actual id. The tenants who joined the group chat after would use their Room number as their id.” The male student warned Han Fei. “You better think twice before answering this call.”

“Since they have joined this group, it means that they too wanted to change.” After giving it some thought, Han Fei decided to answer it. Most of the tenants here only had one 4, other than the male student and Laughing, they were quite weak.

“Room 4204? This person is living on the 20th floor?” Based on Han Fei’s experience from Building 1, tenants from beyond floor 20 were generally scarier. The call was connected. Before he could say anything, blood splattered on the screen. Then he heard a familiar voice say, “Soul-summoning? But I am not your family, I don’t even know you. However you do not dare to harm me and will even listen to my every word. For me, you’ve committed murders and dismembered bodies. Looks like my speculation is correct. My soul has infiltrated your family member’s body. This is interesting. You are supposed to be

ghosts but you are as cowardly as a man.” The voice was laden with madness and a desire for destruction. Han Fei gawked with disbelief when he heard the voice. He was certain that the voice belonged to himself. ‘My own soul is in Room 4204?’

Han Fei had lost 3 souls, and they formed 3 consciousness, 1 for Han Fei’s childhood, 1 for his kindness and hope, and the last was closest to the memory of redness, it probably represented the evil and cunning within Han Fei.

Chapter 372

372 Technically Not My Fault

The blood blotted most of the screen, only a man’s voice could be heard. The man was a soul made into being by the Soul Chaser but it was perfectly comfortable at the Ziggurat. Through small clues, he managed to guess his own identity and status in a short amount of time. He made use of the connection between the room owner and his host to easily win the upper hand. To be frank, the ‘soul’ would require sharp observational skill as well as a very crazy and smart mind to accomplish this.

“Since I can assume your family’s consciousness then I should be able to do the same to you. Why don’t you come and eat me? Or perhaps let me control his body to crawl into your stomach, then you’ll be together forever and I won’t need to worry about my own safety anymore.” The maddened voice was similar to Han Fei. Han Fei outside the screen stared at the phone, he had a feeling his Evil Soul was going to rock Ziggurat tonight.

The blood slowly beaded together and slid down the screen. Han Fei could barely see what was inside Room 4204. The whole room was covered in blood. The walls of the rooms constricted and expanded like a heart. In the middle of the room stood a monster about 3 metres tall. Its head was almost touching the ceiling. Its arms laid weakly by its side, there were tattoos of chains on them.

The monster’s spine was made up of protruding skulls. The monster’s wrinkled face stared at his own stomach. The stomach had been slashed open. There was no blood but instead plenty of hair. The hair was knotted together to form knots of resentment. The thing that caught Han Fei’s attention though was, he saw a young man about his size standing in front of the monster’s stomach and he was using an impossible speed to undo the knots.

The monster who had killed so many people could have wiped out the young man easily but he didn’t do that. Eventually all the knots were unmade and the young man crawled into the monster’s stomach.

At the same time, the monster's muddled eyes turned red and a new skull grew on his spine. Unlike the other weathered faces, this face was extremely young and devilish.

"You have such a cool power, why didn't you use like? You still mind the rules at Ziggurat? What rules are there at this dark and despairing place? If you're strong enough, you make the rules." The monster's body expanded, yin energy filled up his guts. As the knots on the stomach were undone, the seals on the monster were lifted as well. Room 4204 pounded like a living heart. Just as the walls were about to crack, the large monster squeezed through the front door and stormed into the corridor.

"What kind of monster is that?" Han Fei watched the senior monster walk away through the screen. When the monster left the room, the young man turned to glance at the spot where the phone lay like he knew all along someone was watching him. As the footsteps disappeared, Room 4204 slowly returned to normal. Several minutes later, all the blood receded. They gathered in the middle of the room and became a blood red shadow. This shadow was the true owner of Room 4204, it was forced to fake death earlier to escape actual death.

"4204? Are you alright?" Han Fei had many things he wanted to ask. The bloody shadow was still recovering from the intrusion. He stood before the camera and studied Han Fei. In the end, he seemed to sense something from Han Fei and ended the video call.

"There is a rotten, bleeding heart residing in Room 4204. No one knows where he comes from and people rarely interact with him. But why was the senior monster from Room 4234 rampaging around Room 4204 earlier?" The male student was confused.

Han Fei was already in battle mode. He fired off a series of messages in the chat group. He warned everyone to stay in their room and be prepared for the worst. The message was received with suspicion, after all, Han Fei was new to the job. In fact, even the male student didn't quite get it. "The senior monster from Room 4234 is the earliest tenant at Ziggurat, he is extremely powerful but there is no need for such a warning, right?"

Other tenants also thought Han Fei was overreacting. No matter how powerful the senior monster was, he wouldn't dare to openly violate the rules of Ziggurat and charge into another tenant's room. Han Fei was quite desperate and angry seeing how innocent these 'people' were.

If it was just the senior monster, then indeed there was nothing to worry about, there were still many tenants who were more terrifying than him at Ziggurat, like the headless door guardian, the figurines in Zhuang Ren's family's home. But everyone missed an important detail. The senior monster was literally not himself at the moment. It was Han Fei's Evil Soul who was controlling him.

Han Fei at level 13 didn't have any offensive ability but he had already cleared Yi Ming Private Academy, ruined the meat packing plant, burnt down the security company, collapsed the Cattle Alley and now he was inside a Grade E Hidden Map. The senior monster looked as powerful as the female livestreamer. In other words, Han Fei's Evil Soul was now in control of a Large Lingered Spirit!

Just the thought of it feared Han Fei. What would a completely evil version of himself do after he acquired the power and ability of a Large Lingered Spirit?

One of the tenants said in the chat group that the senior monster wouldn't violate the manager's rules but for Han Fei, rules were made to be broken. These tenants should be thankful if the senior monster only broke into their rooms, Han Fei worried that there would be a bloodbath instead.

For a splitting moment, Han Fei believed this was the plan of the Butterfly all along. It made Han Fei's Evil Soul cleanse all the tenants. That way he would walk the path of the tester and slowly lose himself to become a bloody butcher.

"Don't be so worried, do you really think he'll destroy this whole building?" The male student consoled Han Fei. "Tonight is the Night of Resurrection where there is a paper doll procession and every family is conducting the soul-summoning ritual. The manager will intervene if the senior monster steps out of line."

"If I were you, I wouldn't count on Ziggurat's Manager, it is the kind of evil that you can't even begin to fathom." Han Fei didn't know how to convince the boy. He frowned in thought. Then he opened his menu and started to recite from his professional resume. "Everything I said is true, I've done many jobs before but because of the presence of that Evil Soul, everything is ruined."

"Ruined?"

"Not in the sense that you might understand it." Han Fei elaborated on his professional history, when he was a teacher, he killed the discipline teacher; when he went to interview at a convenience store, the

interviewer died after half an hour; after he switched a career path, all of his colleagues died; he joined the security company and incidentally attracted the Singer, the company was now covered in curse, and not even one employee remained.

The male student was shocked after he heard Han Fei's resume. He stared at the Ziggurat guard uniform Han Fei was wearing and his pale face started to twitch.

Chapter 373

373 Chaos

No matter if Han Fei was lying or not, the male student panicked seeing the security guard uniform Han Fei was wearing.

"Don't worry, it's fine to be around me. All the tragedies are the handiwork of that escaped soul. That's why I can't guarantee he won't do anything crazy, so you have to watch your own safety!" Han Fei said seriously. At this moment, he had a renewed understanding of himself.

"But at the end of the day, he is just a summoned soul, it should be fine." The male student's conviction was shaken.

"Have you seen a soul manage to take over a senior monster in less than half an hour after he was summoned? If this continues, the consequences will be unimaginable!" Han Fei was desperate. There were still 2 hours plus until 4.44 am. He had to find all of his missing souls before the Resurrection of Butterfly. Han Fei was worried that his own soul would become like the door guardian. Not only would he refuse to return, he would also figure out ways to kill the main host.

It was why Han Fei was so panicked after he saw the Evil Soul. However, Han Fei soon calmed down. Everything had two sides to it. The combination of his Evil Soul and the senior monster was scary but if he manipulated the situation well, they could be immensely helpful to Han Fei.

"The tenants inside Firefly's group are communicable, they can be considered allies. If my Evil Soul wants to cleanse the Ziggurat, I should remind all the tenants in the group to go into hiding. That way, only the tenants who are completely dominated by the Death Curse would be eliminated by my Evil Soul." At that moment, saving others was saving himself. Han Fei convinced the student and then had him persuade the other tenants with him. The tenants who were once aided by Firefly could end up as

Han Fei's aid so Han Fei didn't want anything to happen to them. The previously silent group chat suddenly became so busy. Han Fei was like a harbinger of doom, he was the siren that told everyone to go into hiding.

"Do not fight him head on! Do not converse with him! It's best if you go and hide, do not interact with him at all!" This was a living human telling all the ghosts to be careful of their safety in the middle of the night, it was strangely comforting.

The users who had been aided by Firefly before did listen to Han Fei's advice as deference to Firefly. However, the users who had their room numbers as Id refused to heed Han Fei's advice. From their perspective, it was already very kind that they didn't kill Han Fei directly. To have them follow Han Fei's orders? That was impossible.

Before Han Fei could say anything more, he heard the sound of glass breaking coming from the top floor. The last time he heard something like that, it was when the jumper woman appeared. He rushed to the window and tried to open it but he was stopped by the student. "One mustn't open the windows at the Ziggurat. The neighbourhood is surrounded by Mist of Death. The monsters hidden inside the mist might crawl into the building if you open the window."

"Then what will happen if you shatter the window and no one goes to fix it? Would the mist from outside continue to billow in?" Han Fei asked curiously.

"You're just here and you don't know many things. Ziggurat has its own life. After part of it is destroyed, it will heal and rebuild itself over time. It is like a human body, the wound will automatically scab and then heal."

"The Ziggurat is alive? Speaking of which, the whole neighbourhood is surrounded by this strange mist. Before I entered the place, I was already curious, where did the mist come from?" Han Fei voiced the question he had been carrying. Ziggurat was the most dangerous building in this area, the whole neighbourhood was shrouded in mist. In the beginning, he thought the mist was just a prop. It was not until the Unmentionable, Singer also lost its direction in the mist that Han Fei realized how scary this mist really was.

"Pure Hatred is above Lingering Spirit and Unmentionable is above Pure Hatred. With Butterfly's power, it shouldn't be able to summon such a thick mist. Does the mist exist before Butterfly took over the managerial position here?"

"I don't know either. But I do know that the grey mist, Death Curse all originate from the underground of the Ziggurat." The student answered honestly.

"Underground? Have you been there?"

"No, the underground can only be accessed through the elevator and I do not like cramped spaces so I have never taken the elevator." Hearing the student's answer, Han Fei was reminded of a scene from the Ziggurat game. All those Soul Chasers appeared to have come from the underground using the elevator.

"What is hidden underground?" Han Fei had just asked that question when the sound of glass shattering came from the top floor. It was mixed with brazen laughter. The glass shards rained down like crystal. They fell into the mist and disappeared like they were swallowed. The windows were shattered floor by floor. As the mist gushed into the building, the song outside the building became clearer. It numbed Han Fei's skull.

"It is very close to me! The person who is shattering the window intends to bring the Singer into the building?!" Hearing the familiar cackle, Han Fei knew who was behind this. His Evil Soul's plan was not bad. However with just the power of a Large Lingering Spirit, what could it do to an Unmentionable? Why was he taunting the Unmentionable? Had he lost his mind?

Han Fei assumed his Evil Soul would target the other tenants, he didn't expect him to shatter the windows on every floor instead. His Evil Soul was as unpredictable as the man himself.

"Is it me or the song outside seems to be calling your name?" The male student asked. Han Fei was not in the mood to explain the situation to the boy. His brain was filled with everything he knew about the Singer. The Evil Soul was crazy and adored chaos. One more uncertain factor would be added into the Ziggurat.

'The Evil Soul is clever to let the Singer into Ziggurat, the Singer will kill me on sight! However, the Singer will kill him too!' The windows were still breaking. When Butterfly arrived, the Ziggurat would be unrecognizable to it already.

The sound of the dirge, the Song and the glass breaking mixed together. The endless grey mist permeated the Ziggurat. Han Fei who stood beside the window witnessed everything. This scene was eerily spectacular. Yin energy was everywhere.

Chapter 374

374 It'll Be Fine [2in1]

The grey mist poured into Building 4. The windows couldn't repair themselves faster than the speed by which Han Fei's Evil Soul was destroying them. The tenants had not encountered something like this before. There had been fights between tenants but they would never harm the building itself. After all, if the building collapsed, it brought no benefits to anyone. It was no different from suicide.

However, this new soul was different from the others, he saw the rules at Ziggurat as something to be broken. It did not matter that he wished to die but he aimed to bring everyone else down with him!

This action finally convinced the male student of Han Fei's warning. Only someone that crazy would commit to the things Han Fei had described. The Evil Soul's actions were so illogically crazy that most of the tenants found them inexplicable.

Initially the tenants in the chat group didn't take Han Fei's warning seriously, some of them even wanted to exit their rooms to check out the situation themselves. It was not until the windows started to shatter and the Song echoed in their ears that they started to panic!

Standing beside the window, Han Fei took in the chaos created by the Evil Soul and he pondered how to control the man. The grey mist at Ziggurat surged towards Building 4. The mist was like a sea and the Singer was like a leviathan hidden in the depths, ramming against the building.

'When Butterfly returns, it will find the place leveled.' Han Fei was not kidding. The Singer noticed that there was something cooperating with it from inside Building 4. The Unmentionable focused its aggression on Building 4, trying to enter it through the grey mist. Its idea was good but it still couldn't break through the last layer of defense. It had been prowling outside the Ziggurat for days already, and throughout that period, its hatred and rancor towards Han Fei grew. It had decided to destroy this neighbourhood and spread its curse everywhere. The singer howled like it was bleeding!

The dirge inside the building was instantly suppressed. A giant shadow materialized in the mist. It appeared to be the Singer trying to squish its large body into the Ziggurat!

The Unmentionables were scarier than Pure Hatreds. The Ziggurat was having trouble resisting the Singer's attacks. Furthermore, it had the Evil Soul's support from inside. The whole building shook and cracks appeared on the walls. Just as the building was about to collapse, billows of grey mist came out from the underground!

The mist contained a heavier Death Curse, it was almost black in color. A normal person would be affected by the curse within the mist by just looking at it. The black mist gushed out from the underground to try to stop the Singer. Even with the aid from the Evil Soul, the Singer wouldn't be able to access the Building in a short amount of time.

'Why is there so much mist hidden underground? Is there a giant cemetery underneath? Whose bodies would be buried there?' Han Fei was shocked by his own speculation. A normal mass grave couldn't produce such a unique mist. He suspected there was not a mass grave underneath Ziggurat but instead a 'unique' body was buried there. 'Could it be Fu Sheng?' Han Fei couldn't confirm, he only knew that there was a big secret hidden underneath the Ziggurat. 'Perhaps this is the opening for me to go underground to check it out.'

The glass kept shattering. The senior monster had become the scariest and most cunning presence at Ziggurat. He couldn't be reasoned with and no one could defeat him.

"We better find a place to hide. Based on his speed, your Evil Soul will reach this floor soon." The male student stared at the security uniform Han Fei was wearing and the cracks that appeared on the wall. He assumed Han Fei's soul might massacre the tenants, now he realized the soul intended to bring the whole building down with him!

"I doubt hiding will be of any use. When he is close to me, he will sense my presence." Han Fei said honestly. "Kid, what is the chance of you winning the senior monster?"

"Absolutely zero." The student was afraid. He knew the man before him for less than 30 minutes but now their lives were tied together.

“Then you better come with me. Bring along Firefly and Lai Sheng, we’re heading underground.” Han Fei didn’t make this decision out of panic. Lai Sheng’s father was a Soul Chaser, he would know the layout of the underground better. When Han Fei was discussing the solution with the male student, the sound of windows shattering suddenly stopped.

“It sounds like it stopped on the 13th floor. Is there a scary tenant on that floor?” The Evil Soul was not going to break the windows in every room. He was not going to challenge all the tenants. He was only going for the weaker ones. He needed to tear out the biggest opening at the Ziggurat in the shortest amount of time.

“I don’t think so.” The male student was confused. “Does that mean we can stay?”

“Don’t leave your life in the hands of others, you should come underground with me.” Han Fei and the male student carried Firefly and Lai Sheng out of the room. By then, the paper doll procession was too busy to care about them anymore.

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“This is bad, this is bad! The sound of glass shattering is coming to this floor! We’re going to die soon!” Inside Room 4134, 2 males and 1 female hid behind the couch. They were the people Han Fei saved from the dresser world, the mother and Feng Ziyu’s unlucky neighbor as well as the original tenant of Room 4134, Hua Kui, the security guard at Ziggurat.

“In the end, I’ll die at this horrible place!” Feng Ziyu’s neighbor was a fat uncle. When Butterfly captured Feng Ziyu, the uncle was at Feng Ziyu’s place to complain about the noise. He was accidentally captured by the Butterfly and was abandoned in the dresser world.

“Stop fidgeting like a woman. You’re making it hard to focus!” Hua Kui in the only set of clean uniform was ready for a battle. He grabbed the flashlight and rubber baton tightly.

“We should just run.” The middle-aged man crawled up from the ground.

“Bai Sinian told us to wait for him here.” The silent woman finally spoke. “He will return, he promised to help him find my missing child. Also, didn’t you think that the laughter outside sound just like him?” Hua

Kui and the middle-aged man were too nervous to notice. The woman stopped speaking. She examined the picture in her palm. It was her son. He was cute, and innocent. He wore a pyjama with a little bear print.

“Shush! Something is coming!” Hua Kui was nervous. He stared out the window. The windows above his floor had all been shattered. The wind howled into the building. “It’s here...”

Strange noise sounded inside the corridor, it sounded like limbs crawling on the ceiling. The scariest thing was the sound stopped when it passed by Room 4134!

The 3 survivors looked at each other. Their eyes filled with terror. They didn’t dare to make any noise and prayed that the thing outside would leave them be. Perhaps some kind of evil God did hear that prayer because after a few seconds of silence, the anti-theft door started to grow with black blood vessels. The decomposing black blood seeped into the room.

Bang! The locked door was cracked open violently. Crazy laughter echoed into the room. Segments of skulls extended out from the spine. Two bloody arms slammed through the door. The curse swept through the security guard uniform in the living room and surged towards the spot behind the sofa. The 3 in Room 4134 were no match for the senior monster. The wave of yin energy gushed at them. They would not even feel the curse’s pain before their souls were grounded into smithereens.

“The two of you need to go! Try to survive!” Hua Kui was extremely virtuous. He held the baton and guarded the woman. The woman and the uncle backed away but they couldn’t open the window which was sealed by the Ziggurat’s curse.

‘There has to be a reason why such a weak ghost manages to survive for so long.’ A human face opened his eyes on the senior monster’s spine. The face looked just like Han Fei but deviousness etched between his forehead and his lips were curved in madness.

The Evil Soul was extremely clever, he saw something hidden in Hua Kui. Instead of crushing the man with yin energy, he tried to inject the senior monster’s curse into the man. If he succeeded, it was a good thing; if he failed, he lost nothing. The Death Curse morphed into a rope to drag Hua Kui to the back of the senior monster. Hua Kui saw the faces on the monster’s spine.

“Wait, it’s you, Bai Sinian!” When Hua Kui almost fainted from fear, he saw Han Fei’s face, he refused to believe his eyes! “The fuck! We haven’t seen each other for only a few nights, what happened to you?”

The Evil Soul’s eyes swept over Hua Kui, he instantly realized something. “There were some accidents when I tried to combine with my family. I lost part of my memory. Do you know me?” Han Fei’s Evil Soul was as cunning as Han Fei. He knew what to say at any occasion.

“Of course! You are Bai Sinian, the new security guard hired by Ziggurat. You led both of them here.” Hua Kui sighed in relief, he didn’t expect to still be alive. “Bai Sinian is back, there’s no need to run anymore.” The woman stopped running. The middle-aged man hid behind the woman. His legs were shaking. He didn’t even dare to look at the monster.

“You two also know me?” The Evil Spirit’s voice was laced with danger, only a few people dared to lie to him.

“You saved both of us. You’re a very kind person.”

“Kind person? Me?” The hatred on the face deepened. ‘It is as I expected. No wonder when I tried to let the powerful ghost from outside into the building, there was a resistance from my heart. So it is due to my kindness. But shouldn’t kind people go to heaven, why am I in hell instead?’

“You helped us escape from danger and even helped to search for my missing boy. We are at fault that you’ve become something like this.” The woman looked at the monster and felt pained and saddened.

“I can sense pain from you. Are you feeling sorry for me?” The Evil Soul controlled the senior monster to grab the woman and placed her before him. He sniffed the woman and looked into the woman’s face. “Tell me everything about my past and personality. Include every word that I have told you! Perhaps that way I can change back from being a monster, and find the past me.”

The woman’s body was bound by curses. She looked into Han Fei’s handsome and dark face. She didn’t hide anything and told him how kind and precious Han Fei was.

“Such a good person is sent to hell? Is that fair?” The Evil Spirit mobilized the senior monster’s arm and locked the trio on the monster’s back. He then grinned wickedly at the window. “I’m running out of time

so we'll talk as we move. Don't stop talking, tell me more!" He focused the yin energy on the window, it was the only way to break the seal on the window.

After all the windows were shattered on the 13th floor, the black mist underground exploded again. The black mist gushed towards the Singer.

"Old man, the grave that you mentioned has been activated. The curse from the grave is now tussling with the Singer outside. That means it would have no time to stop us, right?" The black mist floated into Room 4134. The Evil Soul opened its arms. "Since the world is not fair, then what is the point of surviving? Don't worry, I will shatter all the chains on you. Who dares to stop me, I will crush them into pieces!"

The voice chilled the room. Amidst the echoes of crazed laughter, the senior monster left Room 4134 carrying the 3 hostages with him. The Evil Soul whistled to sense the location of the Singer. He rapidly arrived at the first floor. The window at the corner of the 1st floor corridor was furthest from the Singer. Currently all the black mist at the Ziggurat was gathering towards the Singer. The Evil Spirit finally found the opening he was looking for.

"Old man, your family has been carrying the Death Curse for dynasty. After your family dies, they will come to this place. Do you really wish this curse on your grandson?" The Evil Soul looked at the boarded up window at the corner. "Your juniors have all been embedded into your spine. Your back is supported by the heads of your family. It is time to end this horrible life." The character Death appeared on the thin arms. The senior monster's muddled eyes reddened with blood.

"My appearance is a coincidence and a necessity! I can feel the anger and hatred you've been suppressing for decades. Bind yourself to me, instead of being kept like livestock, why not use this opportunity to fight back?!"

The senior monster grabbed at the wooden planks on the window. The hatred within him was fully ignited by the Evil Soul.

Chapter 375

375 The Curse

Building 4 had 24 floors and the senior monster lived on the 23rd floor. He was the ghost closest to the top floor and was the oldest tenant here. The tenants here had never seen him murder or lose his patience. The senior monster stayed in his room and was surprisingly nice for someone of his strength. If someone accidentally entered Room 4234, they would be pushed out by an unknown force.

If the 24th floor was the most dangerous floor then the 23rd floor could be considered the safest. Every tenant knew of the senior monster, but like the male student, none of them was frightened of him. But their impression was going to change that night when the senior monster met with Han Fei's Evil Soul.

The senior monster's only blood relative was summoned to Ziggurat and his only living legacy was corrupted by an evil spirit. If he didn't want his legacy to end, he had no choice but to cooperate with the evil spirit.

Initially, the senior monster was only playing along until he could find the chance to yank the spirit out. But as they spent more time together, the senior monster realized the spirit seemed to be more familiar with the rules of Ziggurat than he was. In fact, compared to his own grandson, the senior monster started to hope that the evil spirit was his own blood kin instead.

His seemingly crazy and lawless actions were carefully calculated. His madness was controlled by an absolutely rational mind. This kind of person was born for the cryptic world. If the evil spirit stayed on his own grandson, perhaps the blood curse which had been troubling the senior monster's lineage could be stopped.

In the endless darkness, the senior monster saw the hope given by the spirit. Therefore, he decided to fully cooperate with the spirit, to grasp this chance to escape. His thin skin surfaced with black and red tattoos. Death Curses were forced out from his body. The 'heart' that had been hibernating within the senior monster's chest had been awakened!

Scabs covered with curses fell. The black heart pumped with unimaginable yin energy. The blood of his entire lineage flowed through his body! The human faces on the spine howled. The senior monster's falling hair was dyed red. His thin body rapidly expanded and his wrinkles smoothed out.

The Deaths inside the monster were forced out. His black heart awakened with blood. When the first bead of blood dripped, the black heart cracked. Hatred that had been suppressed for generations exploded!

His people would never have eternal rest, they had all been turned into monsters, how could he forget such deep-seated resentment?

The arms which had plumped up several times peeled off the wooden boards. The senior monster stopped hiding his hatred. He became the first tenant at the Ziggurat to challenge the manager. His eyes were crimson. The monster crushed the windows sealed up by the manager. As the grey mist rushed at him, the senior monster walked out from the Ziggurat without any hesitation!

The moment he did, the faces on the monster's spine wailed in pain. The word Death repeated itself endless on his children and grandchildren's faces. The Death Curse left behind on the senior monster had been triggered. He would die if he left Ziggurat!

The blood from the black heart coursed through the body. The grey mist was unable to stop the senior monster. At that moment, a wisp of song came from the black mist.

"Why are you still hesitating? Give all your hatred to me!" All the faces on the senior monster's spine were twisted from pain... except one. The face glared with vindication and shouted madly!

The surface of the black heart completely shattered. The hatred buried inside the senior monster burned through the old man's veins like fire. The senior monster's blood exploded in the grey mist, like a red firework falling into the black sea!

The senior monster used his arms to tear away the mist. While most of the mist was distracted by the Singer, he punched his way through the weakest point of the Ziggurat. An opening appeared in the mist. After the senior monster walked through the opening, he and his family would gain freedom. The senior monster had imagined this for generations. He resisted the pain from his body, fought them with his hatred and dragged his body towards the opening.

As the mist regathered, the senior monster definitely was quick enough to escape but when he was one step away from leaving, the senior monster suddenly stopped. Inside the monster's heart, buried deep inside the monster's source of hatred, a cocoon covered in Death started to break open.

Perhaps because the butterfly was forced to surface ahead of time, it was extremely ugly. Its tattered wings were imprinted with the faces of the senior monster's later generation. It was born from the hatred of the senior monster's lineage. It was connected to the entire bloodline of the senior monster.

Once it flapped its wings, the senior monster's children and grandchildren would all die. The Death Curses on the body were merely the smokescreen, the cocoon inside the heart was the reason Butterfly allowed the senior monster such freedom at Ziggurat.

"Old man, have you no idea that your heart has been tampered with? Someone wanted to use you and your whole lineage to cultivate a bug!" The Butterfly had lied to the senior monster all along. The thing would never leave a threat by his side. Since it chose to keep the senior monster, then it could only be that he served some kind of purpose. Blood tears flowed out from his eyes, reddening his face.

The Evil Soul controlled the senior monster's arm to pluck away the heart of hatred. The senior monster was surprised by this as well. When his fingers approached the heart, the butterfly's broken wings flapped. Instantly the senior monster's spine broke. The skulls crushed. They looked fragile like they could disintegrate at any moment. Without the heart, the senior monster would die immediately. The family that the senior monster carried literally on his back would perish as well, but Han Fei's Evil Soul might survive.

With the exit just a step away, the Evil Soul could have easily escaped out from the Ziggurat alone. The hands covered in curse reached for the heart but stopped above it. The Evil Soul hesitated and put the hands away. "I can't do it, I am a good person after all!"

The opening narrowed. The Evil Spirit glared viciously at the mutated butterfly inside the monster's heart. "The real curse has always been inside you. Your deepest secret has long since been exposed to the manager. You're so pitiable that I can't even bring myself to kill you. But worry not, as long as it is a curse, there is a solution, for example, killing the person who planted the curse." The Evil Curse rambled on fearlessly. "You've been thinking about making an escape but the thing never intended for you and your family to live from the beginning. You should know what to do now, right?"

He was one step away from the exit but he couldn't reach it. Facing such a despairing situation, the Evil Soul didn't look disappointed, it was as if he had predicted this outcome. If anything, his eyes burned with even greater rancor.

"I've already told you, power is only meaningful when you use it. Since the manager never intended for you to live, then why live by its rules anymore?" The Evil Soul's voice echoed in the mist, penetrating every soul.

“Kill! Murder! Destroy!” He shouted without care. “Use everything the manager has left behind to strengthen yourself! Once you kill enough, we’ll become the Death Curse no one dares to go against anymore!”

Chapter 376

376 Child Recovery Service

The senior monster stood at the opening. He looked at the world outside the grey mist before he slowly turned around. His red eyes were no longer confused. Hatred and resentment weaved in his eyes. The senior monster used action to inform the Evil Soul of his choice.

The spine extended and the human faces were polluted by hatred. Their blood bond amplified the hatred! The senior monster’s body expanded further. The hatred in his heart was boiling as he stomped his way back into the Ziggurat.

Without the senior monster, the grey mist rapidly recovered. As it was about to close, a blood red table knife sliced through it!

The red lips moved and a female voice echoed in the mist, “His laughter came from this way, I am sure that was him.” Bloody dress stuck to her skin, her every step radiating with arresting beauty, sickening beauty, maddening beauty.

Multiple hands kept the opening from closing. The sounds of sobbing appeared. A boy holding an urn followed behind the woman. There were tears on his face and spikes of despair protruded out from his body.

“It does sound like him.” One tall and one short figure exuded a heavy air of misfortune. After they entered the mist, the tall one ate the small one. “To lure the Singer to the Ziggurat and while the Singer is dealing with the grey mist, he hit the weakest spot of the mist. He then laughed to signal to us his location, only he will do something like that. But how would he know that we’d come looking for him?”

“Just get in! The boss’ laughter sounded different from before, I suspect he might be in danger.” A man in a convenience store outfit rushed towards the Ziggurat. His only eye glinted dangerously.

As the mist closed around him, black eyes opened in the mist. Beside the single-eyed man was a young girl. Her eyes were closed and she held a screaming girl doll in her arm. These people shuffled into the Ziggurat from the opening. The man at the back of the group lifted his head. He wore a cap and a normal windbreaker. He looked fragile but no one wanted to stay too close to him.

There was a rumor at Happiness Neighbourhood, 8 people had died inside a room and their bodies were pieced together haphazardly. Because the creation was too strong and its resentment too heavy the manager was forced to cut them apart and keep their body parts at different spots of the neighbourhood. The death in the grey mist pierced through the skin. The weak man looked at Ziggurat and slowly removed his cap. He had a very normal face and his name was Wei Youfu. "Han Fei, we've come to fetch you."

The group of people didn't waste any more time. They walked in the shadows, hid their presence and slipped into Ziggurat through the opening!

...

The purest death from the underground was triggered by the Evil Soul. Endless death tussled with the Singer. The building's shell started to crack. It was getting destroyed faster than it could heal. "A building named by Death but it is somehow alive, this is just disgusting!"

The Evil Soul controlled the senior monster to smash through the wall. The inner part of the wall started to bleed like actual human skin. "The manager will return at 4.44 am, we still have plenty of time."

Standing inside the corridor, small black blood vessels crawled out from the senior monster's body, they were like roots of an ancient tree. They crawled into the rooms through the cracks and gaps. The roots were black before they entered the rooms but eventually they would turn red. The red blood was heavy with pain and hatred, they would all become the senior monster's food. To prevent himself from being targeted by the manager, the senior monster locked himself up inside his room. He thought that way, he could somehow survive at the Ziggurat but the manager never intended for him to live in the first place.

The hatred in his heart exploded and no one at the Ziggurat could stop the senior monster!

He moved up the floors, massacring everything and everyone in the way! The tenants who didn't hide well were all food for the Evil Soul. To save time, the senior monster didn't stop. But when he reached the 3rd floor, he slowed down.

The Evil Soul's face slowly turned to glance at Hua Kui and the woman on the senior monster's back. The duo shivered under the Evil Soul's gaze. The senior monster stopped moving. His roots-like vessels rushed towards Room 4034.

...

"It doesn't sound too quiet tonight, the 4 of us better be careful."

"It is never peaceful on the annual Night of Resurrection. But as long as we have control of this Soul Chaser, the other Soul Chaser will not come after us."

"Correct, the situation outside has nothing to do with us."

Room 4034 had a table in the middle of it. 4 gamblers were playing mahjong. Their death portraits were placed in the middle of the living room and the table was scattered with paper money.

"Are we sure it's fine for us to trap this Soul Chaser like this? We've tricked quite a few wandering spirits this year." The gambler to the west of the table said as he played a tile. His eyes glanced towards the boy trapped behind the 4 death portraits. The boy had his head lowered and he wore a bloody pyjama with a little bear print. He was like a broken doll that had no self-consciousness.

"Don't jinx it. We're fine every year so why would it be different this year? When the other Soul Chasers sense that there is a Soul Chaser in our room, they will not come inside, that is the rules of the Ziggurat." The gambler to the south said.

"Why did both of you play the tiles of West Wind?" The gambler to the east also played the same tile. He glanced around casually. "There is a rumor that if every person at the table plays the tiles of West Wind, they will all die and head towards the western nirvana. Dare to try?"

“We’re already in this state, why would we still fear death?” The gambler to the north pulled a West Wind. As the 3 other gamblers stared at him, he ultimately decided to keep the tile. “But I’m not superstitious like you people, Yi Tong!”

When he put down the mahjong tile, the man realized he lost control of his body. Sensing something, he looked up. The ceiling was covered in intertwining black blood vessels.

“What, what are those?!”

The front door cracked. Before he could get an answer, his chest was punctured by a hand. Red blood burned through his body. His broken body was tossed to the side. The Evil Soul wiped away the blood from his palm. His eyes swept the mahjong table.

He swiped his palm down and the black vessels on the ceiling pulled down the wall. There were screams as the Evil Soul cackled. He flipped over the 4 death portraits on the table and single-handedly picked up the Soul Chaser boy.

“Hey, look, is this your child?”

Chapter 377

377 Nothing I Won't Kill

The senior monster’s nails were covered in endless curse. Just the sight of it was horrifying. The monster’s nails pierced through the boy’s red clothes. They hooked through the boy’s collar but not his skin.

A large and imposing senior monster was capturing a boy in a set of pyjamas, this looked very surreal. Blood was everywhere. Curse slammed at the walls. The cracked walls hid broken limbs and meat. But under that circumstance, the scariest voice slowed down.

The woman locked onto the senior monster’s back sobbed openly when she saw the boy. She shouted at her unconscious child, “Where have you been? I’ve been looking so hard for you!”

The woman's injured arms wrestled with the chain on her body. The Evil Soul's blinked and the cursed chains on the senior monster's back loosened instantly. The woman ran towards her child. She had never cried this hard even when facing death. With his nails pinching the boy's collar, the Evil Spirit placed the boy before the woman.

Finally this was the reunion she had been waiting for. The woman opened her arms to hug her boy but when the woman got close, the boy who was unresponsive to the world suddenly lifted his head. There was no human emotion in his eyes. His small hands reached out from the sleeves and stabbed at his mother's heart. The hands stopped 1 inch away from the woman's chest. The boy was held back by the senior monster, he was unable to move a step forward.

"Your child is a Soul Chaser and you're his target. The first instinct when he sees you is to kill you." The Evil Soul stared at the distance of 1 inch and confusion flashed in his eyes. He did grab the boy's collar but he didn't use much strength. So technically, the boy could have crossed the distance of 1 inch quite easily. To the Evil Soul's surprise, the boy had stopped on his own. This Soul Chaser managed to go against the order the manager had inputted in him.

Butterfly liked to toy with humanity. In its eyes, having loved ones murder each other was 'art'. It had ordered the boy to harvest his mother's soul but due to various factors, the boy didn't fulfill that order. The boy was unwilling to kill his mother. Even after he became a Soul Chaser, he would not claim his mother's heart.

The woman studied the boy before her with tears on her face. The worry that she carried for so long melted. She had so many things to tell her boy. But the boy could no longer give her any response, it was like he couldn't even understand her.

As the woman called her boy's name, the Evil Soul appeared to be communicating with the senior monster, "Didn't you say all the Soul Chasers are the manager's puppets? Aren't they supposed to be emotionless and senseless? So why did this boy stop voluntarily? How could a puppet have their own emotion?"

"Human soul is complex? Old man, I'm helping you, I hope you won't give me wrong information again, it will affect my assessment." The evil gaze wandered between the mother and the boy. In the end, the Evil Soul used the cursed chains to bind the woman and her child to the monster's back. "Stop crying! After the manager is killed, all the Soul Chasers will return to normal."

The Evil Soul studied the woman and her child. There was something invisible between them, and that was something the Evil Soul was lacking. This was the first time he felt incomplete.

Agitation colored his madness. The Evil Soul slammed his fists repeatedly on the gamblers in Room 4034. He only stopped when the floor was cracked.

The angered senior monster and the Evil Spirit continued their rampage. Everywhere they passed, all the walls would be dyed red. The couplets shed themselves from the door.

“4044?” The corridor changed and the walls started to twist. Paper money fluttered everywhere and blood pooled on the ground. They appeared to have arrived at the edge of hell. The Evil Spirit unlocked the people on the senior monster’s back and his eyes stared at one of the rooms. A headless door guardian slowly walked out from a blood red door, he dragged a sharp guillotine knife with him.

Heavy footsteps echoed inside the corridor. Decapitated heads rolled out from behind the door. Their mouths were repeating the same thing—No passing through here!

The headless door guardian stood among the heads. It turned its body around to face the senior monster.

“That’s the door guardian you speak of?” The Evil Soul didn’t seem apprehensive. His lips cracked open to smile brilliantly. Seeing that, the door guardian lifted the guillotine blade. The human head beside him slowly morphed to take on Han Fei’s appearance. Then the face said, “I’ve already let you go once, don’t push your luck.”

Noting the face beside the door guardian, the Evil Soul chuckled, “Not everyone is supposed to have my face. Since you have used my face, then I’ll have to crack your door.” The Evil Soul’s tone was sharp and threatening. When the headless door guardian heard him, he readied his blade. The blade reflected the Evil Soul’s pale face. The 4th floor corridor started to change again. The human heads morphed and twisted, they all started to look like Han Fei. They chanted something as blood vessels crawled out from their necks to gush towards the door guardian. As the blood collected before him, the door guardian raised his arm. The blood vessels constructed a puppet of the Evil Soul. The guardian slashed the blade at the puppet’s forehead!

Large amount of yin energy exploded from the senior monster, the walls on the 4th floor caved in. Blood mist evaporated from the puppet. When the mist dispersed, the door guardian still stood where he was, but the senior monster's arms were on the ground.

The door guardian aimed to kill the Evil Spirit but at the crucial moment, the senior monster stepped in to block the fatal blow.

Fresh blood oozed out from his forehead, dyeing half of the Evil Soul's face. His eye opened the blood despite the blood and he allowed the blood to flow into his mouth.

"The manager's watchdog is so weak?" The crimson lips parted. The Evil Soul's bloody face stared at the door guardian. He uttered, "Give me all your hatred, let me use your lineage."

The skulls on the senior monster's spine screamed. The hatred in his heart was unlocked. Black flames burnt through the corridor. The doors bent from the flame. The senior monster's red eyes glowed with the shadow of the Evil Spirit. The senior monster's lips opened and the Evil Soul's voice spoke, "A door guardian without a head doesn't deserve to be a guardian."

Chapter 378

378 Old Habits Die Hard

Hatred burned like black flame from the heart and spread through his whole body! To use hatred, one had to suffer bone-breaking pain. Only by burning oneself could one burn others.

Before the guillotine knife fell for the second time, the senior monster used an impossible speed to charge at the headless guardian. The disfigured feet cracked the ground. The senior monster stormed ahead. As his hatred tore apart the bloody puppet, the guillotine knife fell on his shoulder. The blade cut through his body easily but it was unable to slice through the senior monster's hatred.

The blade was stuck inside the hatred. The senior monster didn't pull the blade out but used this opportunity to close the distance! The Evil Soul had a natural instinct for fighting. He was more familiar with close-quarter combat even though he had gotten immense power. The chopped arms regrew from hatred. The arms of despair plunged into the headless guardian's neck. The senior monster laughed as he tore apart the door guardian. All of his family was trapped inside the Ziggurat and they were turned

into monsters by the curse. Now all of his hope had been extinguished so only murder and death were left in him.

“The kindling of hatred?” While the senior monster fought with the door guardian, a gasp came from inside Room 4044. Someone appeared to be watching everything from inside. “The flame of hatred has started to burn, if this continues, this Lingering Hatred will eventually be dominated by hatred. With another Pure Hatred, there would be another factor to consider at the Ziggurat.”

The whole 4th floor was shattered and broken from the fight but the door to Room 4044 was spared. The voice inside the room was soft. Suddenly, there were footsteps behind the door and then someone knocked on the door of Room 4044 from inside.

When the door guardian heard the knocking, he instantly pulled back all of his blood vessels. The heads on the ground became unrecognizable again as they chanted something incoherent. Normally speaking, a fight between ghosts and monsters would not end until one party was dead. However the headless guardian was different from a normal ghost. After he heard the knocking, even if he might be heavily injured, he moved towards Room 4044.

The Evil Soul which controlled the senior monster used this opportunity to introduce more wounds on the headless guardian. Unfortunately the guardian was too close to the door. When he was close enough, the headless guardian abandoned all the heads in the corridor by detonating all of them, creating a blood mist. At that moment, he returned to the door.

The Evil Soul stared at Room 4044. During the fight, he heard the whispering and knocking too. It made him even more curious about this room. “The higher the number of 4 at the Ziggurat, the more dangerous the room is. There is someone else living here?”

Blood dripped from his chin. The Evil Soul slammed the arms burning with hatred at the door but it didn't even budge. “Do you think you can hide forever?”

Since the frontal assault didn't work, the Evil Soul turned to the rooms beside Room 4044. He easily cracked his way into them. The walls that were adjacent to Room 4044 though also refused to yield. It was like Room 4044 existed in a completely different dimension from the rest of the Ziggurat.

“Tsk.” The chilly gaze glared at the blood red door. The Evil Soul’s ghastly smile and the blood on his face made him look like a demon from hell. The manager would be resurrected at 4.44 am. The Evil Soul didn’t forget about that. He didn’t linger at Room 4044 for too long but instead ran upstairs. “Escape? No, I simply have a better idea. Old man, just stay in there and don’t move, I will massacre everything in our way!”

He locked the few people back on the monster’s back. The senior monster clobbered his way upstairs. He cleared the floor one by one. He feasted on all the useful ghosts and soon arrived at the 14th floor.

“This room also has three 4’s, I wonder what adventure we’ll find here.” Stepping on the paper money, the senior monster used the Soul Ladder and climbed into Room 4144, the room of Zhuang Ren’s family. Instead of strong opponents, the room was eerily common. This was a very normal family, it made the large senior monster look out of place.

“They’re conducting the ritual too? Who is Zhuang Ren, why does that sound so familiar? But I can’t remember it... This family know me as well?” Ever since he saw that something between the mother and her Soul Chaser son, the feeling of incompleteness grew within the Evil Soul. He desperately wanted to know what he had lost.

Dragging the impossibly large body, the Evil Soul opened one of the bedroom doors. Zhuang Ren’s eldest daughter was sleeping in bed. She seemed to be in some nightmare. Her brows were creased together as she mumbled things like, “Father, save me,” and so on.

“Father?” The Evil Soul’s cursed hand lingered over the girl’s head. Mercy came easier to him after it was given for the first time. The Evil Soul spared the daughter and turned away to try another bedroom room.

Inside the bedroom, a girl stood on tiptoe on the bed. She faced away from the door and it just looked creepy. Her head slowly turned. When the Evil Soul tried to approach, a figurine rolled out from underneath the girl’s bed. The figurine was about the size of one’s palm. The face was roughly hewn but it looked like it was smiling.

“Room 4044 has a door guardian, Room 4144 has a holy figurine. These are a bunch of ghosts, why the insistence on religious images?” With a slam, the Evil Soul crushed the figurine. The ghost inside the figurine didn’t even have the chance to show itself before it was shattered. The figurine cracked and left behind a paper note and a strand of half white hair.

The giant sound had awakened everyone inside the room. The door to the main bedroom opened. Zhuang Ren's wife stared at the Evil Soul with a wintry gaze as she held a Soul Bell in her hand. She immediately rang the bell but the next second her body was slammed into by the Evil Soul. Strangely enough, when her body shattered, the woman's skin started to whiten. Instead of blood, she disintegrated into a mound of paper. This woman was a paper doll!

The Soul Bell fell to the ground and rolled to the Evil Soul's side.

Small noises came from under the second daughter's bed. The figurines opened their eyes. They crawled out from the bed.

He stomped and crushed the Soul Bell. Seeing the cascade of figurines, the Evil Soul had a bright idea. He would lure all the figurines to Room 4044. Even if he was to destroy the figurines, he would do it around that room. He wanted to mess up the balance between the two rooms and then murder the two 'figures of religions' inside those two rooms.

"That thought came so naturally to me, have I been doing things like that often?"

Chapter 379

379 Reunion [2in1]

The Evil Soul didn't fear the 'guardians' at Ziggurat. In his eyes, there were only 2 kinds of people at Ziggurat, the type he could kill and the type he would kill with outside help. The space under the second daughter's bed appeared to be connected to another world. Countless figurines crawled out. They were of varying sizes and had different expressions.

Using his left leg, the Evil Soul stomped the figurines that came close to him. The hair that was trapped inside the figurines floated into the air. "The hair is hidden inside the figurines. Were the figurines worshipping the owner of the hair or the owner of the hair is the master of the figurines?"

The yellow papers with various Death Curses were torn apart. After the figurines were shattered, the Death Curses bound themselves around the hair. Even after destruction, they would stay with the hair forever. Waving his arms, the Evil Soul slammed at the bed with a wicked grin.

The bed collapsed. The figurines crawled out from the broken bed frame. They gushed out like waves. "Each figurine has a strand of hair inside them? Human beings have around 100000 hair, are there 100000 figurines under the bed then?" The Evil Soul's bloody lips curled. "How cheap can you get?"

A singular figurine was unable to affect the Evil Spirit. But when faced with hundreds of them, even the senior monster started to wound. The ghosts hidden inside the figurines were very unique. Perhaps they had spent a long time with the hair, the presence of the hair's owner rubbed off on them and they became immune to most of the Death Curse. There was constant shattering. A yin energy storm swept through the room. There were broken figurines everywhere.

However, the owner of the hair appeared to be an Unmentionable. Even the senior monster's black flame of hatred couldn't burn through the hair. As the figurines shattered, the Evil Soul collected the hair. He had no idea what they were for but his instinct told him the hair was very dangerous. He planned to send them inside Room 4044. After ensuring he had been made the target by all the figurines, the Evil Soul escaped from the room with a taunting laugh.

The senior monster's large body crawled on the wall and endless figurines trailed behind him.

"Come! Let your hatred burn through my body!" The senior monster's arm yanked off the door to Room 4144 and he scurried away with it. He had the figurines trail down the building with him. That way, the tenants could share in his pressure by helping him butcher the figurines. The figurines crawled or ran as they followed the senior monster. At Ziggurat, no one dared to approach Room 4144. Since every tenant here was conducting soul-summoning rituals, none of them dared to desecrate any holy or religious symbol. When they saw the figurines, the tenants would burn a joss stick for them.

But now the Evil Soul and the senior monster had fully challenged the Ziggurat's taboo. They had not only smashed the figurines, they planned to murder all the 'guardians' inside the building.

As time progressed, the figurines that came out of Room 4144 became more alive. Their expressions became more human. The strangest thing was some of the figurines started to possess body temperature like living humans.

In the dark corridor, the senior monster slithered through like a snake. The blood trail he left behind was immediately dominated by the figurines. The dirge was congregating at the spot where the Singer was.

The dark mist was also attracted by the Singer. This gave the Evil Soul a perfect opportunity to unleash himself.

Listening to the Song, even the senior monster would show feelings of fear. 'Which madman brought such a scary thing here? Without the Singer, I wouldn't be able to convince the old man so easily.' The Evil Soul raced to the 4th floor and slammed through the safety door. He let the hatred burn down the walls and lured the figurines to the door of Room 4044.

The ghosts inside the figurines were incensed by Evil Soul and the latter wished to crush them as well, but the location had to be carefully picked. It had to be in front of the door guardian. The shattered figurines fluttered through the air. The Evil Soul used various methods to push the cursed paper and hair towards the door of Room 4044. Initially, he didn't think much but soon he and the figurines noticed something. When the hair inside the figurines were about to touch the door, the blood red door would consume the hair directly. The door where the door guardian was would surface with human figures and strange words. The color of the door guardian would become faded, like its power was slowly being absorbed by the curse and hair.

The Evil Soul also noticed that the hair inside the figurine appeared to be able to phase through the seal of Room 4044 easily. In other words, the hair perhaps came from Room 4044 originally. The owner of the hair was the original owner of Room 4044.

When the hair was first stuffed into Room 4044, there was no response from inside the room. The owner appeared to have decided to keep on watching like they usually did. However as more hair melted into the door, some of the broken figurines started to pry at the door as if they wanted to crawl through the gap to get into the room to retrieve the hair. Gradually, the figurines crawled all over the door of Room 4044. The blood red door started to change. The terrifying image of the door guardian was fading!

Seeing this, the Evil Soul's eyes glinted. He exploded the hatred on his body and raised a tsunami from it! All the figurines were slammed against Room 4044, the hair inside the figurines disappeared into the door. As the redness of the door lightened, the Evil Soul who was covered in figurines slammed into the door.

Bang! The crack spread from the centre of the door. The door was like a broken heart. Under the repeated slamming by the senior monster, it trembled anxiously. At that moment, the dirge sounded inside the building. The dirge who was fighting with the Singer seemed to sense something and hurried back to the Ziggurat. The dirge echoed in his ears but it was unable to drown out the Evil Soul's cackle. He studied the crack on the door and became more violent!

His eyes opened behind the curtain of blood. Murderous intent poured out from his pupils! One after another slamming, the Evil Soul intended to tear through the Heart Room of Room 4044!

Countless numbers of figurines had been shattered, the senior monster's body was wounded but the black flame of hatred burned brighter, like he was close to breaking through a threshold. The door had loosened. The cracks spread from the centre and connected to the walls of Ziggurat. With a final slam from the senior monster, the door of Room 4044 was finally blasted open!

Room 4044 was the home of many dressers. Each dresser had a pair of blood red doors! This room appeared to be the intersecting point of all the dresser worlds, it was one of the hearts of Ziggurat. "The door guardian on the door has completely disappeared, why has the manager's watch dog gone into hiding?"

The Evil Soul poked his head into Room 4044 with figurines hanging on his body. Initially the figurines chased after the Evil Soul due to hatred but after the door to Room 4044 was open, the figurines were attracted by something else and all of them crawled towards one of the dressers. The 4th floor slowly returned to silence. At the corner of the stairwell, a red high heel stepped on the broken figurine.

"Is that our building manager? How did he become uglier than you?" Lee Zai slowly walked out from the shadows. He looked at Drake beside him with uncertainty.

"I don't know, I haven't noticed this kind of presence from the boss before. He has always been a gentle person. He is a light that can warm others." Drake carried a board-like object that was covered under a black cloth. The thing was very heavy, even for the Medium Lingering Spirit Drake.

"That is his voice but it is not his taste." The blood red table knife sliced through the Yin energy in the corridor. Xu Qin's expression was terrifying, like she was ready for a massacre.

"Then should we follow him? That room looks dangerous. We currently do not have any information. Running into the room might land us in a trap." While they were discussing it, the black cloth on Drake's back suddenly slipped off on its own. He was carrying a huge mirror. The moment the black cloth fell, everyone near the mirror scattered. Those who were too late immediately closed their eyes to not see their reflection in the mirror.

“The man who has joined with the giant ghost is indeed the person we’re looking for, but that is not the complete him. That is just one of his 3 souls.” A male voice came from the mirror. After he spoke, everyone else was silent. After a while, it was Drake who carried the mirror that asked, “What do you mean by 1 of 3 souls? Mirror God, you have to be clearer than that! The man’s behavior is somewhat different from the boss I know...” Drake looked at the broken corridor and the smashed figurines... Wasn’t this something Han Fei would usually do?

“The reason humans became ghosts is because they have lingering resentment. But the most unique thing about human beings is their soul. Every person’s soul is different, they possess the essence of a person.” Mirror God is the oldest tenant at Happiness Neighbourhood, no one knew where he came from but the man inside the mirror seemed to know a lot about souls. “The thing that has joined with the large ghost is Han Fei’s Evil Soul. He represents the man’s most basic desire. To put it simply, what you see is the man’s most authentic self without any constraint.”

“The most authentic self? The building manager is so dangerous?” Lee Zai glanced at the Mirror God. After he realized his reflection was not in the mirror, he became more courageous.

“This version of himself will not hide his thoughts and doesn’t care for the rules, but then again he has the power to do so. When a normal person loses their soul, they will become muddled and lost. The missing soul will also soon disappear but Han Fei’s soul is clearly different. They are very special.” This was the first time the Mirror God had said so many words.

“Since he is Han Fei’s soul then I’ll have to help him.” Xu Qin stepped over the pieces of figurines. Without a glance at their faces, her fingers caressed the human doily on one of her table knives and she strode into Room 4044. The other figures followed behind her wordlessly.

The dresser doors inside Room 4044 were all open. They were filled with blood stained clothes. Most of the dressers were like a split-open stomach, they kept leaking blood. Following the trail of the broken figurines, Xu Yin and the others from Happiness Neighbourhood entered the bedroom of Room 4044.

This bedroom did not have a bed, but instead it had a giant dresser. Currently all the figurines had entered this dresser. The door of the dresser opened to reveal endless bloody clothes. The clothes echoed with weak pleas and begging.

“I am a curse so the thing here can’t hurt me. I’ll go in to take a lot, the rest of you should wait here.”

“I’m carrying the Mirror God, we can help.”

“Despair and Death are my least feared things. Even though my tears are dry, my crying can still help you. I’m going with you.” In the end, everyone entered the dresser. Pulling away the clothes, the group from Happiness Neighbourhood soon realized something strange. Every figurine that entered the dresser, whether they were broken or not, had on shrunken bloody clothes. The figurines inside the dresser looked even more human-like. They appeared to be coming alive under the influence of some kind of power.

“Such a place is hidden inside Ziggurat?”

Most of the bloody clothes had been worn by the figurines so their sight cleared. Soon they arrived at the centre of the dresser world.

The senior monster controlled by the Evil Soul was fighting the headless door guardian. The monster bit on the guardian’s arm. His body was almost chopped through by the guardian but he didn’t mind it. The whole dresser world could hear his unhinged laughter.

As the wounds appeared on the senior ghost’s body, the brighter his fire of hatred burned. After another battle, both the senior monster and the door guardian crashed to the ground.

This time the senior monster didn’t get back up to fight, instead he turned his head around. Evil Soul was a perfectly rational madman. He saw the group from Happiness Neighbourhood through the gap in the clothes. “You’ve come through the opening in the mist, right? People here try their best to escape but you’ve wandered in on your own? Do you wish to find death?” The Evil Soul appeared to have sensed them when they entered the dresser.

Blood rain drizzled. Xu Qin walked out from the bloody clothes. “We’re not here for death, we’re here for you, to bring you home.” The neighbours walked out. They looked at the senior monster but instead of fear, their eyes shone with worry.

“Home? You’re my family?” The Evil Soul’s lips cracked open with a smile. His evil gaze stared at Xu Yin. “Why do I feel hunger around you, the fiery passion makes me want to swallow you into my stomach. Were you my love? Were you my wife before I died?”

Chapter 380

380 Middle of Nightmare

'Love? Wife? Passion? Swallow you whole?' This was the first time Xu Qin had such declarations made to her in the cryptic world. They were brusque and untouched, but she didn't quite mind them.

'The Evil Soul is Han Fei's most authentic self without any constraint.' The Mirror God's words echoed in her mind. Xu Qin's fingers closed around the table knife. Even as a Curse Amalgamation, one that was powerful enough to face a Large Lingering Spirit, Xu Qin had to stop for a double take when she heard what the Evil Soul had to say. 'I saw you as a cute neighbourly boy, I have no idea you harbor such thoughts about me... Why didn't you say anything earlier?'

The world was silent after the Evil Soul made his proclamation.

"Well, this is surprising." Lee Zai snickered. His face was bright with gossip as well as misfortune. "Do you think the manager has purposely split out this soul to voice things that he normally wouldn't dare to? After all, I can totally see him do something like this."

"We are..." Weep had grown a lot after digesting his pain at Cattle Alley but before he could say anything, he was pulled back by Drake. He looked at Drake with confusion, as if asking, 'Why are you always pulling me back?' Counting the time at Cattle Alley, this was the second time already.

The Evil Soul was very clever. He derived much info just from the tenants' expressions. He could have manipulated them but he didn't or rather he was too lazy to. "All of you feel familiar to me, you must know me!" The Evil Soul turned around, the senior monster's large body placed a lot of pressure on a normal Lingering Spirit. "Tell me, what kind of person was I! Why would I be summoned to this place?!"

The Evil Soul was confused. Based on what the senior monster said, only those toeing the line of life and death could be summoned to Ziggurat. In other words, he should still be alive before his soul was brought here. If he was alive, how could he have so many ghost friends? What was the explanation behind it? The more the Evil Soul got to know himself, the more he wanted to know the answer. The feeling of forgetting oneself was horrible.

“You are the building manager of Building 1 at Happiness Neighbourhood. You are the kindest, most trustworthy, reliable person I know.” Xu Qin who had been silent, finally spoke, “Every ghost here has been saved by you. It is why we would risk everything to come to Ziggurat to bring you home.”

“Gentle, reliable, trustworthy?” Blood covered half of the Evil Soul’s face. His mind chewed over these few descriptions.

The fact that the tenants from Happiness Neighbourhood had entered Ziggurat was the truth, the fact that he could sense familiarity from them was the truth, so they were probably telling the truth.

“I’ve saved so many people, so I am really a good person.” The Evil Soul slowly accepted that truth. His fiendish eyes turned towards Xu Qin and that sense of hunger returned. It was like a habit he couldn’t shake. The more he looked at her, the hungrier he got. Just as he was about to comment on that, the headless guardian on the ground slowly crawled up. He dragged the body which was infiltrated by the black hair and ran deeper into the dresser world. There was something calling the door guardian. Even though the Evil Soul wanted to know his real identity, there was no time. Compared to finding himself, consuming the door guardian, for the senior monster to accomplish his breakthrough was more important.

Opening his arms, the senior monster controlled by the Evil Soul was like a dragon surging through the dresser world, surrounded by black hatred. The local resident of the dresser world quickly went into hiding. The poor dresser monsters were unable to move had their mouths all torn open by the Evil Soul. Strangely enough, these dresser monsters’ stomachs had been stuffed, there was no exit within them.

The senior monster and the people from Happiness Neighbourhood passed by endless bloody clothes before they reached the centre of the dresser world. None of the dressers was connected to this place. This centre could only be reached via the dresser in Room 4044.

“The door guardian disappeared here?” A pool filled with bloody clothes appeared before them. Every clothes had a name on them, like each of them represented a living person. Wading through the pool, the senior monster found a dresser at the bottom.

The dresser looked absolutely normal. There was a large lock on the doors. Rancid smell came from within. Someone had dug out in nails the following on the door—‘I have had special power since I was born. Without closing my eyes, the world I see is black.’

This dresser was used to imprison someone. The dresser reeked with the smell of human refuse. Even after so long, the stink remained. The stench came from the decomposition of soul, even Lingering Spirit felt discomfited being around it.

“We reached this place through the dresser in Room 4044. So if this dresser is another path, then which room would it lead us to?”

There were various footprints around the old dresser. Over the decades, many people had wandered here in their nightmares, some were lucky enough to leave, others were forced to stay forever. The door guardian had disappeared, the pieces of the figurines also were last seen around this dresser.

“The dresser is like rotting meat, filled with pus. The smell is disgusting.” The Evil Soul controlled the senior monster to grab at the dresser lock. The black flame of hatred burned through the chain and he yanked the door open with all his might!

...

The number on the elevator panel kept changing. As the number turned to the negative, Han Fei’s heart raced.

Ziggurat was already crumbling from within. The Singer, the dirge, the Evil Soul, they were all crazy. The building shook like it could tumble at any moment.

“I hope everyone is hiding properly.” Using Firefly’s phone, Han Fei used the chat group to maintain communication with the Ziggurat tenants. ‘The Evil Soul appears to know about the thick Death Curse hidden underground. He broke so many windows so the black mist from underground would be distracted by the Singer. If I was him, I would have used this moment of chaos to leave and hide. When both parties are properly weakened, I would return to reap the reward.’ Han Fei didn’t know the Evil Soul but he did know himself. He could easily guess the Evil Soul’s goal.

‘The madman has indirectly helped me. Since the Singer has drawn away all the black mist, the underground should be relatively safe now.’ Han Fei touched Lai Sheng’s head and then looked at the numb Firefly. Compared to the immensely powerful Evil Soul, Han Fei had nothing but he would not stop because of that.

The number on the panel soon reached -4. Han Fei didn't press any button but the door of the elevator opened on its own.