

Collapse 381

Chapter 381 Twelve People_1

Still at school? Gu Mian frowned but said nothing.

He turned to Guo Jimei, who indeed continued, "Gu Mian, don't you see? This is the elevator to our school's basement floor!"

Of course, Gu Mian knew nothing about any so-called basement floor. He wasn't originally part of this instance. Even if this damn school had a basement floor elevator, he wouldn't know about it.

So Gu Mian could only remain silent, pretending to be deep in thought, not answering Guo Jimei's question.

Fortunately, Guo Jimei didn't seem to be paying much attention to him, her gaze fixed on the elevator before them. "That's right, we're still in the school, and we've been sent to the basement floor!"

Gu Mian really wanted to ask Guo Jimei how she knew this was the basement floor's elevator, but rationality made him keep his mouth shut.

Judging by Guo Jimei's words and mannerisms, the 'Gu Mian' she knew was apparently familiar with this basement floor.

Guo Jimei murmured in a low voice, "The school closed off this basement floor many years ago, supposedly because of some incident..."

Gu Mian stroked his chin. He hadn't expected his thoughtful act to be so useful today—a rare thing. "Are you sure that person came this way?"

Guo Jimei was taken aback for a moment before answering, "Yes, I heard his footsteps come this way. He went in and never came back out."

Gu Mian frowned. Went in and never came back out... That idiom she used was quite chilling.

There wasn't a single soul here. The only elevator leading to other places had long been shut down. If they wanted to leave, they could only retrace their steps.

But the person Guo Jimei mentioned had vanished here—incredibly eerie. It was highly likely this was the motionless shadow Gu Mian had seen earlier in the corridor, assuming Guo Jimei was telling the truth.

There was no one else, just him and Guo Jimei. As he contemplated this, Gu Mian glanced at Guo Jimei. She was still staring intently at the elevator doors, though nothing about them seemed particularly noteworthy to him.

Gu Mian looked away. Since he couldn't find anyone else at the moment and couldn't verify Guo Jimei's identity, he'd have to think of another plan.

Since this basement floor was closed off, they probably wouldn't find an exit. Their only hope was that the ghost who'd thrown them in here would also throw them back out.

"However..." Gu Mian stroked his chin. "If the ghost threw us in here and doesn't plan to get us out, wouldn't everyone thrown in here end up dead?"

Guo Jimei shivered at his words. "Yes, that way the ghost can kill all of us directly!"

But in theory, a ghost could only kill one person per night. This applied whether the killing was active, passive, or accidental. A ghost couldn't kill a second person on the same night. Otherwise, the ghost itself would die for killing multiple people.

A ghost suffocating a group of people to death here would also count as murder, even if not by its own hand.

"Don't panic," Gu Mian reassured. "A ghost can only kill one person each night, or it will die too. If we all die here, the ghost will also perish. I don't think the ghost that moved us here intends to sacrifice itself."

Gu Mian saw Guo Jimei breathe a sigh of relief. He continued, "Besides, it's not guaranteed that we can't find an exit..."

But just as he said this, he suddenly heard a faint rustling sound from behind. If not for his excellent hearing, he might have missed it entirely.

Gu Mian immediately turned to look. Was there someone there?

Behind him was still the same pitch-black, narrow corridor, its contents obscured by darkness.

"What's wrong?" Guo Jimei asked cautiously, noticing his reaction. Apparently, she hadn't heard the sound.

Gu Mian shook his head. "Nothing. Since this way is a dead end, let's try somewhere else to find an exit."

Guo Jimei clearly didn't want to go off on her own, so she didn't hesitate to follow Gu Mian.

The two quickly exited the stairwell, arriving at the slightly larger platform where Gu Mian had stopped earlier.

Passing the pitch-black passageway again, Gu Mian peered inside but saw nothing.

This platform branched off in three directions: one led to the elevator they had just come from; another to the corridor Gu Mian had initially entered; and the last was the direction from which Xu Xingcheng's silhouette had appeared.

Gu Mian didn't hesitate and walked directly towards the corridor where Xu Xingcheng's silhouette had just appeared.

He noticed the underground corridors did indeed resemble the school's layout, though he found it hard to believe a single school building could be this expansive.

Gu Mian led the way, lamp in hand. Beside him, Guo Jimei cautiously ventured, "I heard the school's entire basement level is interconnected."

"Entirely interconnected?"

"Yes," Guo Jimei said. "Supposedly, all the academic buildings and dormitories have basements, and they're all linked by tunnels."

That was quite novel.

"I heard from seniors that the stairs and elevators in our school used to lead directly to the basement floor. However, after a certain incident, the whole area was closed off..."

As Gu Mian walked down the corridor, listening to Guo Jimei, he noted its extreme length. He suspected this was one of the 'tunnels' Guo Jimei had mentioned that connected the basement levels.

As the pair continued down the pitch-black corridor, Gu Mian spotted another figure in the distance. This time, it was Chu Changge.

Chu Changge was pushing open a door along the corridor. He peeked inside, then paused at the entrance, frowning as if deep in thought.

Gu Mian had only spotted him for a few seconds when Chu Changge seemed to sense their presence and looked over.

Good, Gu Mian thought. Now two more partners in misfortune have joined me, though I'm still not sure if they're human or ghost.

By then, Chu Changge had walked over. Guo Jimei seemed somewhat excited. "It looks like we've all been brought to this place!"

From her reaction, it seemed the more people transported here, the happier she became.

Gu Mian ignored the slightly overexcited Guo Jimei and turned to Chu Changge. "Were you also transported here as soon as it hit eight o'clock?"

Chu Changge nodded. "Yes. And I found this." As he spoke, he pulled a photograph from his pocket.

Gu Mian took it. The photograph was considerably faded, but the image was still discernible: twelve people.

Chapter 382 Cat and Mouse and Gu Mian_1

Twelve people... Six men and six women.

The girls were squatting in the first row, the boys standing behind them. Gu Mian frowned, looking at the photo in his hand. If this photo showed something else, it probably wouldn't be of much use.

Just then, Guo Jimei, who was beside him, spoke up, "Hey, aren't there twelve of us playing 'Close Your Eyes'? And it's also six men and six women..."

True.

Gu Mian continued to examine the photo in his hand by the flashlight's beam. Although the photograph had been eroded by the damp air, causing many parts to become blurry, most of the faces were still recognizable.

He didn't recognize any of the faces in the photo.

The faces of the other eleven people, though blurry, still allowed their original features to be discerned.

However, the girl on the far right of the first row was unique. Her face looked as if it had been dissolved by water, leaving it completely blank.

"There's a date on the back," Chu Changge suddenly said.

Gu Mian flipped the photo over. Indeed, the printing date was on the back: June 12, 2013.

Chu Changge glanced at his luminous digital wristwatch, which displayed the current time in the instance. "The photo was taken six years ago."

A photo from six years ago, and now it's inexplicably appeared here.

As he thought, Gu Mian turned to Guo Jimei beside him. "Do you remember when the school's first basement level was sealed off?"

Guo Jimei thought for a moment. "Around 2013 or 2014, I think..."

The photo in my hand is from 2013. So, could this instance be connected to this photo? Twelve people, six men and six women—a perfect match for our current situation. And among these twelve, there's one girl with a melted face.

Musing, he rubbed his chin. "This faceless person is very likely the ghost in our current instance."

The actual ghost.

There were three ghosts among the twelve people. Gu Mian hadn't been sure before how many ghosts were players and how many were actual ghosts native to the instance. Judging from this photo, could it be that there's only one original ghost in this instance? This could be an important clue to finding the instance's ghost.

Gu Mian handed the photo back to Chu Changge. "But if this photo is really related to the ghost, why would it brazenly throw us into this place to find clues?"

Isn't it afraid of having its cover blown?

Chu Changge glanced at Gu Mian, his glasses glinting faintly in the flashlight's beam. "Perhaps the ghost also doesn't want us to enter this place."

If the ghost didn't throw us in here, could it be that the instance couldn't bear to watch and actively sent us in to find clues? Would an instance that's always scheming to kill us be so benevolent?

Gu Mian felt that all these instances seemed to wish for his death, but...

At this thought, Gu Mian suddenly recalled Chu Changge mentioning "two organizers." There was a conflict between the two organizers. One wanted to cultivate players through instances, while the other wanted to kill players and expand the instances. One wants to kill me, and the other doesn't want me to die. Perhaps the two organizers are fighting within this very instance, which is how we managed to enter this core area where we can access information about the ghost.

"Anyway, since we can access information about the ghost here, let's search quickly. Who knows when we'll be thrown out," Gu Mian said.

Chu Changge and Guo Jimei didn't object, so the three of them continued forward.

Just as Guo Jimei had said, the first basement levels under the academic buildings were all connected. After passing through one section, they would enter a long, narrow passage with no rooms on either side. These were likely the tunnels connecting the first basement levels of different academic buildings.

While the three of them were walking through the narrow, dark passage, Guo Jimei suddenly asked, "Meiren Chu, where did you find this photo?"

Chu Changge pushed up his glasses. "In one of the rooms in the corridor where we first met."

"Oh," Guo Jimei nodded slightly. "So you were standing outside the door earlier, also looking for clues inside, right?"

"Yes," Chu Changge replied.

Guo Jimei then asked, "Have you seen anyone else here then? Besides us."

Chu Changge said, "No."

Guo Jimei looked quite worried. "If it's just the three of us here, it feels a bit scary..."

People in perilous situations often like to drag others down with them, even if it offers no personal benefit. Still, being scared together in a crowd is always better than being scared alone.

Just as Guo Jimei was thinking they were too few in number, Gu Mian heard footsteps approaching from ahead. The footsteps, rapid and urgent, came from a distance. They sounded for a moment, then suddenly stopped, as if whoever it was had seen them.

Simultaneously, Gu Mian saw a flashlight beam appear ahead. That's...

Before Gu Mian could get a clear look at the person, the flashlight ahead abruptly went out, and its owner turned and fled.

Who was it?

Gu Mian certainly wasn't going to let that person just get away. He immediately gave chase. As he pursued, he heard Guo Jimei's voice from behind him, "Wait for me!"

The narrow passage was pitch-dark. After passing through it, they reached a platform with two diverging corridors ahead. Gu Mian shone his flashlight around. It seemed he had chased them into the first basement level of another building. The fleeing person had vanished; it was unclear which corridor they had taken.

Gu Mian studied the two corridors before him for a moment, then looked back. Guo Jimei had caught up, panting heavily, but Chu Changge was nowhere to be seen.

"He didn't follow?" Gu Mian asked.

Guo Jimei, still catching her breath, shook her head. "He was... I think he was behind me."

Chu Changge hadn't allocated Attribute Points to stamina, but he definitely shouldn't be outrun by a high school girl with no physical enhancements. He must have deliberately stayed behind.

Gu Mian shone his flashlight down the narrow passage behind them. There was no sign of Chu Changge, nor any sound of movement.

Guo Jimei asked, puzzled, "Did he really not follow us?"

He really hadn't followed. And it looked like he didn't intend to.

Gu Mian waited in place for over ten seconds, but there was still no sign of Chu Changge. He turned back. "That person went into one of these two corridors. Dare to split up with me?"

"You want to split up?" Guo Jimei's eyes widened slightly. "I wouldn't dare."

Gu Mian couldn't exactly kick Guo Jimei into one corridor while he took the other. He looked at the two corridors with a bit of a headache. "Then let's take the one on the right."

Guo Jimei hesitated. "Aren't we waiting for Meiren Chu?"

Gu Mian nodded and headed into the right-hand corridor.

In the darkness, Yue Nu was hiding in a room, leaning against the door and panting heavily. She gently pushed open a crack in the door to peek outside. Seeing no one had followed, she breathed a small sigh of relief. "Looks like they didn't catch up."

Chapter 383 Stealthy Meiren Chu_1

Yue Nu was alone in the pitch-black corridor.

After ascertaining that Gu Mian and his companion had followed, she cautiously emerged from her hiding place behind the door. "I almost ran into them; that was too close. Luckily, I managed to shake them off."

Looking at the deserted corridor before her, Yue Nu frowned again. My puppet just died...

She was well aware that her actions during the day had been conspicuous enough to draw the ghost's attention. The one to die tonight could very well be her.

But Yue Nu wasn't planning to be eliminated just yet. After all, as a player, it would be embarrassing to enter an instance without a few special items in her possession.

To survive until tomorrow, she had used one such item.

[Lover's Puppet (Disposable)]

[Description: A puppet crafted by a madwoman to keep her beloved by her side forever; the perfect tool for a stand-in.]

Setting aside its eerie description, the function itself was quite practical.

[Function: Perfectly duplicates the user's external characteristics, including height, weight, appearance, and voice. It is an absolutely convincing replica, to the point where even its death can perfectly mimic that of a real corpse. The puppet can perform simple actions under the user's command.]

When eight o'clock arrived tonight, Yue Nu had placed it in the classroom where they had hidden earlier, making it take her form. This way, any ghost bearing ill will toward her would be fooled by the puppet. She herself had hidden until she bumped into Gu Mian and his companions a short while ago.

It was right when I ran into Gu Mian and the others... my puppet died... Yue Nu recalled. The puppet was killed in the classroom. At that time, Gu Mian and the others were right in front of me, so the ghost who killed the puppet wasn't one of them... I need to go and see for myself...

Yue Nu was still preoccupied with the cell phone she had hidden in the classroom. Since the puppet was killed in the classroom, the hidden cell phone must have recorded everything. The ghost wouldn't linger at the murder scene to avoid revealing its identity, so going to that classroom now was the safest option.

Yue Nu frowned at the thought. If I want to get out of this haunted place... I've used far too many special items in this instance...

「At this moment, Gu Mian and Guo Jimei were searching the dark hallway for the fleeing figure.」

Unexpectedly, before they had taken more than a few steps, they heard Li Yibai's voice.

His head popped out from a nearby door. After recognizing the two, he ran out excitedly. "I'm so relieved to see living people!"

Guo Jimei looked suspiciously at Li Yibai. "Was that you running just now?"

"What?" Li Yibai looked somewhat confused.

The two had argued earlier in the day, so the atmosphere was now tense.

Seeing his clueless expression, Guo Jimei changed tack. "Were you brought here too?"

Li Yibai leaned toward Gu Mian and nodded. "As soon as eight o'clock struck, I was suddenly here... At first, I was with Lin Qi. But after we'd wandered this spooky place for a short while, we saw a chainsaw coming through a nearby door!"

"A chainsaw?" Guo Jimei was clearly stunned. She probably hadn't expected ghosts to use weapons.

(Though a chainsaw wasn't exactly standard ghost equipment...)

Li Yibai nodded. "We turned and ran. While we were running, the lights overhead began flickering. After a few flashes, we got separated... Afterward, I encountered Xu Keke, but we got separated too. Actually, Guo Jimei, when I got separated from Xu Keke, I think I heard your voice somewhere."

Guo Jimei was momentarily speechless. "I had run into Gu Mian then. We both startled each other."

Gu Mian glanced at Guo Jimei. What do you mean, 'we both startled each other'?

Li Yibai nodded. "So that's what happened. Have either of you seen Lin Qi?"

It seems all this young man can think about is Lin Qi, Gu Mian mused.

Guo Jimei shook her head directly.

"Speaking of which," Gu Mian suddenly spoke up, "Li Yibai, you were initially with Lin Qi, right?"

Li Yibai nodded. "We only lost each other after the lights overhead flickered a few times."

If that's the case, then neither Li Yibai nor Lin Qi could be the ghost I saw in the corridor. They also couldn't be the mysterious figure Guo Jimei saw heading towards the elevator. Gu Mian felt a headache coming on. The clues are too fragmented right now; finding the ghost will be very difficult. I myself encountered the ghost in the hallway. After chasing it, I saw the enigmatic Xu Xingcheng. I also ran into Guo Jimei, who was playing tricks in a corner, and then Chu Changge, who was sneaking around in front of a room door where I found an old photograph that seemed meaningless. And now, I've run into Li Yibai. According to his account...

"Oh, right!" Li Yibai suddenly interjected. "Between separating from Lin Qi and meeting Xu Keke, I saw Meiren Chu!"

Chu Changge was known as Meiren Chu in this instance.

Truth be told, I find it hard to associate that name with Chu Changge, Gu Mian thought.

Guo Jimei frowned. "What did you see?"

Li Yibai was frowning too. "I saw him sneaking around in front of a few doors... Well, not exactly sneaking. It was more like he was searching for something, but it didn't seem like he was searching for anything specific..."

Gu Mian rubbed his forehead. What's the difference between what you just said and saying nothing at all?

Then Li Yibai added, "That's it! It was like he was searching for a room. He seemed to be looking for a suitable room because after opening a door, he would just stand in the doorway looking in. He wasn't looking for anything specific; it was more like he was inspecting the room."

"Looking for a room?" Guo Jimei asked, confused. "Does he plan on spending the night here? Wait..."

At that point, she turned to Gu Mian. "When we ran into Meiren Chu earlier, he was acting that way too. He seemed to be searching for something, yet he only stood in the doorway, looking in."

Now that she thought about it, he really did seem to be inspecting the rooms.

Why was he... looking for a room?

Li Yibai turned to Gu Mian and Guo Jimei. "You two ran into him too? Where's Meiren Chu now?"

As he spoke, he looked behind them, but there was nothing there.

Guo Jimei hesitated. "We... we lost sight of him."

Chapter 384 Never Cease to Scam Someone_1

"Separated?" Li Yibai looked skeptical, clearly doubting Chu Changge's identity.

Guo Jimei, seeing this, couldn't help but make a sarcastic remark, "Didn't your Lin Qi get separated from you too? Why don't you suspect she's a ghost as well?"

Li Yibai glanced at Guo Jimei but remained silent.

The two had already verbally clashed earlier that day; Gu Mian even felt they might start fighting at any moment.

Of course, if they started brawling here and now, I'd be truly in awe of their bizarre thought processes.

"Oh, right, Li Yibai," Gu Mian began, "do you know we're currently underground, beneath the school?"

"Beneath the school?" Li Yibai was taken aback. "I knew there was a sealed-off underground area at the school, supposedly full of terrifying rumors... How did we end up in this godforsaken place?"

Gu Mian nodded slightly. "It seems this is where we are."

"Ah," Li Yibai looked somewhat incredulous. "I did think the layout here seemed a lot like the academic building, so that explains it..."

Gu Mian looked at the man and woman before him. "I've summed it up. The people who have appeared in this dreadful place tonight are me, Guo Jimei, Li Yibai, Meiren Chu, Xu Keke, and Lin Qi."

Six people.

Of course, there was also Xu Xingcheng, who shouldn't have been here, but Gu Mian hadn't mentioned this to the two in front of him.

Yuan Qinghua, Yue Nu, Zhang Pingfan, and Pan Yue, who had disappeared last night, hadn't shown up at all.

Perhaps, like last night, they'd all been separated.

"In any case, let's find the exit first," Gu Mian said, walking past the two and moving forward. "Who do you two suspect is the ghost now?"

At his words, Li Yibai and Guo Jimei glanced at each other.

Last night, Li Wentao had been wrongly voted out, and Wang Pan had been killed by the ghost.

Both deceased were civilians, which meant there were still three ghosts among the remaining ten people.

Guo Jimei was the first to speak.

When Gu Mian heard Guo Jimei begin to speak, he just knew she was about to badmouth her former friend, Yuan Qinghua, again.

As expected.

"I think Yuan Qinghua is definitely a ghost!"

Gu Mian listened quietly, noticing Li Yibai subtly roll his eyes.

Guo Jimei continued, "Among the remaining few... Meiren Chu is quite suspicious..."

After finishing, she glanced at Li Yibai beside her, then looked at Gu Mian, her eyes lingering on the guitar case Gu Mian carried on his back before continuing, "I also find Yue Nu quite strange. Earlier today, she actually suggested identifying the ghost by trying to kill people. While she was trying to take advantage of the fact that civilians cannot kill other players, I think if that method had actually been used, a lot of people could have died, playing right into the ghosts' hands."

Gu Mian noticed Guo Jimei's gaze.

He had a feeling Guo Jimei had wanted to say, "I suspect Gu Mian," but since he was right there, she'd switched her accusation to Yue Nu.

When Guo Jimei finished speaking, Li Yibai immediately piped up, "I'm sure Lin Qi is not a ghost!"

I knew it... Gu Mian pinched the bridge of his nose, feeling that the two people with him were completely unreliable.

Thankfully, despite his strong personal bias, Li Yibai was still analyzing the situation somewhat seriously.

Li Yibai continued, "Apart from Lin Qi, I think Pan Yue is quite suspicious. Yesterday, most of us were swayed by her to vote out Li Wentao. If Pan Yue hadn't kept harping on it, Li Wentao might not have been eliminated. I believe Pan Yue intentionally misled us into voting for Li Wentao!"

Gu Mian saw that Guo Jimei was listening attentively, seemingly unaware of what had happened last night.

That made sense. If Guo Jimei were acting like she knew everything that happened last night, she'd definitely be a ghost.

"Also, I find Meiren Chu quite suspicious..." Li Yibai added, also directing his suspicion towards Chu Changge.

It wasn't just them; Gu Mian also found Chu Changge's behavior extremely suspicious.

His actions were strange yesterday and even stranger today. He also seemed to be looking for something.

Li Yibai then voiced his last suspicion: "I think your behavior is quite suspicious, Guo Jimei. You claimed to abstain, but your vote from yesterday disappeared. Today, you raised a ruckus, constantly accusing Yuan Qinghua of being a ghost, as if you're trying to divert our attention."

Gu Mian massaged his forehead again.

At least Guo Jimei hadn't outright said to my face, "Gu Mian might be a ghost." But Li Yibai... who knew if he was deliberately provoking Guo Jimei by saying that right in front of her.

"You're the suspicious one!" Guo Jimei retorted, as expected.

Gu Mian didn't know how these two managed to create such a tense, ready-to-explode atmosphere in this eerie underground place.

However, just as their standoff reached a peak, an eerie voice cut in at the perfect moment.

It was a sudden female voice from behind, "You guys..."

「At this moment.」

Yue Nu had emerged onto the surface.

She casually tossed away a ticket in her hand, muttering, "I can't believe I've used so many special items in this instance... I just hope the outcome is worth it."

As she mumbled to herself, she remained alert to her surroundings.

She was still in the school, but the academic buildings were all dark, and even the distant dorms were shrouded in blackness.

The entire school appeared dim and gloomy, exuding an indescribable sense of oppression.

Looking toward the pitch-black dormitory building, Yue Nu remarked, "It seems it's past lights-out."

She quickly ran towards a distant academic building.

My behavior today definitely made me a prime target for the ghost, which is why I left the doll in the classroom... And it looks like the ghost really did mistake it for me and 'killed' it. Without realizing it had killed a fake. Even in death, the doll would look like a very realistic corpse.

Yue Nu sprinted toward the academic building in the dark. I hid my phone in the radiator! If I check the recording, I'll find out who 'killed' my doll!

Luckily, her destination was not far.

Within a few minutes, she had arrived at the academic building.

Without hesitation, Yue Nu immediately pushed open the main door and dashed up the staircase.

There was always something peculiar about stairs at night, but luckily, the academic building had plenty of windows, allowing outdoor light to shine in.

The moon was exceptionally large tonight, its soft glow illuminating the stairway through the windows, enabling Yue Nu to see her surroundings without needing to turn on any lights.

The classroom was just ahead!

Yue Nu tried to lighten her footsteps, quickening her pace toward the classroom.

Although she knew a ghost wouldn't linger after a kill, she instinctively moved more quietly.

The classroom door was slightly ajar.

Yue Nu stood at the doorway, let out a soft breath that barely took half a second, then reached out and pushed open the slightly ajar door.

Bright moonlight seeped into the classroom from outside, allowing Yue Nu to clearly see the scene inside.

A corpse was lying in the middle of the room.

Chapter 385 The Yue Nu Collecting Boxed Lunches_1

In a way, this was indeed her own corpse.

There was a lot of blood; it seemed she had suffered extensive injuries before dying.

Yue Nu stared at the figure lying in a pool of blood. Its face, identical to her own, looked somewhat chilling in the darkness of the night.

Without hesitation, Yue Nu swiftly stepped inside. She strode past the corpse on the ground—the one with a face identical to her own—reached the window, and felt inside a crevice in the radiator.

She only sighed in relief when her hand touched the slightly warm phone.

It's still here... good...

Relieved, she pulled the phone from the crevice.

The lights in their classroom were still on. Leaving them on all night would naturally arouse suspicion, but her puppet could turn off the classroom lights and then turn them back on when everyone else had gone to sleep. That way, she wouldn't be discovered.

Yue Nu looked down at the phone in her hand. They had left here at 8:00 PM, and now it was 12:30 AM—a full four and a half hours had passed. The phone had recorded several hours of video. Fortunately, the battery was sufficient.

Yue Nu didn't plan to linger here. Although ghosts usually didn't return to a place after killing someone, she felt this place was enveloped in a viscous, suffocating terror.

The overhead light was still burning brightly. Yue Nu looked down at her phone and opened the recording. Soon, I'll know the identity of a ghost...

Because she had placed it here at noon, the recording was twelve hours long. Her face was the first thing that appeared on screen. The video showed her carefully handling the phone and tucking it behind the radiator. No need to watch the beginning.

Yue Nu quickly swiped the progress bar at the bottom of the phone, dragging it directly to the last hour.

23:35: The puppet was still alive. She continued to fast-forward.

23:47: Still alive.

00:26: Only a fake corpse and a fresh pool of blood remained on the ground.

At 12:26 AM, her puppet was dead.

In the video, the classroom door had just closed with a soft CLICK. Yue Nu then saw the closed door pushed open a crack, and a figure flashed through the gap. This person is...

She paused for a moment, then dragged the progress bar back a few minutes, her eyes glued to the phone screen, not daring to blink. Now, the puppet that looked just like her was still sitting in the classroom. The door behind it was closed; nothing had happened yet. But after a few seconds, the shut door was suddenly pushed open a crack. A pair of hands appeared on the screen. Yue Nu watched, eyes wide. As the door slowly opened, the owner of the hands came into view. She stared intently at the figure that appeared from behind the door on the screen. It's... 007? She's the ghost?

Yue Nu found this somewhat incredible. If she were to categorize the people in this instance, 007 would definitely be in the 'least likely to be the ghost' category. This was because 007's behavior and actions had always been perfect, showing no signs of her being a ghost. But the subsequent footage forced Yue Nu to accept this fact.

In the video, 007 quickly drew a knife and, expressionless, viciously stabbed the puppet, which had its back to her. She clearly understood the importance of ensuring the kill. Even after the puppet had fallen and lay motionless, she stabbed it several more times. This was why the puppet had bled so much.

Yue Nu looked at the puppet on the ground, and her hair stood on end. She didn't quite understand. 007 always acted perfectly in front of me, not at all like a ghost. But tonight, she killed so easily, as if she didn't care at all about her identity being exposed... I need to watch it again...

As Yue Nu mulled this over, she prepared to rewind the video. She looked down at the phone screen and placed her finger on the progress bar. While she had been momentarily lost in thought, the video had played on for a few minutes. The current scene in the recording showed her, Yue Nu herself, pushing open the classroom door to retrieve the phone. Yue Nu intended to drag the progress bar. Just then, her gaze inadvertently fell upon the image on the screen, and her breath caught sharply—someone was behind her.

In the video, when she pushed the door open, there was someone right behind her. Then, this figure was blocked from view by her own body as she hastily retrieved the phone. Yue Nu's scalp prickled as she stared at the phone screen. The progress bar continued to advance. She saw herself walking towards the phone, then bending down towards the camera's view.

Then, a pair of blood-red eyes appeared in the middle of the screen.

The sour, damp smell still permeated the school's underground area.

A familiar voice sounded from behind, "You guys..."

Gu Mian turned around in the nauseating stench and saw someone standing behind them.

"Keke!" Guo Jimei eagerly stepped forward and grabbed Keke's hand. "We're so glad to run into someone! Being here by ourselves was getting really scary."

Gu Mian looked at Keke, who had suddenly appeared behind them. "How did you come from that way? We just came from there and didn't see you."

Keke pointed to a nearby room. "I was hiding in that room. You just passed by its door. I felt that standing in the corridor seemed like something might come from either side, so I hid inside..."

Li Yibai looked at Keke with a strange expression. "Hey, where did you run off to? I was talking to you, and then suddenly you were gone."

In the musty corridor, Keke gently shook her head. "I don't know. I was just walking along when I suddenly realized you weren't there anymore. I got scared, so after walking a little further, I hid in a room."

"I see," Li Yibai nodded thoughtfully. "Then did you see Lin Qi?"

Guo Jimei looked at him. "You really do ask everyone you meet if they've seen Lin Qi."

Keke shook her head. "I didn't see Lin Qi, but I did see..."

"Saw what?" Li Yibai asked mechanically.

Keke frowned. "I saw Chu... Meiren Chu. I saw him pass by the room I was in, seemingly looking for something. He struck me as a bit odd, so I didn't dare come out."

Keke also saw Chu Changge looking for something? Gu Mian stroked his chin, thinking.

She continued, "Apart from Meiren Chu, I didn't see anyone else. By the way, do you know if anyone died tonight?"

Upon hearing this, Gu Mian glanced at the few people in front of him. "At least, all four of us here are still alive."

Guo Jimei hunched her shoulders slightly. "If someone's dead now, they're definitely not here."

Li Yibai muttered to himself, "So many people aren't here right now... Please, don't let it be Lin Qi..."

Guo Jimei glanced sideways at him. "You'd be better off thinking about how we're going to get out."

Hearing her words, Li Yibai rolled his eyes.

Keke looked at the two of them with a strange expression. "Are they..."

"Never mind them," Gu Mian said, patting Keke's shoulder. "Did you see anyone else besides Meiren Chu?"

Keke looked quite frail and actually swayed from Gu Mian's pat. "No, I haven't seen anyone else other than him."

Gu Mian nodded slightly.

It seems like the ones who came underground are pretty much just those we've encountered.

So, what are the others doing upstairs?

BEEP.

In the brightly lit bedroom, a cell phone suddenly rang.

Pan Yue nervously looked at her phone; its screen had lit up at some point.

She was at home, her parents asleep in the next room.

Pan Yue quickly reached for the phone, only to see a message from Yue Nu.

It was a video.

The video's thumbnail was from the very moment the recording started. Pan Yue saw Yue Nu's face on it; she seemed to be in a classroom.

"What's she doing... sending me this in the middle of the night?" Pan Yue muttered, anxiously trying to open it, only to find she had to download the video first.

Then Pan Yue saw the video duration listed below—a staggering twelve hours.

Her breathing quickened slightly. "Why would she send me something like this?" she muttered.

Although she didn't quite understand, Pan Yue clicked download anyway.

She stared at her phone, waiting for the video to finish downloading.

It was now twelve-fifty in the morning.

Pan Yue anxiously glanced at the wall clock in her room. There were still two hours until the second round of voting. But she had been holed up at home since returning last night, using illness as an excuse, completely unaware of the others' situations.

Even though I don't know what their situation is... abstaining isn't an option. What if someone votes for me? I have to vote for someone else to ensure my own safety.

Pan Yue contemplated this while looking at her phone.

The video downloaded quickly.

Two minutes before one in the morning, the twelve-hour-long video was completely downloaded.

Pan Yue immediately enlarged the video and pressed the play button.

The moment the play button was pressed, the screen came to life.

Yue Nu's face was on the screen; she seemed to be stuffing the phone into something. The view was momentarily obscured by a dark shadow before it cleared.

Was this filmed with a phone? Looks like she hid the phone somewhere to film... And this place she's in, it looks like the classroom where we played the game!

Pan Yue stared in surprise at the desks and chairs behind Yue Nu, then shifted her gaze to fixate on Yue Nu's face. What on earth is she up to?

On the screen, Yue Nu soon turned and left the classroom, leaving Pan Yue watching the empty room for over ten minutes.

After more than ten tedious minutes, Pan Yue frowned at the twelve-hour progress bar and, finally growing impatient, fast-forwarded.

She fast-forwarded an hour—nothing.

Three hours—still nothing.

Six hours—still nothing.

Finally, she couldn't take it anymore and dragged the progress bar almost to the very end.

Then she saw Yue Nu, who had somehow returned to the classroom and was sitting directly facing the camera.

The sudden appearance of a person on screen startled Pan Yue. After getting a clear look, she sighed in relief. "Jeez, you scared me to death."

As she spoke, she carefully watched the person on the screen.

That's Yue Nu sitting there... but why does she look a bit strange?

Pan Yue reached out again, wanting to drag the progress bar back a little to see when Yue Nu had returned to the classroom.

But just then, she noticed the classroom door behind Yue Nu suddenly creak open a sliver, revealing the pitch-black corridor outside.

The sudden change made Pan Yue hold her breath.

Her hand froze, her eyes fixed intently on the screen.

The video is almost at the end... So is this the finale?

Pan Yue watched as the gap was pushed wider and wider, until a figure appeared behind the door.

It's Lin Qi!

How did she get here too?

And then, the very next scene almost made Pan Yue smash the phone in her hand out of fright.

Yue Nu, her back to the door, was brutally stabbed to death. Her blood stained the floor red, almost seeming to spill out of the phone screen.

After the murder, Lin Qi immediately turned and left.

Staring at the closed classroom door, Pan Yue almost retched.

It's Lin Qi! The ghost is Lin Qi!

Just then, she noticed another change on the screen.

Another pair of hands pushed open the classroom door.

Pan Yue flinched. Did Lin Qi come back?

But when she recognized the newcomer, Pan Yue nearly fainted.

How can it be Yue Nu?

She was clearly killed!

She's lying right there on the floor!

How can there be two of them?!

Pan Yue's eyes widened as she watched another Yue Nu push open the door. Just then, she noticed a bizarre, twisted humanoid figure following this Yue Nu.

That humanoid figure clung tightly to Yue Nu's back, drawing closer and closer to the camera.

"Ah! I can't take it anymore!"

Pan Yue slammed her finger on the progress bar and desperately dragged it all the way back to the beginning, as if that could help her escape the terrifying thing behind.

What... what is going on...

Why are there two Yue Nus... What is that humanoid figure...

Am I dreaming? Wake up! Wake up!

Cold sweat dripped down Pan Yue as she pinched her thigh hard, scarcely able to believe her eyes.

The intense pain from her thigh confirmed she was indeed not dreaming.

Pan Yue turned her stiff neck to look at her phone.

The video had restarted from the beginning.

On the screen was Yue Nu's face.

She now felt that this face was incomparably eerie, as if it might crawl out of the screen at any moment.

Pan Yue quickly reached out to turn off the phone. But just as her hand moved, she suddenly noticed something she had missed before.

When Yue Nu was positioning her phone, someone was watching her from behind the door.

Chapter 387 Continue to Flog the Corpse_1

It's Meiren Chu!

Pan Yue saw Meiren Chu's gloomy face appear behind the door.

Yue Nu seemed to sense something and looked back.

The horrifying face slowly moved and disappeared from the doorway.

Yue Nu saw nothing.

Pan Yue stared at the screen for quite a while, until Yue Nu also disappeared from the screen. Only then did her stiff fingers, gripping the phone, move slightly.

What on earth is going on?

There were two Yue Nus...

The thing behind Yue Nu...

Lin Qi is a ghost, and she murdered someone...

And Meiren Chu, who appeared in the video from the very beginning...

Many strange things had happened in this twelve-hour-long video.

Pan Yue watched the progress bar for a few seconds and immediately decided to share this video with others.

But when she returned to her friends list, she realized she was the only one online.

All the profile pictures in her classmates list were grayed out.

Pan Yue stared blankly for a moment. Right, everyone else is still at school; they aren't online.

Is that why Yue Nu sent this video to me? Because I was the only one on the list who was online?

Pan Yue wasn't sure if the others had received Yue Nu's video.

But one thing was certain: even if Yue Nu had sent them the video, they wouldn't be able to watch it because those at school didn't have their phones with them.

Thinking of this, Pan Yue clenched her fists and resolved, No, I have to tell the others about this tonight!

She glanced at the clock hanging in the living room. It was 1:04 AM.

At this moment, Gu Mian, Keke, and the others were standing before a stairwell.

For once, the four of them hadn't been inexplicably separated. They had found an evacuation map nailed to the wall, explored a section of the underground area unharmed, and located several upward stairwells. However, every door leading to the surface was, without exception, chained shut from the inside. The chains were wrapped so tightly that not even the slightest gap could be seen, completely eliminating any possibility of squeezing through.

Before them now was the last stairwell door they hadn't checked.

Unsurprisingly, this door was also locked from the inside.

These rusty chains could easily be sawed off if Gu Mian took out his chainsaw.

But taking out a chainsaw in front of so many people might cause some misunderstandings...

Li Yibai shone his flashlight on the chains securing the door. "This is insane! Why are all the doors leading up locked from the inside? How did the person who locked them get out?"

Gu Mian also raised his flashlight, sweeping its beam across the dark surroundings. "Maybe the elevator hadn't been sealed off back then? Perhaps they locked all the doors from the inside and then took the elevator up."

Guo Jimei shivered. "If it were me, I'd be too scared to lock all the doors and then take an elevator up."

Keke, beside her, nodded in agreement. "I wouldn't dare either."

Gu Mian walked forward to examine the rusty chains on the door, asking, "By the way, Li Yibai, Keke, have you guys heard any rumors about this school's underground area?"

While they had been walking together, Guo Jimei had already told Keke that they were currently in the school's basement.

Keke had looked quite surprised.

Li Yibai was the first to speak, shaking his head. "I've only heard that the school has an underground area. Rumor has it that it was sealed off many years ago due to some accident."

Keke was originally an instance player, so Gu Mian hadn't expected her to provide any significant details.

Sure enough, she just shook her head, indicating she knew nothing.

Gu Mian continued, "When Guo Jimei and I met Meiren Chu, he found an old photo in here. It was a group picture of twelve people—six men and six women."

"A group photo of twelve people..." Li Yibai muttered.

"Six men and six women..."

He then mused, "Hearing you say that, it couldn't be a group photo of the twelve of us in the game, could it? I don't recall us ever taking a group photo together."

"Of course not," Gu Mian replied, fiddling with the chains. "I only glanced at the photo before giving it back to Meiren Chu. It was taken six years ago, and I didn't recognize anyone in it."

Guo Jimei nodded. "I didn't recognize anyone either, except..."

"Except who?" Li Yibai asked, looking nervously at Guo Jimei.

Frowning, Guo Jimei continued, "Except for one girl. She didn't have a face, but I felt like I'd seen her somewhere before."

Keke flinched. "Don't scare me!"

Li Yibai also frowned. "We definitely didn't end up here for no reason. Maybe we're supposed to find clues about the ghost here?"

Gu Mian said, "I don't recall the rules mentioning anything as helpful as being able to find clues."

Chu Changge also said that our appearance in the school's basement was most likely an accident.

The ghost probably wouldn't be pleased to have them tossed into a place like this.

If the instance were proceeding normally, players shouldn't be in a place like this.

Perhaps some accident occurred, and a power not belonging to the instance forcibly sent them here to find clues.

Why would players be forcibly sent to a place like this?

At this point, Li Yibai spoke up. "The rules also don't say that ghosts can take on other people's appearances. But with Li Wentao, it was clearly the ghost transforming into him that misled us, right?"

Gu Mian stroked his chin. The one who transformed into Li Wentao wasn't necessarily a ghost.

As he spoke, Li Yibai's frown deepened. "And the rules didn't mention that item Yue Nu talked about during the day, did they? The one that can directly reveal the ghost's identity. Speaking of which, who got that item? Was it one of you?"

Of course, Gu Mian was ninety percent sure that Yue Nu was just trying to trick them about that item she mentioned earlier.

Even if such an item really existed, it was highly probable that only instance players like them could use it.

Special items existed in instances, and most special items within an instance were usually related to the instance itself.

Yue Nu must have found a relevant special item within the instance.

She definitely understood that special items could only be used by players, so she wouldn't easily hand it over to someone who couldn't use it.

If that thing really existed, Yue Nu most likely still had it on her.

「Meanwhile.」

Yue Nu's two corpses lay splayed in the middle of the classroom.

The tightly closed classroom door was suddenly pushed open a crack, revealing a pitch-black corridor outside.

Chapter 388 Unleashing Myself, Meiren Chu_1

Upon hearing Li Yibai's statement, Keke immediately shook her head. "I didn't draw the object that Yue Nu mentioned."

Guo Jimei chimed in after Keke, "I, of course, have no idea what it is."

Gu Mian casually claimed, "Anyway, it's not in my possession."

Li Yibai's face grew pale before he spoke, "Although I know you might not be telling the truth... I still hope you're not deceiving me."

At that moment, Li Yibai suddenly heard a strange CLICK sound coming from Gu Mian's direction.

He immediately looked toward the source of the sound, only to see Gu Mian striking something on the edge of the large door with a flashlight.

Gu Mian was currently wrestling with the hinges securing the large door.

He struck one of the hinges hard with his flashlight before turning back to say, "Thankfully, these door hinges are on the inside, and they're much easier to deal with than the iron chains."

Li Yibai and the others widened their eyes. "Are you planning on taking the door off its hinges?"

Gu Mian spread his hands slightly. "Would this count as damaging school property? Never mind. As long as you don't say anything, no one will know I removed it."

Li Yibai quietly swallowed.

Of course, the rusty iron chains didn't pose much of a challenge to Gu Mian.

If he hadn't been considering the three unlucky souls behind him, Gu Mian would have pulled out his saw long ago and cut these chains in two.

As he spoke, Gu Mian looked at the three people before him. "By the way, do any of you have a screwdriver or something similar? If we have that, we should be able to get out faster."

Guo Jimei replied with a troubled expression, "Why would we have something like that on us... Anyway, I don't. Keke, do you?"

Keke also shook her head immediately. "I don't either. But we can all hit the hinges with our flashlights. They look like they've been rusted for a long time."

「At this moment, Pan Yue had returned to the school.」

Her home was very close to the school, so it hadn't taken her long.

The school gates wouldn't be open for her at one in the morning.

Fortunately, the gateman on duty was sound asleep. Pan Yue climbed over the low railing beside the gate and quickly ran towards the classroom where they had once played the game.

As Pan Yue ran frantically up the stairs, she thought, Lin Qi has already killed someone tonight, so the other ghosts definitely wouldn't dare to kill recklessly! If they've already figured out each other's identities... if we guess the ghost wrong again tonight, we'll have almost no chance of winning. We'll all

die! I have to tell them Lin Qi is the ghost! But first, I need to go to the classroom and see if that video is real! I hope they're all still in the dormitory...

The tears that had welled in Li Wentao's eyes just before his death the previous night were still vivid in Pan Yue's memory, making her scalp tingle whenever she recalled it.

Can't pick the wrong one again, can't pick the wrong one again!

She was quite fast and arrived at the classroom door in no time.

The classroom door was tightly closed, with light seeping through the crack beneath it.

Looking at the light seeping out from inside, Pan Yue felt a chill run down her spine.

Without much hesitation, Pan Yue reached out and pushed open the door.

However, the scene behind the door almost made her rush downstairs to wake the sleeping gateman at the school entrance.

Two Yue Nus were lying on the floor.

The shock of seeing two identical corpses with her own eyes was far greater than seeing them in the video.

Besides, in the video, at least one of them had been alive.

Before her now lay two identical bodies in a pool of blood.

Pan Yue's mind went blank. Countless thoughts swirled in her head, and in an instant, she had conjured up numerous possibilities.

Her mind, still struggling to function, dutifully filtered out the most likely scenario of what had happened.

The second Yue Nu must have been killed by that shadow following her!

But why are there two Yue Nus? And why did two people die tonight?!

Just as Pan Yue was struggling to process everything, a series of footsteps suddenly echoed from the corridor outside the door.

Who!

Pan Yue sharply turned to look at the door.

There shouldn't be a soul in the academic building at this hour of the night.

The footsteps, however, were alarmingly clear, sounding as if they were right in front of her. Pan Yue didn't even have time to find a hiding spot before a dark figure appeared in the doorway.

"Who!" The moment she saw the figure, she shivered violently and yelled at the door.

Chu Changge's gaze swept past the two Yue Nu corpses on the floor before settling on Pan Yue, who had been missing for a day. "What are you doing here?"

Upon seeing who it was, Pan Yue relaxed for a moment, but then immediately became alert again.

She still remembered that creepy face in the doorway from the video, when Yue Nu was putting down her phone.

Moreover, a normal person seeing this scene would first ask about the corpses, right? They'd ask if I was the one who killed them. Many misunderstandings are caused this way, but she felt that Meiren Chu before her completely precluded any such possibility.

Pan Yue didn't dare mention the video directly. She hesitated for a moment before stammering, "I... I wanted to come back and join you all. I was passing by this building and saw the classroom light was still on, so I came up. What about you? Why are you here too?"

At this moment, Pan Yue desperately wanted to question the identity of the person before her, even to fire off a string of questions like, "How can you see two Yue Nu corpses and not react?" "Did you kill them?" "Why were you secretly trailing Yue Nu during the day?"

But she swallowed her words.

Staring at the expressionless face of the boy in the doorway, she felt increasingly unnerved.

Would a normal person react like this upon seeing corpses? Especially two identical corpses. Is he a ghost? He must be a ghost, right?

Chu Changge glanced at the two corpses on the floor again. "I also saw the light was on, so I came up to check. You don't need to look at me like that. Before nightfall, we all knew Yue Nu would die tonight, so it's not that surprising."

"Why?" Pan Yue widened her eyes.

Chu Changge glanced at her again. "Because her behavior today was too conspicuous. If I were a ghost, I would have killed her first."

Hearing this, Pan Yue shuddered. "I wasn't with you all today, so I don't know how Yue Nu was behaving... But did you see? There are two identical Yue Nu corpses on the ground. Aren't you surprised? Why do you have zero reaction?"

Chu Changge turned his gaze to the two corpses on the ground.

Instance players naturally possessed some strange and special items. That's why other instance players wouldn't find two Yue Nus particularly strange, though most would feign fear for appearance's sake. If Gu Mian were present, he might have told Chu Changge to get a grip on his expression. Unfortunately, Gu Mian wasn't here. Chu Changge's usual impassivity took complete hold, his face remaining utterly still and devoid of expression.

Chu Changge didn't plan on spending time explaining the global game and special items to Pan Yue, even though the instance didn't prohibit them from doing so.

He didn't answer Pan Yue's question. Instead, he glanced at Pan Yue, then walked towards Yue Nu's corpse. "There should still be useful items on her."

Chapter 389 Worthy of Me_1

Pan Yue watched wide-eyed as Chu Changge, his expression unchanged, walked towards Yue Nu's body. He then squatted down and started searching it for something.

She clenched her fists, daring only to watch from the side, not uttering a word or stepping forward.

As he searched, Chu Changge said, "You weren't here earlier today, so you don't know that Yue Nu had an item. She claimed it could reveal the ghost's identity."

Upon hearing this, Pan Yue, who had been cowering to one side, widened her eyes slightly. "Is it still on her now?"

After examining both bodies, Chu Changge said, "Earlier today, she mentioned giving that item to one of us randomly, but I suspect it was always on her. However..."

At this point, Chu Changge stood up and glanced at the pitch-dark window.

It was pitch black outside, and the teaching building opposite was almost invisible.

He continued, "But it doesn't seem to be on her now."

Pan Yue opened her mouth, about to say something, when footsteps echoed again from the dark corridor outside. This time, it sounded like several people.

She turned to look out and immediately spotted Gu Mian's group of four, who had almost reached the classroom door.

Seeing Gu Mian and the others, Pan Yue rushed towards the door, her voice filled with excitement. "You're here!"

Li Yibai, following behind Gu Mian, seemed taken aback by Pan Yue's enthusiastic tone.

Gu Mian noticed Li Yibai eyeing the suddenly-appeared Pan Yue with a wary expression. After all, Pan Yue was Li Yibai's primary suspect.

Keke and Guo Jimei also clearly didn't understand why Pan Yue was here.

Seeing Pan Yue run out of the classroom, Gu Mian quickly took a few steps forward to the doorway and looked inside.

The four of them had successfully removed the main door leading to the ground floor. The first thing they did after getting out was head towards this classroom.

After all, they didn't have a base in this school, so they could only try their luck in a familiar place.

When Gu Mian had been downstairs, he had noticed the lights in this classroom were on.

He hadn't expected to actually run into other people after coming upstairs.

And they'd run into three... no, four of them.

Gu Mian stood at the doorway, his gaze sweeping over Chu Changge, who was standing in the classroom, before shifting to the two identical corpses on the floor.

Clearly, Yue Nu was the one who died tonight.

And two of them, at that. What in the world?

One corpse appeared to have been stabbed from behind, its back a mangled ruin of flesh and blood.

The other corpse's face was somewhat more unsettling. No external injuries were visible, but its expression was grotesque. One of its hands was bent and stiff like a claw, as if it had been clutching something, but its hand was empty now.

As an instance player, Gu Mian was only surprised for a brief moment by the appearance of two Yue Nu corpses.

But the others were different.

At that moment, Pan Yue was pulling Keke and Guo Jimei towards the classroom, her tone urgent. "Quick, come and see!"

Keke and Guo Jimei, not knowing what was going on, soon arrived at the classroom doorway.

Naturally, Gu Mian heard a scream.

It was Guo Jimei.

This was a typical reaction for an ordinary person seeing a corpse. Keke, beside Guo Jimei, was clearly a seasoned veteran who had been through many instances; her face merely paled slightly, and she immediately covered Guo Jimei's mouth. "Don't let anyone else hear!"

Li Yibai hadn't reached the door yet, but seeing Keke and Guo Jimei's reactions, he understood something. He paused, seemingly steeling himself for a moment, then walked over.

Despite this, he still sucked in a sharp breath when he saw the scene in the classroom.

"What's going on?!" Li Yibai exclaimed, recoiling several steps and raising his voice.

Li Wentao's death last night had somewhat accustomed him to corpses.

But tonight was different. There were two corpses, and they looked exactly alike.

"The ghost killed two people? No, there are two Yue Nus? How is this possible?!" By now, Li Yibai had retreated all the way to the window. He gripped the sill with one hand, staring in disbelief at the two corpses in the classroom.

"Everyone..." Pan Yue suddenly spoke up. "Come look at this."

As she spoke, she took out her phone.

Guo Jimei, clutching Keke tightly, trembled as she moved closer to Pan Yue.

Just then, Chu Changge also walked over and stood beside Gu Mian.

Gu Mian glanced sideways at him. "How did you get out?"

Chu Changge shook his head slightly but said nothing.

Pan Yue had already started playing a video.

The others craned their necks to look at the phone in Pan Yue's hand.

Gu Mian glanced at Chu Changge, then also turned to look.

Pan Yue had barely let the video play for two seconds before she started dragging the progress bar at the bottom. "This is a video Yue Nu secretly recorded in this classroom. The beginning isn't useful. I'll drag it straight to the end for you to see."

Gu Mian noticed Pan Yue seemed very hurried as she dragged the progress bar, as if she were very nervous.

She quickly dragged the progress bar almost to the very end.

Gu Mian saw on the screen that Yue Nu was sitting in the middle of the classroom, her back to the door. At this point, there were no corpses in the classroom.

Then, the door behind her was slowly pushed open.

What followed was a moment that would make anyone want to scream.

Guo Jimei pressed her hand tightly over her mouth as she watched what happened next.

Blood splattered across the screen. Gu Mian saw 007, weapon in hand, kill Yue Nu.

Seemingly afraid Yue Nu might still get up, 007 even stabbed her many more times until Yue Nu lay motionless on the floor. By then, Yue Nu's back was a mangled ruin of flesh and blood, and the original color of her clothes was indiscernible.

But surprisingly, not long after, another Yue Nu pushed open the door and entered.

Gu Mian, of course, also saw the shadowy figure behind her.

But this Yue Nu seemed completely oblivious as she walked towards the camera. The video ended the moment she bent down; there was nothing after that.

The figure following her must be the reason there are two corpses here now, Gu Mian thought, glancing at the floor.

"So, Lin Qi is the ghost!" When the progress bar stopped at the end, Pan Yue finally couldn't hold back anymore and said to the others beside her, "She's the one who killed Yue Nu! We have to vote her out tonight!"

"That's impossible!" Li Yibai was the first to speak after Pan Yue.

His face was pale, and his body trembled slightly. "Lin Qi absolutely cannot be the ghost! She would never kill anyone!"

"Then how do you explain this video?" Pan Yue raised her voice. "It clearly records her committing the murder! Don't tell me she's a civilian. The rules say civilians can't kill other players! But she killed with impunity. She absolutely cannot be a civilian!"

Li Yibai's eyes widened. He paused for a moment, then immediately began to argue, "Didn't you say yesterday that you saw Li Wentao was the ghost? But was he? Was he? What if, just like last night, this Lin Qi in the video is the ghost in disguise? Besides, two Yue Nus have inexplicably appeared now. Lin Qi being in this video might also just be some kind of freak occurrence!"

Pan Yue's lips trembled. "You..."

But just as she opened her mouth, they heard a single footstep from one end of the corridor.

Everyone immediately turned their heads to look.

Gu Mian also turned his head in that direction.

In the direction of the sound, 007's face, half in light and half in shadow, appeared in the corridor.

Chapter 390 Vicious Gu Mian_1

"Lin Qi!" Pan Yue exclaimed, looking at the newcomer and taking a large step back.

In the darkness, 007 seemed to have noticed the faint glow of the cell phone in Pan Yue's hand. Before anyone else could react, she abruptly turned and fled.

Li Yibai was the first to shout, "Wait!"

Clearly, he was very concerned about 007. Gu Mian saw him shout and simultaneously break into a run, heading in the direction 007 had fled.

However, before he could get very far, Chu Changge forcefully grabbed him. "Calm down."

Gu Mian noticed that Chu Changge looked steadier than anyone present.

Without looking back, Li Yibai struggled. "Let go!"

But 007 had already vanished into the darkness.

Pan Yue began to shout, "See? I told you she's a ghost! Otherwise, why would she run away at the sight of us, looking so guilty?"

"Shut up!" Li Yibai turned and glared harshly at Pan Yue. "Yesterday, you kept insisting Li Wentao was the ghost, causing us to vote out the wrong person. Today, you're latching onto Lin Qi like this. Are you the actual ghost, trying to divert our attention to someone else?"

Pan Yue quickly retorted, "Everyone saw what just happened..."

However, before Pan Yue could finish, Gu Mian heard a familiar voice from the other end of the corridor. "What are you guys talking about..."

Gu Mian turned to see Yuan Qinghua, who had appeared behind them unnoticed.

Seeing Yuan Qinghua, Guo Jimei shivered and quickly hid behind Keke.

Keke, one hand holding Guo Jimei, asked Yuan Qinghua with some surprise, "When did you get here?"

Yuan Qinghua seemed a bit baffled as she walked out from the darkness, flashlight in hand. "Just now. When Lin Qi turned and ran back—why did she run?"

"Right!" Li Yibai interjected, not answering Yuan Qinghua's question. "Ghosts can impersonate others, can't they? Maybe the Lin Qi just now was a ghost in disguise. Let's not be fooled!"

Pan Yue glared at Li Yibai. "So, it's okay for others to be ghosts, but Lin Qi can't be one, is that it?"

"Lin Qi absolutely cannot be a ghost!" Li Yibai retorted stubbornly.

Laughing in anger, Pan Yue shot back, "Fine then. You claim the Lin Qi from just now was a ghost in disguise. All of us were here, plus Yuan Qinghua, so that Lin Qi definitely wasn't one of us seven impersonating her. By that logic, since Zhang Pingfan is the only living person not present, you're implying he's the ghost, right?"

Gu Mian watched the two, who were on the brink of fighting.

He remembered that Pan Yue and Zhang Pingfan had a good relationship.

"Zhang Pingfan is so suspicious, he must be the ghost!" Li Yibai stated with conviction.

Pan Yue raised her voice. "Let me tell you, the night we received our identities, the power went out in this classroom! Zhang Pingfan got scared and ran off; he never even got his identity slip! He has no idea what his identity is!"

Gu Mian recalled Pan Yue mentioning this before.

"Well..." Li Yibai seemed to want to say more, but his expression already showed a lack of confidence.

But then, another voice interrupted him: "I think it's also possible Yuan Qinghua was impersonating Lin Qi just now. She suddenly appeared behind us; it's very likely she came behind us only after impersonating Lin Qi!"

Gu Mian could guess who'd say such a thing with minimal thought. Turning towards the voice, he saw it was indeed Guo Jimei, hiding behind Keke.

At this moment, Chu Changge suddenly spoke. "I saw her. Yuan Qinghua was already standing behind us when Lin Qi appeared."

Hearing this, Guo Jimei fell silent.

For some reason, Guo Jimei was extremely certain about Yuan Qinghua's identity, like a prophet, the kind that isn't afraid of death.

Yuan Qinghua still looked confused. "What do you mean, Lin Qi was an impersonation? Why would you say Lin Qi was a ghost in disguise?"

She approached them with a puzzled expression, causing Guo Jimei to shrink back in fright.

Without taking many steps, Yuan Qinghua reached the classroom entrance and looked inside.

Gu Mian heard another female scream.

Keke quickly covered Yuan Qinghua's mouth to prevent her voice from attracting more people.

"What's going on?" Yuan Qinghua's eyes widened in fear. "Yue Nu is dead... Why are there two Yue Nus? Two people died tonight?"

Pan Yue immediately spoke up. "I have a video Yue Nu sent me! The video shows Lin Qi killing someone, but Li Yibai still defends her!"

Hearing this, Yuan Qinghua looked fearfully at the cell phone in Pan Yue's hand, seeming to want to see the video.

Li Yibai shot Pan Yue a glare, then lowered his head, saying nothing, apparently lost in thought.

While Yuan Qinghua was watching the video, Keke spoke softly, "Although I don't know why there are two Yue Nus, the second Yue Nu must have also been killed by the ghost, right? The shadow in the video is clearly a ghost... If you look at it this way, the second Yue Nu was killed by the ghost around half past midnight. At that time, Gu Mian, Li Yibai, Guo Jimei, and I were all together, so we definitely couldn't have committed the murder. Therefore, for tonight's vote, don't vote for any of us four."

Guo Jimei nodded eagerly. "The ghost must be among Yuan Qinghua, Meiren Chu, Lin Qi, and Zhang Pingfan!"

Gu Mian glanced down at the screen of Pan Yue's cell phone.

The video Pan Yue received had arrived at 12:50 AM.

And the second Yue Nu had died sometime after 12:30 AM.

This meant the video was sent after Yue Nu's death!

Moreover, Yue Nu's corpse looked like it had been clutching something, but her hand was empty now.

Clearly, someone had entered this classroom after Yue Nu died, sent the video to Pan Yue, and also taken the cell phone.

Of course, it was also possible that the ghost who killed the second Yue Nu sent the video.

But what was the purpose of doing that?

Gu Mian found this very strange.

If the ghost sent the video, it was essentially exposing its accomplice.

If a civilian sent the video, then this person's actions were rather superfluous. They could have just used Yue Nu's cell phone to identify the culprit directly; there was no need to go about it in such a roundabout way.

At this moment, Keke suddenly spoke. "It's almost three in the morning. The second round of voting is about to start. Have you decided who you're voting for?"

Pan Yue stared intently at Li Yibai. "I'm definitely voting for Lin Qi!"

Li Yibai kept his head down and said nothing.

Meanwhile, Yuan Qinghua, having watched the video, looked into the room, her face horrified. "Yue Nu was still struggling after Lin Qi stabbed her several times... That must have been so painful. We... we can't favor Lin Qi just because we have a good relationship with her. She's a murderer! Besides, didn't she run when she saw us? She must have a guilty conscience."