

## Iyashikei 661

### Chapter 661

The middle-aged woman's surprised voice came from the phone. Xiao Yu had chills all over her body. "Did you see another person in the living room?!"

"Yes! He grabbed your dirty clothes and entered the bathroom. I thought that was your boyfriend!"

"Bathroom?!" It was only then that Xiao Yu realized the bathroom door had been closed. She didn't have the habit of closing it. Terror consumed her. Xiao Yu rushed to open the front door. She twisted the doorknob, but it sent her into deeper despair. Something was edged into the lock, so it refused to open!

Thud, thud, thud...

Strange noises came from the bathroom on another side of the living room. Xiao Yu held the doorknob with both hands as she kept turning her head around to look at the bathroom. Water droplets slid down the semi-transparent window. It sounded like someone was doing the laundry inside the bathroom. The strange noise also became more common.

"Help! Is anyone there?" Xiao Yu panicked. She slammed her palms into the front door and screamed. However, there was no reply.

"Girl, call the police! I'll call the police too!" Her mom said.

After Xiao Yu screamed, the strange sounds from the bathroom stopped. A few seconds later, something appeared from behind the glass. It was a glob of blackness. It felt like a face stuck to the glass.

The door handle of the bathroom slowly moved. If Xiao Yu still couldn't escape, she would come face to face with this terror. In her panic, she grabbed her phone and escaped back to her bedroom. Just as she was about to close the bedroom door, the bathroom door opened. Xiao Yu didn't dare to look. She only saw a pair of legs.

Xiao Yu locked the bedroom door and ran to open the bedroom window. However, she was on the 7th floor. If she jumped, she would die. She didn't dare to end the call with her mother. She switched the channel and called the police. However, to her consternation, the call to the police wouldn't connect!

Emergency numbers were special numbers. They were not limited by cell services. As long as there was a transmission base nearby, one could accept and send the signal. However, that was not the scariest thing. If she couldn't connect to the police number, how did she manage to have a video call with her mom?!

Her cold sweat poured. At that moment, the video call popped back up. Xiao Yu looked at her mother's face on the screen, and her fingers trembled. It was not until now did Xiao Yu realize how pale her mother's face was.

"Baby, what's wrong? Don't be scared! I'll be there soon!"

"There's no need!" Xiao Yu screamed as she almost threw the phone away.

"Mommy is already in your neighborhood! Don't be scared!"

"No! Don't come here!" Xiao Yu's voice turned shrill. Her body shook.

"Baby! Mom is already in the corridor!"

"Who! Who are you?" The image blurred. The signal was gone. However, Xiao Yu could see her mother's face on the screen. The face was glaring at her.

"I'm on the third floor, the fourth floor..."

Xiao Yu collapsed. She was so frightened that she couldn't hold the phone. Just as the phone fell to the ground, her mother on the phone said, "I'm at your door!"

Thud, thud, thud!

The knocking sound came from the living room. Xiao Yu held her breath and didn't know what to do. At this terrifying moment, the strange footsteps echoed in the living room again. It sounded like someone was pacing outside. The sky darkened. The temperature dropped.

Several seconds later, Xiao Yu could hear the front door open. However, that was the last sound she heard. After the door opened, the world submerged into silence. Xiao Yu stopped where she was and held her breath. Eventually, she gathered her courage to approach the bedroom door. "What is going on outside?"

Her hands shook uncontrollably. Just as Xiao Yu was about to touch the bedroom door, her phone on the ground vibrated. She received a series of messages. Some came from the landlord, others came from Mr. Jia and a few came from her mother. "Has the signal recovered?"

Xiao Yu stopped her fear and grabbed her phone. As she called the police, she checked her father's messages.

"Yu Yi, I can't reach you. I know you still hate me, but I hope you'd come to the city hospital.

"Can you reply to me? No matter what, you're my only daughter. I promise I'll never gamble again!

"Your mom went to find you around 4 pm. She ran into a car accident, and there's a low chance of them saving her.

"Yu Yi, come back home. You're the only family I have left."

When Xiao Yu saw the messages, her mind was buzzing.

"Mom?" As if remembering something, Xiao Yu grabbed the phone and rushed out of the bedroom. The living room was filled with wet footsteps. The faucet in the bathroom was opened. The mirror was cracked. The sharp shards were everywhere. There was a sign of struggle.

The living room door had opened a gap. Xiao Yu tried it again, and this time, it opened easily. Before she could react, a force pushed her from behind out of her rental room. Xiao Yu turned back to look and saw her mother being strung on the living room lights. There was a bloody phone stuck to her neck. She was holding a strange man's shirt with extreme force.

"Yu Yi! Run!" Her mother's voice echoed in her ears. Xiao Yu climbed up and ran. She rolled down the stairs and took out her phone to call the police again. Compelled by fear, Xiao Yu raced all the way to the first floor. However, a yellow talisman was stuck on the building's entrance, and it was locked. Xiao Yu shook the door, but it refused to budge. She screamed, but no neighbor appeared to help her. It was like no one could hear her. However, the strange footsteps came from upstairs.

"He's coming!" Fear overwhelmed her heart. Xiao Yu looked around and realized a few of the doors on the first floor weren't locked. She picked a random one and snuck inside. There was no one inside the room. Xiao Yu slowed down and hid inside a dresser. Xiao Yu bit her lips and set her phone to mute. She didn't dare to make any noise. Darkness arrived. Xiao Yu was so nervous that she didn't dare to breathe too loudly. She glanced outside through the gap in the dresser door.

After a while, Xiao Yu's phone suddenly lit up. She lowered to look and realized it was a call from her mother. In her shock, she answered the call. The video came up. She didn't see her mother on the phone but the rapidly moving staircase and the door numbers of the second floor.

'No! This is not mom calling! It's that ghost! It's coming!' Xiao Yu quickly hung up. She was so nervous that she bit her lips until they were bloody.

After she hung up, her mother kept sending requests for a video call. The phone shook endlessly, and the screen glowed coldly. Xiao Yu shut the phone off and placed it in the corner of the dresser. At that moment, she heard the front door being pushed open.

'Is it here?!' Her heart was about to stop. Xiao Yu hugged herself. Time slowed in the dark. Xiao Yu didn't dare to move.

The footsteps were close. The thing was pacing. About ten minutes later, the footsteps appeared inside the bedroom where Xiao Yu was hiding. They stopped before the dresser. Xiao Yu tried to look through the gap.

At the same time, the voices of two men came from the corridor.

“Han Fei, run slower!”

“This is an emergency! We can’t slow down!”

“What should we do now? The entrance is locked. We can’t reach the girl. Shall we wait here?”

“It’s alright. I am a professional lock-picker.”

“What?”

BANG!

Chapter 662

The entrance was knocked down. The metallic door slammed into the wall, and it gave Xiao Yu some hope. She had heard that man’s voice on the phone before. It was Mr. Jia who wanted to rent her place. She thought she was dead for sure, but there was now a ray of hope.

Xiao Yu knew the ghost was inside the room, but she had no other choice. Xiao Yu took a deep breath, tightened her fingers, and then pushed the dresser door open. “Help! There’s a ghost here! I’m here!” She grabbed her phone and rushed out of the room. However, when she arrived at the lobby, her hope crushed her. The entrance door was perfectly unharmed. No one had kicked it down. “This is impossible! I heard the sound of it slamming earlier!”

She grabbed her hair. Fear curled around her like snakes. Xiao Yu almost lost her mind.

“Han Fei, why did you stop here? Aren’t we going to the seventh floor?”

“Wait a minute. I feel like something is close. Don’t you hear someone crying for help?”

“No! Are you hallucinating?”

The two men's conversation echoed in Xiao Yu's ears. However, Xiao Yu couldn't see them. They were like people in alternate dimensions, and this building was where the dimensions overlapped. People with strong spirituality could sense something.

"I'm here! I'm just beside you!" Xiao Yu pleaded for help. She took out her phone to call Han Fei but realized the time was stuck at 6.01 pm.

"Help! Can you hear me?" Xiao Yu's tears fell. She didn't have the time to cry. Scary footsteps echoed inside the room. Wet footsteps surfaced in one of the rooms. The mirror beside the dresser reflected a strange man. His neck was snapped and caved in a terrifying angle. His spine was poking out. His whole body appeared strung. He was hanged. His head was almost separated from his body.

Xiao Yu saw the reflection, and she almost lost her mind seeing that man. She didn't dare to stay. She screamed and crawled up the stairs. The entrance was locked, and the corridors changed. After time stood still, she appeared to have fallen into a ghost world.

"Xiao Jia, can't you hear any cries for help? I have a feeling that someone is close to us."

"Don't scare me, please."

"I think I can touch them. I really felt someone brush past me earlier!"

The two men paused and then moved upstairs too.

"I'm just beside you! Why can't you see me?!" Xiao Yu raced upstairs. The footsteps kept coming from behind him. The hanging man was not worried that Xiao Yu would escape. No living human could ever leave this place.

"No, there is definitely something around us. She is calling for help. I can hear her cry! She is running upstairs! We need to follow!"

"Han Fei, slow down! I'm scared!"

The two men's voices followed the girl. They were moving alongside her in another world. Xiao Yu had no choice but to retrace her steps. When she came down, the corridors were still normal, but now, the apartment rapidly aged. The cracks on the wall spread. Hair fell from the black gaps, and there was occasionally a blinking eye. The doors of the rooms also became different. Their colors deepened. Some were stained with blood, some had yellow talismans, and some had police tapes.

Ever since she entered and left the dresser, the whole apartment building changed. Xiao Yu cried and screamed as she ran up the stairs. However, no one came to help her. She was completely dominated by fear. Her brain couldn't work properly. Her legs were moving on their own. Xiao Yu didn't dare to turn around. She ran all the way to the fourth floor. The voice-activated light on this floor was broken. One of the room doors was left half-open. Light filtered out.

"Is anyone there? Help!" Xiao Yu screamed. She pulled open the door, hoping her neighbor could help her. However, when she looked into the room, her body was frozen. The dark room had no lights. Inside the empty living room, there was a television broadcasting something weird. Through the static, one could see a black house. In the black house, there were seven black men and a red girl. They killed each other. Their bodies were torn apart and then sewn together again. This scary image froze Xiao Yu at the door. She turned around and ran up the stairs.

When she came to the fifth floor, the voice-activated lights turned red. All the white couplets were dyed red. When Xiao Yu passed, she could smell an alluring scent of meat. Xiao Yu turned to look, and Xiao Yu's face paled. A wooden doll in a wedding dress was seated beside the dining table. Its body was bound with red twine. When Xiao Yu glanced at it, the doll's head was moved by the threads and turned with a creak!

Xiao Yu was spooked, and her phone fell to the ground. The wet footprints were close to her. She didn't have the time to pick up her phone and continued to crawl up the stairs. The endless scares pushed Xiao Yu to her limits. However, she couldn't stop. Her survival instinct kept her going.

Xiao Yu ran past the sixth floor and returned to the seventh floor. Xiao Yu hesitated. She knew that the ghost had surfaced in her room. "Mom is not here anymore." The mother strung on the ceiling light was gone. Xiao Yu's only hope was gone. Her legs weakened. "The person who loves me the most is gone. I will face endless trauma and torture. In that case, I might as well end everything myself."

Xiao Yu knew that she was running in circles. She couldn't outrun despair. Xiao Yu didn't run to the 8th floor. She ran back into her room and into the bedroom. The bedroom window was left open. Jumping

through the window would end her fear. In the past, when she was in a nightmare, she would make this choice. "That's right. This is just a nightmare. I can escape from it soon!"

The window was before her. Xiao Yu took slow steps. She could touch the night sky outside the apartment.

"Yu Yi!" A wail came from the living room. Xiao Yu turned back to look. Her bloody mother crawled out of the glass pieces and pounced in a direction. The blood flew everywhere. A strange man slowly appeared. Xiao Yu's mother started to fight for the bloody phone with him. Xiao Yu's mother was so much weaker than the man. The faint black mist radiating off the man could scorch her skin easily, but she didn't mind. As she screamed to stop Xiao Yu from jumping off the building, she tried to imbue the last piece of her soul into the phone.

"Mom!"

Xiao Yu saw this, and her fear was dominated by another emotion. Her shaking hands grabbed the chair in the room. She ran over without much thought. She slammed the chair at the man in the living room. The chair phased through the man. It didn't cause the man any harm, but it made him angrier. The pupilless eyes glared at Xiao Yu. While he was distracted, the mother's body crawled into the phone. At the same time, Xiao Jia and Han Fei charged into the room. They saw an empty living room. They felt something was strange when Xiao Jia's phone vibrated. It was an unregistered number.

"Shall we answer it?" Xiao Jia turned to Han Fei. Han Fei's expression was severe. He held the knife and slowly entered the living room. Since Han Fei didn't say anything, Xiao Jia accepted the call. The moment he did, the phone's time stopped. The temperature dropped. Everything aged. They were dragged by the ghost into a different dimension!

Han Fei stopped. He looked at the man who was almost two meters tall before him as well as Xiao Yu who was at her limit. He sucked in a cold breath.

"The fuck?!" Xiao Jia held the phone and stood at the door. His hand that held the phone was shaking.

"Please save my daughter! I'll do anything in return!" A pleading cry came from Xiao Jia's phone and the phone in the hanging man's palm. Han Fei didn't hesitate. He moved faster than the hanging man. He darted forward and cut through the man's neck!



The man's head rolled to the floor.

"Get over here!" Han Fei screamed at Xiao Yu. He knew the man wouldn't die so easily. He continued to attack him. Han Fei remembered the weaknesses of the human body. His every stab was fatal, but ghosts were different from humans. Even though the man had lost his head, his body could still move freely.

"How are you supposed to kill these things?" Han Fei had no memory, so he was running on instinct. He tried to recall the ghost stories in his script. Earlier, he used the ritual to suck away the black mist around the boy and then had the other ghosts consume him. But now, Han Fei only had the knife given to him by the clown.

"The thin black mist is the ghost's resentment. This hanging man is a Lingering Spirit too! To kill him, I need to dissipate the black mist around him first!"

Before the hanging man reacted, Han Fei kept on attacking. He knew he only had this chance.

"Phone! Mom's phone!" Xiao Yu, who fell to the ground, saw Xiao Jia and Han Fei. It was two rays of sunlight cutting through the clouds. She quickly climbed up from the ground. She knew she couldn't be a burden for Han Fei.

Han Fei got the reminder from Xiao Yu. He slashed through the man's arm. However, even after he was dismembered, the man's arm refused to let the phone go.

"Why won't this thing die?" Xiao Jia screamed. "Han Fei! Behind you!"

The hanging man's body was chopped into pieces, but with the black mist's help, the wound started to heal, and strange body parts grew out of them.

Han Fei stabbed through the man's arm and quickly retreated when he got the bloody phone.

"We need to retreat now!"

The fact that Han Fei could survive so long with a Lingering Spirit was already very amazing.

The three of them ran down the stairs, but Xiao Yu gave them the bad news. "This building is locked. We can't leave through the front door."

At that moment, they heard a spine-chilling sound from Xiao Yu's room. It sounded like someone had cracked all of his bones and then pieced them together again.

"Xiao Yu, have your mother call the landlord! Ask him what really happened in that room. Why is there a hanging man there?!" Han Fei was anxious. The encounter with the hanging man left a deep impression on him. While the hanging man mutated, Han Fei's group came to the first floor. They used many different ways to open the door, but it was to no avail. It felt like darkness had blocked the door and trapped them inside the building.

"This is not working!" Xiao Jia saw Han Fei starting to cut the door with the knife, and he tried to get him to calm down. "Do you hear that? There are more footsteps. Did the man grow more legs?"

"Since we can't leave, we'll have to face him head-on." Han Fei's heart raced, but his brain was calm. "There are many tenants here, so he can't be the only ghost. Yesterday night, we saw the bride on the fifth floor. We can lure him there." "What if we're targeted by two ghosts?" Xiao Jia sighed. This was the first time he heard someone offer this solution to deal with ghosts.

"We'll die facing one ghost, and we'll still die facing two ghosts." Han Fei stopped wasting time. He turned to run back up the stairs. "Other than the fifth floor, the room on the fourth floor with the television is also very suspicious. When I passed by it earlier, I had a strange feeling in my heart."

"What feeling?" Xiao Jia followed closely behind Han Fei.

"It feels like home."

"What?" Xiao Jia couldn't believe his ears.

“How can I put it? For a moment, it felt like I had returned home.”

Chapter 663: Key To The Memory

663 Key to the Memory

“Home?” Xiao Jia looked at the eerie corridor. He couldn’t believe Han Fei would say those things.

“Haven’t I told you and Lee Guo Er before? Building 1 feels very familiar to me, like I used to live here. When we came in the morning, I had the feeling too, but it wasn’t as strong. The building felt unfamiliar, but now it’s different.” Han Fei spoke very fast. When he was done, he was already on the second floor.

“After we were dragged by Xiao Yu’s mother into the ghost’s world, I realized the Happiness Neighborhood Building 1 that I am familiar with is not the one in the morning, but the one at night. I believe I used to live with ghosts.” Han Fei felt very conflicted. He feared death like a normal person, but on top of that, he felt warmth too. It felt like his best and worst memories were featured here.

While Han Fei and Xiao Jia communicated, the bloody phone glowed. Xiao Yu used her mom’s phone to call the landlord. “Why did you want to harm me? Why?” Once the call was connected, Xiao Yu lost control. Her fear turned into an interrogation. After experiencing what she did, being affected mentally was unavoidable. However, now was not the time to waste time on the blame game. Therefore, Han Fei grabbed the phone from Xiao Yu and asked, “What happened in the room you rented to Xiao Yu? Why is the hanging man there?”

“That has nothing to do with me!” The landlord definitely knew something because he immediately shifted the blame.

“When did it appear?”

“I’m a victim too! I bought the room at a low price from my friend, not knowing that he was trying to scam me. The tenant had committed suicide in the room, and the body was found after it started to smell. I heard from the neighbors that the tenant’s body had already strung out of shape when the police arrived. The head and the body were almost separated. The neck was stretched until it elongated.” The landlord’s voice shook with fear.

“Then why did you still rent the room out?” Xiao Yu’s body trembled out of both fear and anger.

"I have no choice. I didn't want to rent that room at first. I just wanted to find another person to buy it. However, whenever the room was left empty, I would have a nightmare. I dreamed about a man hanging beside my bed. His neck was stretched until his spine showed!" The landlord was very afraid too. "I found many people to try to evict the ghosts, but it was to no avail. In the end, it was a user with a black profile who added me online. He said he had a solution for me."

"A user with a black profile?" Han Fei was instantly reminded of the taxi driver. The driver killed nine passengers because he was controlled by the black profile to do so. It was the black profile who taught him the steps of the ritual.

"Yes. The man told me to rent the room out. After nine different living humans stayed in that room, the Yang energy would wash away the Yin energy. The ghost would leave with the last tenant, and it would stop haunting me." The landlord admitted.

"And you followed his instruction just like that? Didn't you care that you might harm other people?" Xiao Jia screamed. It was unknown if other people were harmed, but he was definitely harmed.

"I have no choice! I don't want to die!" The landlord had no idea his callers were trapped inside the ghost apartment. He was cooperative.

"Do you know why the man committed suicide? What was his wish before he died?" Han Fei remembered what the clown told him. The clown helped him because he helped the clown with his wish. Han Fei's plan was simple. He wanted to find out the hanging man's obsession and see if he could use Company to shatter the core of his resentment.

"The man was bullied since he was young. Then, he was framed at work. He chose the most extreme method to escape. When my friend took over the room, he found many notes the man left behind. They contained messages that curse the world. In the end, the man died hating everything." The landlord felt Han Fei was very professional, so he told him everything he knew.

"So the person he hates the most should be the one who framed him. Why didn't you invite his boss into the apartment? Or let the man possess you, and then you go and find the boss at night?" The solution provided by Han Fei was too farfetched that the landlord didn't know how to answer.

Rapid footsteps came from upstairs. It sounded like several crazy people racing inside the building. The info provided by the landlord was not enough to deal with the hanging man. Han Fei asked again, "I need you to think! When the tenant died, did he leave behind something special, or did something out of the ordinary happen inside his room?" The boy's dead body became a Lingering Spirit because of the resurrection ritual. The black profile had actively contacted the landlord. Han Fei had reasons to believe the black profile might be related to the hanging man.

"Hmm..." Just as Han Fei was about to lose his patience, the landlord was reminded of something. "Normally, a person would use a stool to step on to hang oneself. However, the man used a black urn. I heard from my friend that the urn contained the man's old school uniform, pencil, eraser, folder, stapler, an empty mug, and so on."

"An urn? You said that the man was bullied since he was young. Did the urn contain the things related to his bullying? The owners of these things caused him to slowly move towards death?" Han Fei reacted quickly. "Have you tossed the urn away?"

"My friend said he did. However, I would dream of that urn whenever I had a nightmare. It was still inside that room." The landlord was tortured. "But I couldn't find it."

"How is your relationship with your friend?" Han Fei suddenly asked.

"He owes me a lot of money. He gave me the house because he couldn't pay me the money anymore. Honestly, before the money issue, we were such good friends. But money really changes everything." The landlord was shocked. "Wait. Did you mean my friend did this to me on purpose?"

"Would the man always appear beside your bed in your dreams?"

"No. I would hear some noises first. Then, it slowly moved from outside into the bedroom."

"The hanging man appears outside the bedroom." Han Fei turned to Xiao Yu. "Didn't you say you always hear footsteps? Where did they normally originate from?"

"I think it's the bathroom." Xiao Yu thought about it and said.

“The hanging man didn’t leave, so the landlord’s friend probably lied. He didn’t throw away the urn but hid it inside the bathroom.” Han Fei came up with a plan. “Later, I’ll find a way to delay him. Use that opportunity to go back to check the seventh floor’s bathroom.”

At that moment, they ran into the hanging man whose body had mutated on the fourth floor. The black mist surrounded the man’s body. The man’s head was roughly pierced through the spine. Its body had grown twice its size. The wounds left behind by Han Fei earlier had healed.

“How did it heal so fast?” Holding the knife, Han Fei stared at the hanging man wiggling in the corridor. It lay in the middle of the corridor like a giant worm. The thin legs were like insectoid legs supporting the large body. Two thin arms reached out of the sides of the ribs. The nails were strung with shredded school uniforms. They grabbed the staircase banister, blocking the path.

“It looks so scary. Just the sight of it fills my heart with terror.” Xiao Jia’s legs weakened. He wanted to run, but he knew that the entrance was locked.

“The urn he used to commit suicide is very important. I’ll buy a chance for you.” Han Fei didn’t like to risk his life, but most of the time, fate was not in his hands. He had to risk his life for that ray of hope.

“Just the two of us?”

“And Xiao Yu’s mother!” Before Han Fei could say anything else, the monster charged over. It climbed on the wall, almost charging at Han Fei. To ensure that Xiao Jia and Xiao Yu weren’t implicated, Han Fei didn’t evade but charged forward. His bravery already surpassed other gamers.

‘The hanging man blocks the stairwell so no one can leave. I have to lure him into one of the rooms so that Xiao Jia and Xiao Yu could use the stairwell.’ Han Fei suppressed his fear and chopped at the man’s head again. Normally, a man would die after being slashed at the neck, but the man was not affected at all. His arms bound with black mist tried to grab at Han Fei’s neck. Han Fei evaded them easily. He noticed that he was very good at close-quarter combat.

‘The space in the corridor is too narrow. Evasion is not going to help me last. I need to attack!’ Before Han Fei could do that, he felt something tighten around his neck. Then his air was cut off. Something strapped around his neck, and then a force pulled him up. Han Fei lowered his head to look. The hanging man’s head had fallen on the ground. The man’s mouth opened, and a light black mist wafted out of his

mouth. They coagulated to form a black rope to strangle Han Fei's neck. Han Fei was lifted up from the ground. Han Fei struggled like a hooked fish. It was futile. Han Fei's face turned purple. He wanted to chop off the black mist around his neck, but his hands were bound by the hanging man. The man wanted to see Han Fei die from hanging. At that crucial moment, a dying kitten jumped out of the backpack Xiao Jia was carrying. It pounced on the hanging man's head. The black pattern on its body temporarily blocked the black mist, but it had paid heavily. The wounds on the kitten opened. A large amount of black blood burst out of its small body.

"Han Fei!" Xiao Jia noticed the danger. He took out the mirror in panic. He screamed Han Fei's name to bring himself courage. He raised the mirror at the hanging man. The mirror had a surprising effect on the ghosts. However, it only managed to stop part of the black mist on a Lingering Spirit.

The kitten and Xiao Jia created the opening for Han Fei. Han Fei held the knife and rammed it into the man. A living person couldn't touch ghosts, but Han Fei appeared to be an exception. As he tried to shove the hanging man into the room on the fourth floor, his hands appeared to be connected to the hanging man's soul. At that moment, he had touched not only the man's body but also his memory and his resentment.

The hanging man didn't think any living person would be able to touch him. His sealed memory was loosened. Then, he collapsed around the door of a room on the fourth floor with Han Fei.

"Get to the seventh floor! You have to find the urn no matter what!"

"Okay!" Xiao Jia knew they couldn't fully kill the hanging man. He dragged Xiao Yu and ran to the seventh floor. Han Fei also wanted to leave, but his hands were still detained by the hanging man.

"Why are you hanging on to me? I can help you bring your enemies here!" Han Fei persuaded sincerely. His voice appeared to contain some kind of magical power. However, it was useless on the hanging man because his head was outside the room.

There was a meow, and Han Fei turned his head. He saw something terrifying. The hanging man's head shook off the kitten. Then, it floated up into the air like it was being held up by black strings. Its pupilless eyes opened!

“Something’s not right! It doesn’t dare to come into this room!” Han Fei was defenseless. The human head could charge in to attack Han Fei, but the head didn’t do that. “I was right. There are other ghosts in this room!”

Han Fei had no idea what would happen next. What he needed to do now was to shake off the hanging man. The hanging man’s body held onto Han Fei tightly. Han Fei changed his tactic. He held onto the man tightly too. If he had to die, he would bring the man down with him.

While they fought, something strange happened to the television screen in the living room. The static flickered. A wooden house appeared on the screen. There was a lonely red girl inside the house. She was playing a jigsaw puzzle with the human body parts. She tried multiple times to piece the people together, but she failed every time.

The image was gory. Han Fei’s brain felt like it had been pricked by endless needles. New holes were torn open on the black cloth over his memory.

“Human jigsaw?” When Han Fei had that thought, the red girl sensed something and slowly turned her head around. She looked through the screen at Han Fei. The girl stood up among the pile of dead bodies. Her dress kept bleeding. She slowly stepped towards the screen like she was going to walk out of it!

“The girl looks so familiar!”

The static became louder, and the girl moved faster. The last second, she was inside the wooden house; the next second, she was close to the screen; and after another second, the girl’s ghastly face appeared on the screen!

Her bloodshot eyes glared at Han Fei like she planned to consume him

Chapter 664: Place Where It All Started

664 Place Where It All Started

The girl on the television appeared to be a Malice. The resentment she had was completely different from the hanging man. It was even stronger than the one on the childhood version of the clown. Just a stare by her and Han Fei’s soul felt like melting.



Han Fei and the hanging man didn't expect this to happen. Han Fei thought this room looked familiar, so he wanted to come in to take a look. Who would have thought such a scary ghost would be hiding inside the television.

The hanging man's head outside the room shifted. The black mist wafted into the room. The hands that detained Han Fei slowly retreated. He wanted to leave, but Han Fei was too afraid to stay in the room alone, so he hugged the hanging man's body tightly. When he touched the man's soul and memory, Han Fei was hit by a sense of *déjà vu*. He had done something similar in this room before!

His mind rippled. The black cloth over his memory ripped again. 'I've done this before! I have survived until now! This means that my choice is correct!'

Han Fei practically used his whole body to hang onto the man. It made the head outside the door so desperate that it gnashed its teeth. Honestly, Han Fei was very afraid. The girl's twisted face filled up the screen. Inexpressible pressure chilled his body. Hugging the other ghost in the room gave him some security.

'One of the scariest ghost stories happened at Happiness Neighborhood. Is she the eight-handed Yama?' The girl was playing with human body parts earlier. She had to be a Malice!

Han Fei held onto the hanging man tighter. He stopped considering how to kill the hanging man but how to survive. 'The girl's eyes are dominated by murderous desire. I've not seen something like that.'

Han Fei had met many murderers, but they were not as scary as this girl. It was hard to imagine why a girl at such a young age would be so murderous. Han Fei couldn't even imagine how many victims she had killed. The black and white television screen flickered. The girl's blood leaked out of the screen. Each drop radiated a terrifying presence. The girl stared at Han Fei. She had problems escaping the television. Han Fei realized that too. However, just as he was about to sigh in relief, the blood slid down the screen. The television cabinet started to nudge on its own. In the dark, the television with the girl's face slowly approached Han Fei!

Han Fei's neck was covered in goosebumps. He wanted to leave, but his body wouldn't listen to him. His legs weakened. Only his hands that held the hanging man were still slightly mobile.

“Why are you all stunned? Move! Do you want to die with me in here?” Han Fei shouted at the hanging man. If they continued to stay in the room, they would both be killed by the Malice.

The hanging man’s head outside the room screeched. The black mist oozed into his body. He wanted to drag his body out. The kitten used this chance to take revenge and scratched his cheeks. The man’s face was covered in scratches. He had gone mad. His pupilless eyes spun quickly. He wanted to throw Han Fei and the kitten into the room.

“Quick!”

The television came closer. The hanging man exhausted a lot of black mist to drag his body out.

“Quick!” Han Fei shouted. The television cabinet was almost at his feet already. “Did I kill you? Why are you looking at me like that?” The girl appeared to hear Han Fei’s voice. Her lips moved as if saying something.

“Key?” Han Fei realized he could read lips. But at that moment, he only managed to decipher the word key. ‘What key? House key? Does she want me to help her find a key?’

Before the television touched Han Fei, the hanging man used a lot of black mist to drag his body and Han Fei, who was hanging onto his body, out of the room. Han Fei’s legs returned to normal. Han Fei and the kitten didn’t hesitate. They jumped up and raced up the stairs.

The hanging man collapsed on the fourth floor. He had exhausted too much black mist. He couldn’t even heal the scratches on his face. His hands fixed his head. The hanging man’s eyes filled up with Han Fei’s image. Killing Han Fei became his new obsession. The hanging man was strung up from the ground by an invisible thread. He moved to chase after Han Fei.

“Have you found the thing?” Han Fei came to the seventh floor and asked. He didn’t dare to shout lest he attracted other unwanted things.

“Found it!” Xiao Jia cracked the corner tile in the bathroom and found the black urn hidden inside. The bathroom was the room with the strongest Yin energy. The landlord’s friend did this on purpose.

“Give me!” Han Fei ran to Xiao Jia. He saw the problem immediately. The black urn was pasted with two white papers. Someone’s life chart was written on the paper. It was worth noting that the handwriting on the white paper was similar to the handwriting on the boy’s mirror.

The bone-cracking sound appeared at the door.

Han Fei didn’t hesitate. He tore off the papers and shattered the black urn. Horrible-smelling water liquid oozed out of the urn. Soaked among it was a school uniform covered in insults and several colored photographs.

This happened at Blue White Tuition Center before. The people in the photographs cried for help. However, Han Fei didn’t save the people mindlessly. Instead, he scanned all the pictures. The pictures contained people bullying a student, the boss scolding his employee, the colleagues mocking their co-worker. The photographs were well-taken. The hanging man was featured in every picture. But he was always in the corner, on the ground, or pushed to the side. “These things are the source of your hatred and resentment. I’ll help you destroy them.”

Company cut into the pictures. Han Fei didn’t try to save these people. The same pictures, the same victims, but the ending was different. Xiao Jia was startled when he heard the screams from the pictures. He didn’t expect Han Fei to make this choice.

With the destruction of each picture, the hanging man’s black mist would lighten. He also became more aggressive. Han Fei couldn’t avoid the attacks while destroying the pictures. Thankfully, the bloody phone rang. Xiao Yu’s mother crawled out to stop the hanging man. Han Fei used this opportunity to destroy all the pictures. After that, he picked up the smelly school uniform. He plunged Company right into the spot where the heart would be.

The school uniform bled. A similar wound appeared on the hanging man. His expression was filled with pain. He lashed out at the people around him.

“He didn’t receive any help. The man died when he was in school. Only a walking zombie remained.” The black blood seeped into the knife called Company. After the hanging man was vanquished, another name appeared on Han Fei’s heart. “This is a strange feeling. It feels like my body has recovered a bit more. Is this the power of Company?”

Xiao Yu's mother consumed the lingering black mist in the room. She didn't want to face Xiao Yu like this so she quickly returned to the bloody phone.

"Mom!" No matter how hard Xiao Yu cried, her mother didn't appear. Xiao Yu collapsed on the ground, holding her mother's phone. She kept calling her mother, but no one answered. Perhaps her mother would show up when she was in danger next time.

"Your mother didn't want you to see her in that scary form. She wants to leave you with the prettiest memory of her." Han Fei consoled Xiao Yu. "You have to understand that all girls like to be pretty. Your mother used to be a princess too. However, after she had you, she put on the armor and weapon to become your hero." Fairy tales were fake, especially in this scary world. But Han Fei was very willing to give people hope.

After Xiao Yu calmed down, the three faced another conundrum. Han Fei and Xiao Jia were dragged by Xiao Yu's mother into this world, but she didn't appear to know how to pull them out.

"In the taxi, everything returned to normal after we killed the boy. The time started to move again..." Xiao Jia felt the temperature dropping. Things were getting worse.

"Happiness Neighborhood is the place where the human world and the ghost world overlap. It won't be easy for us to leave." Han Fei actually wanted to return to the fourth floor but he was too afraid. "There has to be a solution. At least this room is now safe. We can use this place as our base to explore Building 1."

"Are you sure?" Xiao Jia was worried.

"I have a blade that can harm ghosts. Other than that, I realize I can touch the ghosts' memory. With Xiao Yu's mother's help, it should be fine." Han Fei picked up Xiao Yu. He led his two teammates away from the seventh floor. "We should explore upstairs first to ensure there is no danger there before we go downstairs just in case we're attacked on both ends."

The three reached the landing between the seventh and eighth floors when they heard the sound of bells.

“That sounds like it came from the ninth floor.”

“The ninth floor is the place where the old couple sells the afterlife objects, right?” Han Fei remembered visiting the ninth floor that morning to look for the paper doll. However, he was forced to leave due to the police’s sudden arrival. “We should go and take a look. Perhaps the paper doll’s body parts are there!”

They moved up the stairs. The stairs were scattered with paper money. The strangest thing was every paper money had someone’s name written on it.

“Living humans really shouldn’t come here.” Xiao Jia followed behind Han Fei and glanced up to the ninth floor. The place was similar to what they saw in the morning. The tenant’s room was left wide open, and many paper dolls lined up at the door. The paper doll had colorful clothes and lively faces. It felt like they would come alive at any moment.

“Calm down.” Han Fei studied the paper dolls. He believed he had come to the right place. He placed his palm on his chest. Han Fei silently took out the paper doll’s eye. He sensed the connection to the rest of the paper doll’s body.

“Part of the paper doll should be inside this room.” Han Fei slowly moved forward. “The old lady said that her husband was the paper artist. Is it possible that he was the one who made this blood-red doll?” “The old woman was quite friendly.” Xiao Jia remembered the details from that morning. “Hopefully, nothing will happen this time.”

“Wait a minute.” Xiao Yu grabbed Han Fei’s arm. “You better don’t touch anything on the ninth floor, and you shouldn’t believe anything said by that crazy old lady.”

“Crazy old lady?” Both Han Fei and Xiao Jia stopped.

“That’s right. The landlord warned me when I moved in. He told me not to go upstairs and not to talk to the old lady on the ninth floor.” Xiao Yu lowered her voice. “The old lady’s husband died a long time ago, but she believes her husband is still alive. She sat in the corridor making paper dolls every night. However, in the morning, she’d say that it was her husband who made all the paper dolls.”

“So the old lady is the paper artist? Her husband died a long time ago?” This revelation scared Xiao Jia. He thought the old lady was the most normal tenant in the building.

“Perhaps the old lady’s husband’s soul remains after he died. He still continues to make the paper dolls for the departed.” Han Fei was not shocked. In fact, he was so calm that Xiao Yu was shocked. “No matter what, I have to go and take a look. I need to find the red paper doll!”

Han Fei hid Company and came to the ninth floor.

The soul bell on the door chimed. Han Fei stood between the paper dolls and looked at the room.

Compared to the morning, this place was eerier at night. The little paper dolls felt like sleeping children who could wake up at any moment.

Chapter 665: Secret Of The Cryptic World

665 Secret of the Cryptic World

The empty room had no people but was also filled with people. Han Fei stood at the door. He listened to the chime of the silver bells above him, and his mind moved.

“Soul Bell?” He mentioned the words subconsciously. He stopped under the bells. Previously, before he entered any room, other than a sense of familiarity, he would feel an open hostility. The fear he felt was pure. He had died more than once in this building. However, the fear of death disappeared when he tried to enter this room. It suggested that this room was the only safe place in this ghost realm. “Why is that so? Is this room my home?”

Han Fei nudged his feet to enter the room. His eyes scanned the old furniture and the paper dolls. His mind was stimulated again. He grabbed a random paper doll. It was a cute little girl. She wore a dress covered in animal fur. Her eyes were closed, and she hugged an empty fishbowl.

“This girl...” It was a paper doll, but Han Fei’s fingers couldn’t stop trembling. “I remember there should be something inside the fishbowl.”

Every paper doll in the room had its own name. Han Fei turned the doll around and found this written on the girl's back—First Anger. “First Anger? Why doesn't this girl have a name? And what is the meaning of First Anger?”

Han Fei picked up the paper doll beside the girl. It was a boy who was all curled up. He was malnourished. He sat on a paper urn. His teary eyes were full of despair. “Why is he crying?” Han Fei looked at the boy's chest. It was written—First Sympathy. “I do feel heartache when I see this boy. I don't want him to cry anymore.”

Han Fei didn't want to put down the two kids. Even though they were just paper dolls, Han Fei didn't want to part with them. He even had the urge to take them out of this eerie room.

“There's also an old lady doll. This artist is amazing. He perfectly captures the kindness of the old lady. She makes me miss home.” Xiao Jia pointed at a paper old lady standing inside the room. The lady was commonly dressed. She held a paper pot as she had just come out of the kitchen to welcome her family, who had just come home. Han Fei's eyes narrowed as he studied the old lady. His heart was hit. He felt a rare sense of warmth. He walked behind the old lady and realized the word, First Warmth, was written on it.

“Warmth?” Han Fei slowly recognized the strangeness of the room. The words on the paper dolls corresponded to the first feeling Han Fei felt when he saw these paper dolls. “Are they my family? Has my family been turned into paper dolls?” Han Fei's hand that touched the red doll's eye tightened.

“Impossible. I don't think anyone's family looks like that.” Xiao Jia pointed at the corner. There was an old guard with a serious hunchback. The guard was smiling brightly, but his back was loaded with human heads and broken bodies.

Beside the guard was a terrifying paper doll. The doll's spine was made from human heads. The ancestral heads were bound together to create this giant monster.

“If one burns such scary paper sacrifice for one's ancestors, one's ancestors will probably come at night to take revenge.” Xiao Jia's legs wobbled.

Han Fei's reaction was the complete opposite. He walked to the scary paper dolls to find the writing on them. The old guard was called First Respect, and the spine had the word, First Separation.

“If these paper dolls are really your family, then I quite envy you. There are so many firsts represented by these paper dolls. They seem to be recording your every growth. They are looking after you, accompanying you, teaching you.” Xiao Yu hung her mother’s phone across her neck. “Compared to you, my life is boring. I don’t have that many people caring for me...”

“I merely feel that they’re my family, but my actual life probably has nothing to do with them.” Han Fei gripped his head. “I really can’t remember.”

“Don’t worry. You haven’t found the key blood-red doll, right? We’ll take this slow. Perhaps you can remember something through these paper dolls.” Xiao Yu was very kind to Han Fei. When she was almost dead, it was Han Fei who saved her and her mother.

“No, wait!” Xiao Jia realized something. “The paper dolls are made by the paper artist. Since he can make so many paper dolls that are familiar to you, then it means he knows you very well! We only need to find him, and he can help you regain your lost memory!”

“You’re right, but the premise is that these paper dolls are really my family.” Han Fei walked through the parade of paper dolls. His heart was a mess. Therefore, he had to maintain rationality to consider various possibilities. Amnesiacs felt the least secure. He wanted to find his real self, and not a version painted for him. Without realizing it, Han Fei had reached the bedroom door. He looked through the paper dolls, submerged in his own world.

“Let’s help him.” Xiao Jia whispered. “After we find the red doll, we can leave. This place is too creepy.” He carried Han Fei’s backpack and looked at the paper dolls near the wall. Suddenly, he encountered a ‘paper doll’ wearing normal clothes. He looked up and saw an elder whose face was as white as paper standing among the paper dolls looking at him.

After a second of silence, Xiao Jia screamed and retreated, “There’s someone here!” Xiao Jia tripped and fell. He was really scared.

Hearing the scream, Han Fei rushed over. They gathered to look at the pile of paper dolls.

“Be quiet. You’re going to attract the ghosts.” The old man’s skin was as pale as paper. He had been standing there, looking at them quietly.



“You’re the artist?” Han Fei stared at the old man’s face. His mind churned, and his blood pumped. He was sure that he had not only met this old man before, but the old man had also taken an important role in Han Fei’s life. His eyes moved down and Han Fei realized the old man’s clothes had a writing too, First Meeting.

“The Soul Bells kept ringing. How did you three humans get here?” The old man was holding an incomplete doll. He slowly walked out from the corner and stood before Han Fei.

“Sir, we accidentally entered this place. Can you tell us how to leave?” Xiao Jia was very afraid, but he still asked the question. However, the old man ignored him but kept his eyes on Han Fei.

“We came here to save someone.” Han Fei then asked, “Is this really our first time meeting?”

“Don’t think too much of it. My shop is called First Times. I capture many first moments in people’s lives and then burn them so that the departed will have them as a company.” The old man seemed to recognize Han Fei, but he didn’t admit it. The way he looked at Han Fei was very complicated.

“No. Even though I’ve forgotten many things, I am certain this is not our first meeting!” Han Fei lifted his wounded arm to grab the old man’s hand. “You know the truth, right? The reason behind my amnesia. Do you know everything about me?”

Han Fei used so much force that the old man’s fingers bent out of shape. However, the old man didn’t seem to feel any pain. He was like a paper doll. He just looked at Han Fei silently.

“This is indeed our first time meeting. You might have met someone who is like me, but that person is not me.” The old man shook his head. “I am just a craftsman who can’t even leave this room. You got the wrong person.”

“You sounded very sure when you said that person is not you. Does that mean you know there is someone who looks exactly like you in this city? Can you tell me where he is?” Han Fei released his grasp.

The old man was surprised by Han Fei's question. He looked at his misshapen fingers and smiled. "My name is Fu Sheng. There are many people in this city with that name. Even though we have the same name, our personalities vary."

"Fu Sheng?" Han Fei repeated the name. "There's a Doctor Fu at the hospital, there's a Director Fu downstairs, and there's F with the players... Fear accompanies me everywhere I go. My heart is filled with fear of death. Those people with the surname Fu have once killed me. But when I'm here, I'm at peace. You're different from them."

"What do you mean? People are all the same. Even the vilest person will have that bit of goodness inside; even the kindest people will have a flaw." The old man lowered his head to make the paper doll. Han Fei noticed the paper doll was unique. It was blood-red in color.

"You said you can't leave this room?" Han Fei sat down beside the old man. "Are you being watched? Or something outside the room wants to kill you?"

"I made a different choice from them. I insist on staying here." The old man smiled as he pointed at the words on him. "I need to manage First Times."

"First times..."

"This is our first time meeting too. Perhaps I can sell you one of the paper dolls at a discount." The old man opened the radio beside him. He painted the clothes on the paper doll as he listened to the program. The radio was playing the one-man show of a comedy actor. The others felt awkward, but the old man enjoyed himself. The paper dolls in the room appeared to be listening in too.

Whenever Han Fei tried to ask something about his own identity, the old man would deflect the question. In the end, Han Fei had to change the topic.

"Elder, we were dragged here by a ghost. Do you know how to leave this place?" Han Fei glanced at the time, which had stopped. "What is the connection between this place and reality?"

“This place has no actual name. I call it the cryptic world.” The old man mixed the colors for the doll’s clothes and started to chat with Han Fei. “After a person dies, his emotions and memories will dissipate. But the strongest part of his memory has a chance to turn into a Lingering Spirit.

“The gathering and accruing of Lingering Spirits form a world normal people can’t see. This is the cryptic world where the ghosts reside. This world is where all the negative emotions collect. It is shrouded by the black mist of resentment. Things started to grow in the mist. No one knows when the cryptic world appeared. But many people have accidentally entered this place before. Some of them were lucky to survive and that led to many ghost stories. Others disappeared just like that.”

The old man used bamboo sticks to give the paper doll structure. The doll in his hands was coming alive.

“Can a normal person enter the cryptic world?” This question was very important to Han Fei.

“Yes, but there are many circumstances. Most of the time, they are dragged into the cryptic world by ghosts just like you were.” The old man continued to work. “The cryptic world is the world of the dead. When a ghost’s emotion and resentment reach their peaks, the two worlds will collide at that moment. People who are close will be drawn into the cryptic world.”

“Then, how can one leave?”

“A normal ghost can only affect a temporary moment in time. Most people will be released back into the normal world automatically. However, there are special places where many ghosts reside. They have influenced the whole area. If one wants to leave, the only way is to escape from their range of influence.” The old man took out his brush to paint the paper doll. “This neighborhood is one such location. For you, the best solution is to leave this neighborhood. I advise you to move soon. If you are late, you might find it impossible to leave.”

“Why? Will you turn into a ghost if you stay too long in the cryptic world?”

“No.” The old man shook his head. He painted the doll’s lips red. “Someone wants to completely separate the cryptic world from the real world. They want to cut off the channel between the two worlds so that the despair will stay in the cryptic world and the goodness of humanity will stay in the real world. They have already started their mission. The distance between the two worlds is growing. You’ll see the effect soon enough.”

## Chapter 666: Notification For Player 0000

### 666 Notification For Player 0000

“If that’s the case, wouldn’t that cut off the last possible salvation for the ghosts? They’ll be stuck with their despair, and there’s no way for them to find release.” Han Fei’s way of thinking was very strange. His first concern for the ghosts.

“Do you think they can put down their obsession without this happening? Most people in this world aren’t rational. Despair is a contagious emotion. If the separation between the two worlds isn’t done, tragedies like yours where people accidentally enter the cryptic world will keep on happening.” The old man painted red eyes on the doll. “Don’t you feel the despair? If not for fear, why are you so desperate to leave?”

“If you continue to inject it with negative emotions, the cryptic world will produce unimaginable ghosts. Then, the real tragedy will happen.” Han Fei insisted. “You should be more familiar with that than I do. They are once people too. Perhaps some of them are even your family.”

The old man’s hands shook, and he accidentally punctured through the doll’s eye. After a moment of silence, he looked up at Han Fei, “You’re a special exception. For most people, the best solution is complete separation of the two worlds.”

“Not necessarily.”

“You have two friends with you. Why don’t you ask them for their choices?” The old man started to rummage for broken paper pieces to fix the doll’s eye.

“If the price is to pay is never to see my mom again, I’ll never agree to the separation.” Xiao Yu held her mother’s phone. Even though she had been scared witless, she said with determination.

“I...” Xiao Jia had always lived alone. He seemed to have thought of something and paused. The three entered the ghost realm. They all disagreed with the old man, and that was something the latter didn’t expect.

“It’s normal if you can’t forget the past. But for a person to move forward, you have to learn to put it down...”

“Then, can you put it down yourself?” Han Fei sat before the old man. “The people with the surname Fu want to kill me. But you’re the sole exception. If you have really put everything down, you wouldn’t be here.”

The old man focused on fixing the doll’s eye and ignored Han Fei.

“Since you won’t reveal to me my past, then can you tell me who you are? They all have the surname Fu, but only you are willing to share with me your full name. You are different from them. You should be the only one who questions the voice in your heart!” When Han Fei said this, he was surprised. He seemed to be preparing this speech for many lifetimes, and he finally had the chance to say it.

“I’m just a paper craftsman. It’s not as complicated as you think.” The old man tried fixing the eye for a long time, but it was futile. “It looks like I really can’t claim things that are not mine.”

He tossed the doll casually on the pile of garbage by the door. He stood up, holding the armrest. “You will think like this because you haven’t experienced true despair. Completely separating the cryptic world from the real world is wrong. If possible, I want to destroy the cryptic world so that the despair won’t even have the chance to grow.” The old man started to cough violently without warning. Han Fei tried to help, but he was waved back. “Stay in the city. Take a look at the past, the future, and your heart. I anticipate seeing your choice.”

“What do you mean by that?”

“Everything started in this city. Try your best to survive. Hopefully, you won’t let down my last kindness and insistence.” The soul bells rang. The old man’s face paled as if he had touched upon a taboo subject. He stopped Han Fei from talking and rambled on. “You need to be careful of five types of people in this city. One, those who have the surname Fu; two, those who can’t stop laughing; three, those from the theme park; four, those who believe in the occult and various rituals; five, those who love you.”

“Those who love me?”

“The ones with the surname Fu want to kill you, the ones who can’t stop laughing want to take over your body, the ones from the theme park will kill every player who violates the rules, the ones favoring the occult will turn you into their sacrifices, the ones who love you are lying to you because there is no one who loves you in this city.” The old man hacked harder. “There are two exits deep inside the theme park. One leads to the outside, and the other leads to it.”

“It?” Han Fei could see the old man was not in a good state.

“Don’t ask. Certain things are unmentionable.” The old man covered his bleeding mouth and rushed into the room. Before he closed the bedroom door, he pointed at the garbage pile. “This is our first meeting, so you can pick one thing from my shop. Perhaps it can turn your situation around.”

The old man left in a hurry, leaving behind the confused trio. The ringing soul bells caused their hearts to shake. “I have a feeling that something is coming! We better go and hide!” Xiao Jia urged.

“Wait a minute.” Han Fei recalled what the old man said, “It’s very strange. When I met him the first time, he also gave me something that totally changed my life.”

“Big brother, stop wasting time! Shall we hide inside the pile of paper dolls?” Xiao Jia picked up the doll, which had the spine made from human heads. “How about we hide behind this largest paper doll? It looks frightening.”

“But he was pointing at the garbage pile.” Han Fei came to the door and picked up the paper doll the old man abandoned. The paper doll was fully red, and it only had one eye. “It feels like he purposely left this for me.”

In this city, all the people with the Fu surname wanted to kill Han Fei. Only this paper craftsman was different. Han Fei had no idea if this was fate or it was something he arranged.

Han Fei took out his paper eye and pasted it on the paper doll’s face. When the two touched, the abandoned paper doll seemed to come alive. Its hands unfurled like flowers. The cracks spread. The paper pieces fell to the ground. The paper body started to change. It became a woman with a heavily injured body. The woman’s body was covered in wounds. Thirteen of them were ghastly. The woman was dismembered. Holding the frail paper doll with both hands, Han Fei slowly moved the body around. A piece of paper fell to the ground. It had the words, my first time meeting you.

“Who is she?”

When Han Fei had this question in his mind, the soul bells chimed crazily. The roomful of paper dolls seemed to turn to look at him. The handwriting on their bodies rapidly faded away.

“Guys?” The messages appeared in Han Fei’s mind. Each message corresponded to a paper doll’s face. Han Fei couldn’t remember their names, but he didn’t want to be separated from them again. He knew these people were very important to him. The pain came from deep inside his brain. Han Fei gritted his teeth and stood there. The pain from his body couldn’t compare to the pain from his mind.

Capillaries bulged on his arms and face. He gritted his teeth so hard that his gums bled. The images of the paper dolls and their corresponding messages clashed into the black curtain that sealed up his memory. After endless trials, Han Fei’s eyes flew open. He stared at the blood-red doll in his palm, and his lips moved to mention a name. “Xu Qin?”

The lock deep inside his mind loosened. Han Fei’s eyes reddened. The stimulation the name had on him was far more intense than he expected. “So there is a name. Forgetting her is more painful than forgetting me.” Collapsing on the wooden chair that the old man once took, a clear gap appeared in the black cloth over his memory, and the gap was the name, Xu Qin. When he remembered Xu Qin, Han Fei finally heard the icy voice from deep inside his mind. “Notification for Player 0000! You’ve reached stage 4.”

“Who is speaking? Is there another person in my mind? What is stage 4?”

Han Fei had no impression of the chilly voice. He had no idea who he had awakened. “Am I supposed to walk through all the different stages to reach the end?”

“Han Fei, wake up!”

Xiao Yu was very nervous. Her mom’s phone kept vibrating. Something scary was coming. It frightened even the ghost.

Chapter 667: Ghost Marriage

667 Ghost Marriage

“Come!” Xiao Yu’s mother’s phone rang. The bloody woman grabbed Xiao Yu’s body and led her out of the room. It must be very dangerous for her to appear. Xiao Yu and Xiao Jia grabbed Han Fei, who was still thinking. “We need to leave this place first!”

The soul bells on the door chimed on the three’s hearts. They heard something slamming into the front door. Something was trying to come in!

“Quick!” Once they exited the room, the front door was slammed through! They looked down through the stairs. A wave of redness dyed the whole building instantly. It moved so fast that one couldn’t tell what it was. However, wherever it had been, there would be red.

“It’s coming!” No one knew what it was. The pressure frightened even Xiao Yu’s mother. “Go to the 7th floor! Its target is the paper craftsman’s room!”

The soul bells chimed. It was a warning and a calling for the unknown monster. The three ran downstairs. They had no other choice. They reached the landing between the 8th and 7th floor when the redness spread to the 4th floor!

“Get into the room!” Xiao Yu’s mother pulled Xiao Yu into the 7th floor. She was followed by Xiao Jia. Han Fei ran at the back. He leaped into the door and closed the door behind him. Just as the door clicked, the blood swept through the 7th floor. Strange noises came from the door. It sounded like several thousand worms crawling past. The sound alone was terrifying. The three hid on the 7th floor and didn’t dare to breathe too loudly. They were thankful that the red monster wasn’t looking for them. If they had to face such a scary thing, Han Fei had no idea how they could survive.

“Has it left?” Xiao Jia asked softly. Xiao Yu’s mother and Han Fei glared at him. He was glared at by a ghost and a human. He realized Han Fei’s glare was scarier than the ghost’s. Xiao Jia astutely closed his mouth.

About ten seconds later, the sound of chewing and tearing came from the ninth floor. The old man living there seemed to anticipate this, so he went into his bedroom to hide. After a long time, the soul bells stopped ringing, and the oppressive pressure receded. Han Fei slowly stood up. He leaned on the peephole and looked out. He saw a person encased in blood. The person was covered in wounds, and all the wounds had smiling faces growing out of them. It had no legs, but it moved through the blood wave. The monster was different from anything Han Fei had met. Han Fei couldn’t sense any resentment from



it. It was different from the boy and the hanging man or even the clown. It was something that grew from the despair in this world. 'If human despair is left to fester, it'll only lead to deeper despair...'

The monster seemed to sense something. It slowed down and turned. Han Fei knelt down. 'It's so sharp! Can it sense even a gaze?' Han Fei closed his mouth and nose with his hand. If he made any sound, the monster might come in!

This was very clichéd in horror movies. The monster was leaving when the character accidentally knocked a prop over. To prevent that from happening, Han Fei controlled his muscle so that he could freeze in place. Seeing how alert Han Fei was, Xiao Jia and Xiao Yu also didn't dare to ask anything.

Fifteen minutes later, the sound in the corner faded away. Han Fei took a deep breath and crawled towards the peephole again. When Han Fei glanced outward, a murky eye was looking into the house too!

'It hasn't left!' The cold sweat broke. Han Fei's body froze. He didn't have the power to face such a monster. After a temporary pause, Han Fei suddenly realized something. With the monster's power, it could easily kill Han Fei. It wouldn't give Han Fei the chance to be frightened... unless it wanted to toy with Han Fei.

"What's going on? Has it left?" Xiao Jia asked. He noticed Han Fei's expression was rather strange. He had a strange feeling. "Is it still there?"

"I can't tell." Han Fei held Company. After some hesitation, he slowly opened the door. The chill wind brought a horrible scent of blood into the room. The three retreated. They saw a lifesize wooden doll at the door. The male doll wore a chef's uniform. He held a bone cleaver in his hand. His face was scorched until his two glassy eyes remained.

"When did this thing arrive?"

The corridor had returned to normal. However, there were more cracks on the wall. The blood monster left, but this strange thing appeared at their door.

“He looks like the man we met on the fifth floor this morning.” Xiao Jia reminded, “The man is also a chef. His face is ruined by fire, and he is about the size and height of this doll.”

“But why is it here?” Han Fei stared at the doll’s cleaver. He slowly approached. He tried to remove the cleaver, but the cleaver appeared to have grown into the doll’s hand.

“This is strange! In real life, the man made a wooden doll for his wife to summon her ghost. After dark, there is a wooden doll bearing his resemblance running around with a cleaver.” Xiao Jia was scared. He didn’t dare to look into the doll’s eyes. He didn’t dare to get too close to the doll. After a tension-filled moment, Han Fei noticed the doll couldn’t move. He believed they shouldn’t waste any more time. “The paper craftsman is right. We have other things to do.”

Han Fei was the first to walk past the wooden doll. He wanted to return to the 9th floor to check on the old man. However, he just came to the 9th floor when the soul bells tingled again. The living didn’t appear to be welcomed on the 9th floor anymore.

“The blood monster is probably still close by. We shouldn’t attract its attention.” Xiao Jia persuaded. “The elder has more experience dealing with this than we do. We better his advice and leave this place.” Xiao Jia was scared. Han Fei didn’t force it. When they returned to the 7th floor, the chef doll was still standing there, in the same position.

“This doll looks so creepy. I’m scared that it’d suddenly move to cut me.” Xiao Jia hid behind Han Fei and Xiao Yu.

“Hush. Don’t taunt it.” Han Fei led them to the 5th floor. Xiao Yu, who held her mom’s phone, suddenly stopped.

“What’s wrong?”

“I remember I dropped my phone here. But I can’t see it.” Xiao Yu looked at the empty corridor, and she was confused. Xiao Jia shrugged. “Does it really matter? Something very scary just passed by. Your phone was probably swept away.”

“It’s quite a pity. That phone has many pictures and videos of me with my mom.” Xiao Yu was disappointed. She held her mother’s phone tighter and swore not to lose this phone. “It’s okay. Let’s go.” That was what she said, but Xiao Yu kept looking around for her phone. When she passed by the 5th floor, her eyes twitched when she looked into one of the rooms.

“Huh?” Xiao Yu pointed at the room with shock. “Look at the wooden doll in the wedding dress!” Han Fei and Xiao Jia stopped. They looked into the room. In the mourning hall decorated like a bridal suite, there was a dining table. The table was filled with various meats. The doll in the wedding dress sat beside the table. It was exquisitely dressed. It was entangled with red threads. Its wooden left hand lay on the table. Its clean right hand held Xiao Yu’s phone.

“Did the doll pick up my phone?” The doll was very life-like. It was creepy. The three paused. After a moment, Xiao Yu walked towards the room. “The phone has the memory of my mom and me. I have to take it back.”

“I’ll go.” Han Fei stopped Xiao Yu. “I also want to examine the dolls closer to understand the mechanism behind it.”

Holding the broken red doll and Company, Han Fei stepped on the wedding posters and entered the room. Then, his ears twitched. Han Fei had very sensitive senses. He caught the soft footsteps. He turned back, and his eyes trembled. He shouted, “Be careful!”

Xiao Jia and Xiao Yu jolted before they turned around. The chef doll had silently moved to stand behind Xiao Jia. It stood on the step. Its large shadow loomed. The giant cleaver was raised. The next second, it could carve through Xiao Jia’s neck!

“The fuck!” Looking at the sharp blade, Xiao Jia’s legs weakened. Everything happened too suddenly. He fell to the ground. While the trio was distracted by the chef doll, Han Fei felt a prick of pain on his arm. He turned around and realized the bride doll had left the table and stood before him. The bride doll held a pair of chopsticks in her right hand. When Han Fei turned around, the chopsticks stopped right beside his temple. The doll was very close. Han Fei could see the perfect makeup on her face.

“She looks so real. It’s like a human face has grown out of the wood.” Han Fei stared at the bride doll. “Be careful! They wouldn’t move if we looked at them. We have to ensure that they’re always in our sight!”

After giving them the warning, Han Fei reached for the phone in the doll's right hand. When she was being stared at, the bride doll was just a normal doll. Han Fei got the phone back easily. Han Fei told Xiao Jia to help him stare at the bride doll while he used this opportunity to examine the room.

"The tenant on the 5th floor manages to marry himself off to a ghost. If I can learn this ritual, perhaps I can find that missing person too!" The craftsman said that people who studied rituals were very dangerous, but Han Fei didn't dare. He didn't side with any of the five types of people. He only did things that he believed were right.

"It feels like we're playing the puppet game with this pair of doll couple." Xiao Yu stared at the chef doll outside the door while Xiao Jia looked at the bride doll fearfully. Han Fei searched through the room.

"Has the chef succeeded? After the night fell, he would enter the chef doll's body to reunite with his dead bride in the afterlife?"

The ritual inside the room at night corresponded to the ritual inside the room in the day. The things were similar to the ones prepared by the living chef in his room.

When Han Fei visited the 5th floor in the morning, the bride doll was wrapped up tightly inside the sheet. She couldn't even see the sun.

At night, Han Fei entered the bedroom again. The man they saw that morning was lying naked on the double bed. Various strange symbols were painted on his body. "Is he controlling the soul of the chef doll now?"

Han Fei used his superhuman memory to memorize all the symbols. He planned to try them on himself after he left this place.

"Han Fei, are you done? I don't think I can do this further. I feel like this doll is going to kill me!"

"Just a while longer!" After memorizing the symbols, Han Fei turned to the headboard. The giant wedding picture was covered by a black cloth. "I found the wedding picture strange in the morning. I wonder how it'll be when it's at night." Han Fei removed the black cloth. The people in the wedding picture disappeared. Only two bloody holes remained. "The people in the pictures have come out?"

He moved the frame, and a yellow page fell out. It recorded in detail the process of ghost marriage. "Ghost marriage requires the memory between the couple as the bridge. It consists of three steps, Soul-Guiding, Soul-Calling, and Soul-Resurrecting. You also need an important thing of the victim as a medium..."

Han Fei was reminded of many things. "The chef's medium is their wedding picture. My medium..." Han Fei looked at the red doll in his hands. He felt like everything had been carefully arranged. "The woman taught the chef ghost marriage, and I came here to witness everything. I obtained the paper doll here, the key item I require for the ritual."

This looked like a coincidence, but it was a chance traded with endless deaths. Han Fei held the paper doll tightly as he recited the name in his heart.

Chapter 668: Family Portrait

668 Family Portrait

"Han Fei! Are you done?" Xiao Jia stared at the bride doll. His eyes didn't move. This was very scary. He felt like he had inadvertently memorized all the details about the doll. "I'll dream about this face for a long time in the future. But the key is she's someone else's wife."

"We can prepare to go now." Han Fei memorized the steps in the ghost marriage. He covered the wedding portrait back up and took the yellow paper. "We'll go to the 4th floor and see."

Xiao Jia was about to sigh in relief when he heard that. "Are you sure? Can you not always take risks with your life? I didn't see you as a desperado before this. How come you become so reckless when you're in this building?!"

"You don't get it. This place feels like home to me. Will you be so cautious in your home?" Han Fei naturally knew how dangerous the 4th floor was. He had been there with the hanging man before. If the hanging man didn't haul him out, he might have been permanently trapped in that room already. However, at that crucial moment, he saw the bloody girl on the television. The scary girl told him something. He had a feeling her words were very important. If he missed them, he would regret it for life. Xiao Jia and Xiao Yu stared at the dolls each. Han Fei led the way, and the three of them came to the corner of the stairwell.

When the stairwell blocked their sight, the creaking sound began. When they reacted, the chef doll and the bride doll had left the bridal room and joined them in the stairwell. The two dolls were bound by red threads. The red threads tied them together, uniting them beyond the separation of life and death.

“Red threads? Wait a minute.” Han Fei had Xiao Jia and Xiao Yu stare at the dolls. He used Company to cut off a few red threads and shoved them into his backpack.

“Why do you need the red threads?”

“That way, we won’t need to waste time looking for them.” Han Fei stood before the two dolls and bowed at them. “I wish you a happy marriage. I will remember this kindness. I’ll repay it if I have the chance.” Han Fei didn’t care if they understood him. He moved directly towards the 4th floor.

The strange room’s door was still half ajar. Everything had returned to normal inside the room. Even the television cabinet had returned to its original spot.

“Are you sure you want to do this?” Xiao Jia thought it was better if they didn’t find trouble, but he couldn’t stop Han Fei. While he spoke, Han Fei had already made a decision. He put away the knife called Company, hugged the red paper doll, and entered the roll. The rusted grille creaked noisily. Even the turning of the axle sounded familiar to Han Fei. When he was inside the room, Han Fei did something that no one expected. He closed his eyes, stopped thinking, and put down his defenses. If someone attacked him then, he wouldn’t even have the chance to counter. Han Fei channeled his focus on the memory fragments in his mind. He had the paper dolls, and their messages floated up in his mind. Everyone had their own home. Even if they hadn’t returned for a long time, even if they had forgotten everything, when they stepped into that place again, many forgotten details would be awakened. That was home. It was more than a house made from cement but a flower cultivated by time and age. As dark as life was, turning back, one would realize that the flower had brought colors to the world.

‘I’ve been here many times.’ Many emotions soaked into his soul. Han Fei moved forward. He felt fear, loneliness, and anxiety, but he also felt reliance and bliss. With his eyes still closed, Han Fei walked to the couch. He took the corner seat as if he was reserving the other spaces for the others. At that moment, an image flashed in his mind. Seven people with seven different personalities and faces squeezed on the couch to watch the television. Han Fei’s eyes flew open. He looked around. The couch was empty. His heart was pained. Han Fei felt like he had lost some very important people in his life.

Han Fei covered his face. While he was tortured by amnesia, the television switched on. The static crackled. A black house slowly appeared in the static. The house was built deep inside the black woods. Even the best adventurer wouldn't find this place. There was no road leading to this house. It stood alone in the dark.

Eventually, the door opened. A girl in a bloody dress appeared on the screen. She was very excited when she saw Han Fei again. The murderous urge exploded. Han Fei had no idea why the girl hated him that much. He had no idea what he had done to the girl. The girl wanted to leave the house, but several broken arms dangled on her clothes. From afar, it looked like the arms were stopping her. The girl growled until she was tired and sat on the ground to continue that scary game. This was the first time Han Fei could see the inside of the house from the girl's perspective. The walls, ceiling, floor, everything was blood red.

The girl sat in the blood to piece together the broken bodies. Even if the pieces were joined together, the people couldn't come alive. She tried again and again until tears fell out of her eyes dominated by hatred. She collapsed on the human jigsaw puzzle and cried helplessly.

"Han Fei! Come back!" Xiao Yu and Xiao Jia outside the room urged. However, Han Fei couldn't hear them. He had unknowingly walked towards the television screen. He squatted before the television. He leaned his face close to the screen like he wanted to crawl inside it.

The house was too despairing. There was not even a bit of light. Han Fei was influenced by that despair. He felt his body and soul sinking. Everything he had was being enveloped by the despair inside the television.

"My existence changes nothing..." A thought appeared in his mind. Xiao Yu and Xiao Jia's voices faded away. But at that moment, he suddenly heard a cat meowing. The wounded cat ran over. If Han Fei didn't save it, it would have died several days ago.

"Little Eight?" When Han Fei uttered that name and looked at the kitten, the girl dominated by hatred also had her eyes trembled. She turned her head to look at a corner of the black room. In the corner of the room, permanently dominated by blood and darkness, was a small flower pot. The pot was small. There was no flower, but it was filled with brown soil. The seeds hadn't germinated. However, compared to the black room, the existence of the flower pot symbolized a different possibility. The little girl slowly stood up. Her dress dragged along the broken body parts. She picked up the flower pot with both hands. The world was still dark, the room was still filled with despair and dead bodies, but his arrival had brought a small change. "Would the seed from the living world blossom into a flower in the cryptic world?" The girl hugged the pot and stood in the black room. She turned to look at Han Fei. Han

Fei's reflection appeared in the girl's murderous eyes. She moved the pieced together bodies to the couch. The long couch was seated with seven bodies. When there was only one empty space left, the girl lifted her finger to point at Han Fei through the television screen. The image was like a special family portrait. It was unclear how many deaths people had been through to complete this piece.

"I think I remember it." The video ended. A bloody tape was spat out from underneath the cabinet. Han Fei picked it up. When his fingers touched it, the strange voice in his mind said again, "Notification for Player 0000! You've reached Stage Five!"

Han Fei ignored the voice and examined the tape. Many things were written on the cover. "If you can see these words, then it means that you're still you and not Fu Sheng and not that laughing soul.

"These days, I'm worried that would we slowly forget the important people and lose them in this city.

"But I eventually understand the truth. We can't forget the people we've met so easily. Those people are the reason we are who we are.

"I hope you can hear our voices. Do not suspect, do not worry. At least we still remember you, remember your name and remember your valiance."

The image of Han Fei and seven lonely souls sitting on the couch to watch the television became clearer. The black cloth over his memory had larger holes.

"I've seen this girl's picture in Director Fu's room. In the normal picture, she was hugging a flowerless flower pot. But when I left the room, the picture mutated. The girl was climbing out of another's bloody stomach.

"Other than the paper craftsman, not one person with the surname Fu can be trusted. The same goes for Director Fu. The girl in the picture isn't his family but my family! That room is not his room but my home!" The tape and the red doll were very important to Han Fei. Holding them, he felt very safe, like he had his family's company.

"Han Fei, can we go now? Or do you plan to spend a night here?" Xiao Jia was worried, seeing how Han Fei had fully melted into the darkness.



“Okay.” Han Fei stood up and looked around. He walked to the window and picked up a flowerpot. He dug in the soil for a long time before he found a seed that was like a red heart. “There’s really something inside the pot?” Keeping the seed, Han Fei led his teammate downstairs. The two dolls kept following them. The entrance had been destroyed by the blood-red monster. The deep red light shone into the dark lobby. Happiness Neighborhood reverted to the state how Han Fei remembered it. The neighborhood was covered in blood. There was a blood-red eye floating in the night sky.

“The ghosts live in the cryptic world. This neighborhood sits at the crossroad between the two worlds. If the culprit wants to separate the two worlds, they have to destroy this place.” Han Fei still wasn’t powerful enough to participate in this. At this moment, he was more like a sideline watcher, witnessing history repeating itself in this city. They exited the building, and the dolls stopped chasing after them. They entered the alley between Building 1 and Building 10. They exited Happiness Neighborhood without any hindrance. The blood receded, and they were enveloped by night again.

“We’ve finally escaped!” Xiao Jia leaned against the telephone booth. His limbs kept shaking.

“Now is still not the time to rest.”

Han Fei dragged Xiao Jia and Xiao Yu into the deserted alley. A black taxi slowly drove over. Lee Guo Er had been waiting for a long time already. “Why did you take so long?”

“We saved someone. We’ll talk on the way.” Han Fei took the passenger seat. He was still hugging the blood-red doll.

“Is she trustworthy?” Lee Guo Er was a fugitive after all.

“I’ll ask for her opinion.” Han Fei communicated patiently with Xiao Yu. He realized with surprise that he was very good at persuading people. He didn’t take long to convince Xiao Yu to join them. Xiao Yu was a normal person, but her mother was different. She was a ‘mobile’ ghost, and most importantly, she could use the phone to bring certain people into the cryptic world.

After gaining Xiao Yu’s trust, Lee Guo Er didn’t say anything else. She handed the invitation card to Han Fei. Han Fei adjusted the angle and saw the number on the card, 30.

“Wasn’t the point only 23 earlier? Why the sudden increase?” The hanging man was not as powerful as the boy, so he wouldn’t award 7 points. Han Fei suspected the wooden dolls and the paper dolls had given them the points too.

“I was the one being confused. I was sitting there in the car, and the points rose on their own.” Lee Guo Er put the card away. “What is your next plan?”

“I’ve gained a lot from this trip. I need time to digest them.” Han Fei looked through his script. “Right. Do you know any famous haunted building?”

“Haunted building?” Lee Guo Er raised her brow. “Why do you want to know that?”

“I want to get married.” Han Fei said matter-of-factly.

Chapter 669: Home

669 Home

Lee Guo Er’s hands almost slipped from the steering wheel. She wondered if she had heard wrongly. Xiao Jia and Xiao Yu at the back also widened their eyes. The car was quiet. It was not that strange for Han Fei to request to look for a haunted building, but the really shocking thing was his reason behind it.

Lee Guo Er grabbed the steering wheel and slowed down the car. “Let me process it. Currently, two of us are fugitives, being chased by the police and enemies. And you want to get married under these circumstances? And it has to be inside a haunted house? Sorry for asking, but who is the bride?”

Han Fei lowered his head, and his eyes were complicated, “I can’t remember.”

“You want to get married without knowing the bride?” Lee Guo Er was shocked. If she was not driving, she would grab Han Fei by his collar and shake him awake. “We have marriage freedom, but it doesn’t mean you should go to a haunted house to get married to an unknown ghost!”

“She is right.” Xiao Jia also thought Han Fei was being crazy. “Brother, you don’t need to attempt this because someone else has succeeded in his ghost marriage. What if your bride is an old lady over several hundred years old? You shouldn’t undersell yourself.”

Xiao Yu didn’t say anything. She hugged her mother’s phone and felt like leaving the taxi.

“Don’t worry. I’ll only do things that I have confidence in.” Han Fei still kept his head lowered. He looked through the script. Soon, he found an interesting story. “The 51st Story—Ancestral House. A pair of siblings lived in the old house left behind by their parents. The Big Sister would go out the work during the day while the younger brother went out to work at night. However, one day, the younger brother stopped leaving the house, and the sister became mad.

“Some said it was because the brother fell in love with the sister and the sister accidentally killed her brother; some said the theme park wanted to buy their land. The younger brother sold the house without telling his sister; some said the sister had inherited the father’s medical talent and worked in a medical company. She was threatened by an opposing company because she found a certain medicine that could help develop the brain. They killed her brother and injected her with medicine to make her brain go crazy.

“No matter the reason, the ending was the same. After the mad sister also went missing, the house near the theme park was abandoned. When people passed, they would sometimes hear the sound of meat chopping coming from inside the house.

“These are all urban legends. When I investigated the location myself, I noticed something even stranger.

“In the morning, I looked near the theme park, but I couldn’t find the ancestral home mentioned in the stories. However, after night fell, the building appeared on its own.”

The script didn’t mention the house’s actual location, only that it was close to the theme park.

“Have any of you heard of an old house that would only appear at night near the theme park?” The others were still reeling from the marriage topic when Han Fei asked this question.

“It’s best not to go near the theme park at night. The theme park workers and the wandering Malice are both great threats to us.” Lee Guo Er focused on driving. “That is the consensus among the players.”

“But that house will only appear at night. I’ve read through all the scripts. That place is the most suitable for a ghost marriage.” Han Fei looked at the red paper doll sitting on his lap. There was some kind of connection between the doll and him. The doll also wanted to go to that place. “Perhaps I can find the other parts of the doll there.”

“I’ve heard of this ghost story before. Some players have been there to investigate. However, they were all cursed and had a horrible death.” Worried that Han Fei might misunderstand, Lee Guo Er added, “I’m not saying these things to scare you. Buildings that will only appear at night are very dangerous. They are most likely occupied by ghosts.”

“Han Fei, we should plan this out. We’re all very tired already. Perhaps we can go back to rest first?” Xiao Jia realized he was too different from Han Fei. He was so scared when he saw the ghost marriage, but Han Fei couldn’t wait to participate in one.

“We still need 70 points to the target of 100 points. We can’t waste our limited time on sleeping.” Han Fei knew that most ghosts would only appear at night. If they wanted to reach 100 points before F did, then they had to be more active at night.

“Alright, we’ll go check the space around the theme park then.” Lee Guo Er turned the car around. “We have a vehicle that can run at night. That is already much better than other players. At least we can escape if we can’t fight.” After a few days of working together, Lee Guo Er had trusted Han Fei fully. She respected his decision and would listen to his advice. Sometimes, she had no idea why she was doing this. Perhaps she was a fugitive and couldn’t trust anyone. Han Fei appeared to show her that he was willing to move forward with her. The taxi cut through the night.

The closer they were to the theme park, the stranger the buildings looked. They seemed to move from reality to nightmare. The atmosphere outside the car became more macabre. But no one inside the car wanted to escape. This temporary team was more ‘secure’ than expected.

A light mist floated out. Han Fei sat in the passenger seat and looked at the scenery outside. The taxi drove past his first home and came to the back of that neighborhood.

“Wait. This place...”

“What’s wrong?”

“When I first woke up at the hospital, a woman who called herself my mother brought me back here. I stayed here for one night and almost died.” Han Fei sat in the car. He looked up the apartment. One of the rooms still had its lights open like it was waiting for Han Fei to come home.

“Did your adopted parents try to kill you?” Xiao Jia was curious.

“No. Their house is haunted.” Han Fei shook his head. “Technically, this whole neighborhood is a ghost hive.”

“Then, should we go and rescue your adopted parents?” Xiao Jia was being kind, but he noticed the strange expressions on Han Fei’s face. “Did I say something wrong?”

“My adopted father is this city’s famous coroner. I have no idea what my mother works as. However, the two of them have dealt with at least five dead bodies behind my back. For now, I can’t tell whether it was me who killed those people and they were helping me clean up my trail or they killed those people and wanted to pin the murders on me.” Xiao Jia broke out in cold sweat. What kind of family was this?

“Anyway, forget it.” Han Fei said.

“This whole area is going to be developed. Basically all the buildings here are old. The ancestral house we’re looking for once appeared here.” Lee Guo Er’s tone changed, “But I have bad news to tell you. Your home is the tallest building in the area. Standing on the roof, one could follow the movements of everything inside the neighbourhood. We might be traced by your parents already.”

“It’s okay. We only need to move fast.”

After that, Lee Guo Er turned into a small alley. The road was lined with squat buildings.

“The city wanted to develop this place. The tenants added illegal floors on top of the existing building structure to try to claim more compensation. Of course, this is very dangerous and has led to many accidents.” Lee Guo Er drove around the many old buildings. Suddenly, when she turned the corner, the electric clock on the dashboard stopped!

“The road... is gone?”

A three-story grey building appeared at the end of the pockmarked road. The building’s first and second floors had the architectural style from several decades ago. The third floor appeared to be added later on. The building was connected to the adjacent buildings, forming a dead end.

“Is this the ancestral home? It is different from what I imagined.” Xiao Jia hugged his bag and said nervously.

“Let’s go.” Han Fei didn’t waste time. After the taxi was parked, he grabbed the car door. He was like an experienced detective. His eyes changed once they arrived at the crime scene. “Lee Guo Er will wait inside the car. The rest, follow me.” Han Fei gave everyone a signal. Then he opened the car door, hugged the paper doll and moved towards the building at the end of the road.

“It feels like we’re supposing tempting fate.” Xiao Jia hugged the bag and grumbled. Han Fei led the way with the knife. The building looked abandoned for decades. There was a thick coating of dust on the floor and furniture. But strangely enough, the building didn’t smell weird but had a faded fragrance.

“Do you smell the fragrance of meat?” Han Fei stood in the first-floor living room. He held Company and radiated a dangerous presence.

“I do. It feels like someone is cooking in the kitchen.” Xiao Jia shivered. “Han Fei, you’re knowledgeable. Do you think the smell is from that kind of meat?”

“All the ghosts will become stronger after midnight. Let’s not waste any more time. We need to examine this place and then complete the ritual.” Han Fei already had a bad feeling even though they had been inside for less than a minute. The Yin energy here was so strong that beads of water coagulated on their skin. All the furniture and decorations had human flesh color. Many things were decomposing, but there was a meat fragrance in the air.

“Han Fei, look!” Xiao Yu pointed at the stairs that led to the second floor. There was a wooden sign there. It was covered in the character of Death. “I wanted to go there, but my mom stopped me. She was anxious.” Han Fei and the doll winked at the same time when they saw the wooden sign. “The characters look so familiar. This also feels like home to me.”

“What? I can’t imagine what kind of childhood you have.” Xiao Jia shook his head. “You better be careful. Didn’t Lee Guo Er say that many people who have been here are cursed? Perhaps this old house does have some kind of scary curse. It’s common in horror movies that the stubborn characters...” Before Xiao Jia could finish, Han Fei moved the wooden sign aside and dragged Xiao Jia up the steps. “The items needed for the ghost marriage are in the backpack so you need to come with me.”

“Can you tell me that while not dragging me with you?”

“Next time, I will.” Han Fei stepped on the wooden steps. Suddenly, he stopped.

“What’s wrong?” Xiao Jia hid behind Han Fei.

“Listen to it closely.”

The two of them didn’t move. But there was a thumping noise inside the house. It sounded like someone was chopping meat in the upstairs kitchen.

“When people passed, they would sometimes hear the sound of meat chopping coming from inside the house.” Han Fei remembered the description from the script.

“Is it possible that the younger brother wanted to sell this house, but the sister refused? In the process of argument, the sister accidentally killed the brother.”

“Then where did the meat fragrance come from?”

“Can you not make it sound so scary?” Xiao Jia stuffed Han Fei’s kitten into his arms. In this scary place, at least it could provide him with some warmth.

Han Fei came to the second floor and realized the place had been decorated as a mourning hall. The sacrificial table was filled with rotten meat and fruits. But there was no telling who they were for. There was no picture and no explanation. There was only a woman's handbag. Han Fei opened the bag, and it was filled with a thick stack of women's pictures. These women should be very beautiful when they were alive, but the pictures were taken after they were dead. The light in their eyes was gone. Only despair and curse remained.

"Is the mourning hall meant for these women?" Xiao Jia felt chill just staring at those pictures. "More than one person has died here. How about we leave first?"

"Do you want me to perform the ritual at your house?" Han Fei glanced at Xiao Jia.

"Erm. This place is not so bad actually."

"Go and take the white candles from the table. We need them to guide the soul." Han Fei had memorized all the steps in ghost marriage. He lowered his head to study the pictures. He had no impression of any of the women. "Will I attract some other things?"

The smell of meat in the air thickened. Han Fei didn't dare to waste time. He took out the yellow paper that had all the steps recorded down.

"I remember when the chef married the ghost, he used a lot of red threads. We have no dolls and no threads. How about we come back next time?" Xiao Jia wanted to struggle some more. He thought Han Fei was crazy.

"I have them." Han Fei took out the red threads he borrowed from the wooden dolls. He tied one end around the paper doll and tied the other end around his fingers.

Chapter 670: My Past Your Future

670 My Past Your Future

"There are three steps of the ghost marriage ritual. Problems at any of them will lead to a severe consequence." Every ritual related to the dead had to be successful. The price to pay for failure could be death. Due to the dangers, many such rituals were banned in the city. People didn't like hanging out with ritualists either.



“Han Fei, there’s still time to stop this.” Xiao Jia looked at Han Fei. The man tied his fingers to the paper doll at the sacrificial table.

“After the ritual starts, you and Xiao Yu should leave first. I’ll stay here alone. If I don’t return after half an hour, then you come back to check on me.” Han Fei wiped the sacrificial table clean. “Do you have a lighter with you? Bring these white candles and line them from the junction to the entrance of this ancestral home.”

“Are you sure you can be fine on your own?”

“Don’t worry about me. I’ll be fine.” Han Fei placed the doll in his arms. They did look like a couple.

“Then, you need to be careful.” Xiao Jia put down the backpack. He grabbed the white candles and ran out. Only Han Fei remained on the second floor. He looked at the paper doll. “Now we’re the only ones left.” He held Company in his left hand and the paper doll in his right. Han Fei picked up the backpack and headed to the third floor. The sound of meat chopping came from upstairs. If Xiao Jia was here, Han Fei would have to split his attention to look after him. Now, Han Fei could explore the place freely. The cat obediently jumped on Han Fei’s shoulder and crawled into the backpack. It only had its head exposed. It became very reserved when they were inside the house. It was like the owner was very scary, and it needed to be obedient not to be punished.

Han Fei came to the third floor that was built later, and he was shocked. The first floor was a normal living space, the second floor was the mourning hall, and the third floor was a bridal suite. “What has happened here in the past?” It was unwise to have both funeral and wedding arrangements at the same time, but things were arranged like this here. The sound of meat-chopping became clearer. Han Fei’s vision blurred. Other than the chopping sound, he started to hear something else. It sounded like two men talking. “Are there other people here?” When the two men spoke, the paper doll in Han Fei’s arm opened its eyes.

Hiding beside a dresser with red decoration, Han Fei turned to the source of the voice. A man in branded sportswear sat on the living room couch. He was very tall and imposing. He looked like a man of justice.

“Xu Fei, the person is dead. If you don’t want to go to jail, follow my instructions.” It was hard to imagine the honest-looking man would say something so chilling.

“We said we wouldn’t kill anyone!” A lanky man stood beside the couch. His eyes were bloodshot, and veins popped around his neck. He was very agitated, but it was unclear whether it was due to fear or other reason.

“Stop screaming. Do you want to attract the other neighbors?” The man in the sportswear stretched lazily. The man’s face turned up with a sneer. “The woman died testing your big sister’s new drug. All you need to do now is to push everything to your sister.”

“But the toxicology report...”

“You don’t need to worry about that. All I need is for you to make sure your sister won’t come out to destroy the plan.” The man crossed his legs. His shoes knocked at the cup beside Xu Fei. “You spiked the drink. I was only invited here. Even if this became huge news, who do you think will be punished more?”

“Fu Dong, don’t push it.”

“I’m just telling you the truth. Although my family always has issues with my actions, they will help me to protect the company image.” The man smiled at Xu Fei. “My dad is losing his marbles. The company is eventually mine. Just follow me. I’ll make sure your life is smooth.” The lanky man was persuaded. He took out a raincoat from his black bag and put it on with difficulty. “You did the right thing. We’ve done so many experiments. Many people didn’t even know what had happened to them. The woman’s resistance was just an accident. As long as we deal with this, all the past mistakes will be rectified too.” The man called Fu Dong took out his wallet and handed a card to Xu Fei. “I know it’s hard for you to make this decision. Take this money and go relax.”

Xu Fei hesitated before he reached for the card. But at that moment, Fu Dong pulled the card back. “With this card, you can do anything you want, but once you’re inside, you won’t be able to do anything.”

“I’ll confirm with you one last time. Is there no other solution?” Xu Fei’s eyes were red. His conscience and his greed were having one last fight.

“Your sister is responsible for the treatment of all the female patients in Area A and testing of all the new drugs. She should have noticed this problem a long time ago. That female patient has a serious

mental problem, and she was tormented by us during the deep consciousness treatment. The new drugs have no effect on her anymore.” Fu Dong said these horrible things calmly.

“You did those things on your own. Don’t drag me into it.”

“People won’t care about that. After all, you took my money.” The smile on Fu Dong’s face slowly disappeared. “I can correct the data and memory in the computer, but we need you to eliminate the memory in people’s brains. Hide all the medicine and syringes I’ve given you. Remember to feed them to your sister daily. Eventually, she’ll forget these things.”

“Are you sure the drugs are only used to create amnesia?” Xu Fei’s eyes flashed with worry. “After my sister had the drugs, her emotions became very frayed. Her personality changed too.”

“It’s normal for the drugs to have side effects.” Fu Dong shrugged. “Go and wake your sister. It’s time for her medication again.”

The sound of meat-chopping grew louder, but the two men didn’t seem to hear it. They continued to conspire. Han Fei hid beside the dresser and memorized everything. The female owner probably had the surname Xu too. She was Xu Fei’s older sister. She once held an important post at a medical company. She was responsible for new drug testing on female mental patients. Fu Dong was most likely the son of the company boss. While the company did the treatment on the female patients, he did horrible things to them. Now that the incident was exposed, Xu Fei and Fu Dong wanted to cover it up. To keep the sister silent, they planned to use drugs to turn her into a madwoman.

“Those two men have no yin or yang energy on them. They are not ghosts or humans. They feel more like a figment of my imagination. I’m probably under the influence of some ghost. I’ve been drawn into her despair.” Han Fei and the paper doll looked in the same place. In the living room, the event continued. Xu Fei opened the door and led a long-haired woman out of the room. The woman had a pretty face and a voluptuous figure. Even in the most normal attire, she was captivating.

“Big Sister, it’s time to eat.” Xu Fei expertly poured the drug into the water. Then he took out a new syringe from the locked drawer.

“I’ll do this. You should go and deal with the dead body.” Fu Dong suddenly became so kind. Xu Fei seemed to understand something. He stood there for a while before turning to leave. After Xu Fei left,

Fu Dong's expression changed drastically. "It's quite tiring to keep on acting." He took out the syringe and looked at the woman lustily. "You're going mad soon. In the future, I'll send you to the company as an experiment. I'll personally treat you." He removed his shirt and stared at the woman's face. He leaned close. "I didn't even dare to think about this in the past, but you insisted on going against me. You asked for this."

He reached for the woman's clothes. But at that moment, the woman suddenly raised her eyes. There were different female faces hidden in her pair of gentle eyes. The woman grabbed the dining knife from the table and stabbed it into Fu Dong's left eye. Fu Dong was dragged into the blood-red world without warning. He screamed. He fell to the ground, but the woman didn't plan to let him go.

The beautiful face was twisted by anger and curse. The woman found the truth after the victims' consciousness filtered into her mind. She pounced on Fu Dong like a ghost. Fu Dong was much stronger than the woman, but at that moment, he was really afraid. He was cornered and jumped down from the third-floor balcony. The meat-chopping sound was like a rapid drumbeat. Destiny was coming together.

Xu Fei downstairs heard the commotion. He rushed upstairs. He charged toward his sister, but he was welcomed by a sharp table knife. The woman had always loved her little brother, but in her madness, she personally stabbed through her brother's heart. She understood human anatomy very well. She knew that cut would kill.

She growled and cried. The woman with the dancing knife had lost her mind. The faces in her eyes kept changing. She stood on the table and cut at the sins. She moved faster and faster. The sound of stabbing overlapped with the sound of meat chopping. At that moment, the woman with the blood-dyed dress looked up. She held the table knife and looked at the stairwell entrance dully.

Han Fei stood there. Their eyes met.

"Xu Qin?" A soft call and the maddening chopping sound faded away.

The woman, the men, all the blood faded like bubbles. Han Fei with the paper doll remained.

Han Fei had no impression of the events he had just seen. They appeared to be related to that woman's past. After Han Fei had forgotten everything, she showed herself without reservation to Han Fei.