

Collapse 149

Chapter 149: The Cost of Life_1

The rain poured down endlessly. I wonder if it's always a rainy night like this every time we enter this instance, Gu Mian thought.

Gu Mian wiped the rainwater from his face. "He won't survive much longer in the trunk anyway."

He calculated seriously. "I think it's better to complete the mission for this instance first. I remember the rewards include something called the 'List of Ghosts,' right?"

"Huh?" Upon Gu Mian's reminder, Fatty also recalled, "What 'List of Ghosts'? Why is my instance reward a 'Ghost's Mirror'?"

Aren't they different?

Gu Mian still remembered the rewards for this instance were three Attribute Points, 300 Game Coins, and the 'Monster List'.

The 'List of Ghosts' sounded like a ready-made special item. The name had a strong Japanese anime vibe; you could expand on it and turn it directly into an anime series.

However, the 'Ghost's Mirror' that Fatty received as a reward sounded a bit more down-to-earth by its name.

For some reason, whenever Gu Mian heard about Fatty's reward, he was always reminded of the Monster-Revealing Mirror from *Journey to the West*.

The two of them looked at Chu Changge, who was beside them.

Chu Changge shook his head slightly. "My reward is 'Ghost's Eraser'..."

Gu Mian: "..."

What the heck? Could it be that these items belonged to a certain ghost, and after the global game started, they sponsored their personal belongings as game rewards?

"It might be a set of Magic Artifacts," Fatty, who was deeply influenced by xuanhuan novels, chimed in.

Gu Mian wiped the rain from his face again. "Never mind that. Let's get in the car first."

He clearly hadn't given up on the driver in the trunk, so he had Fatty drive Chen Beidou's car. Gu Mian sat in the passenger seat, and Chu Changge sat in the back.

The three of them ultimately needed to go to three different locations, which made things a bit complicated.

Fortunately, their current location was far from all three of their destinations, so they could discuss who to drop off first.

Gu Mian didn't want to drive. God knew what kind of accident might happen if he drove; driving the Spirit Car had been a last resort.

Fatty apparently hadn't thought that far ahead. Gripping the steering wheel, he asked curiously, "Doctor, how did you end up in Chen Beidou's car? By the way, do you know the guy you stuffed in the trunk is named Chen Beidou?"

Fatty felt uneasy saying this. Knowing the driver's evil deeds, he couldn't shake the feeling that the person in the trunk, not quite dead yet, was secretly listening to their conversation.

The car clock showed the time.

They saw it was already almost three in the morning, and outside remained pitch black.

The car seemed enveloped by the downpour, making the road ahead unclear, so Fatty had to slow down.

Such a rainy night should have been terrifying, especially in a taxi within a horror instance. However, the thought that there were three of them now, especially with a blood-soaked Doctor sitting behind him, gave Fatty courage.

Gu Mian wiped the blood from his hands. "I know. After I realized the other drivers weren't hostile towards me, I messed with the phone booth again. Since I had nothing better to do, I dialed the family contact number listed on his missing person notice..."

Fatty pouted. "You definitely didn't call just because you had nothing better to do."

In his mind, Gu Mian must have gone through some meticulous thought and deduction to discover the secret of the phone booth. Fatty could even picture the Doctor in his white coat, frowning in concentration as he stared at the dial.

"Whatever you say." Gu Mian felt his hands were still too dirty, so he wiped them on his not-so-spotless white coat.

Fatty: "..."

"Then what happened?" Fatty pressed on. "Doctor, how did you manage to get into this pervert's car so accurately?"

"I ran into someone else earlier, I think he was called Zhuifeng Shaonian, ran incredibly fast... COUGH. COUGH." Seeming to realize he was straying from the topic, Gu Mian cleared his throat twice. "He and I were in the same car, and I noticed that the previous drivers didn't seem to be targeting players."

Fatty replied as if it were a matter of course, "I remember not being targeted when I was with you either, Doctor."

Gu Mian ignored him. "But his talent for scaring himself was pretty impressive. He ran off so quickly he left his map behind. After I discovered the family contact numbers could be called, I dialed both numbers on the missing person notices..."

Hearing this, a bold guess formed in Fatty's mind. "Don't tell me you memorized Chen Beidou's voice... and then called for his car?"

Gu Mian glanced at him. "How else do you think I hailed him?"

Fatty frowned again. "You got his car with just one call?"

If that's the case, his luck would be unbelievably bad.

"Of course not," Gu Mian denied. "From Chen Beidou's phone recording, I judged he likely had some psychological issues. And we doctors, of course, must punish evil and promote good..."

Fatty furrowed his brow.

Gu Mian paused, then continued, "No, wait. We doctors must, of course, be inclusive of all patients. That's our sacred duty. Yes, sacred duty."

"So I made several calls, hung up as soon as I heard the wrong voice, and then, as I wished, successfully scheduled an 'appointment' with this patient."

Gu Mian wanted to pat the trunk.

But he realized he was in the front passenger seat and couldn't reach it, so he had to give up the idea.

The windshield wipers swished frantically, but the view ahead remained very blurry.

The car's speed had dropped to a crawl. Gu Mian worried that the person in the trunk would die from blood loss before they reached their destinations.

Fatty's voice grew solemn. "What did you do after you 'got' this patient? He couldn't have revealed his true colors the moment you got in the car, right?"

Listening to the phone recording, Chen Beidou first used coaxing words. When victims got into his car, he always acted like a good person, only revealing his evil side midway through the journey.

"We had a pretty nice chat at first," Gu Mian answered truthfully.

As he spoke, he glanced at the map in his hand. "We were heading in the right direction initially. He probably didn't plan to kill every passenger. We were chatting, and then suddenly, I don't know what wire got crossed in his head, but he asked me if I'd be scared if I encountered a really dangerous pervert."

Fatty interjected, "You must have told him before that you weren't afraid of anything. He wanted to see you look scared; perverts like him love that."

Chu Changge's voice came from the back seat. "Yes. If you had said you were scared back then, he would have found you uninteresting and not worth killing." Read full story at NOvelFire.net

If Gu Mian had answered that way, he probably would have been dropped off at the entrance of Rong'an Residential Area long ago.

Chu Changge continued, "So, this instance isn't actually that difficult. There are very few dead ends."

But every 'safe' driver 'transforms' midway. Normal players would definitely abandon the car and flee upon seeing a transformed driver.

That's why, in reality, more than half the players ended up in Chen Beidou's 'crooked taxi'.

But even getting into his car wasn't an automatic death sentence. As long as you played along with Chen Beidou—basically, acted scared and submissive—you'd be fine.

No matter what the driver said, you had to nod and agree to survive.

But Gu Mian was the exact opposite.

Not only did he not play along, but he beat the dangerous man until he was like a dead pig and then stuffed him into the trunk.

Gu Mian continued, "You all saw what happened next. He drove me to that godforsaken mountainside, intending to do me in, but he failed."

"More than just failed," Fatty lamented. "He paid for it with his life."