

Horrors 181

Chapter 181: You've Awoken the Devil

To conclude what the senior had said, the world behind the door was just a nightmare formed by Men Nan's main persona. When the boy woke up, the door connecting the real world and the dream would close, and they would be trapped in the dream forever.

Chen Ge would have believed the old man if not for the 'door' that also appeared at the Haunted House. The appearance of the 'door' at two different places was not something that can be explained by a boy's nightmare. Chen Ge did not reveal that fact. He looked at the senior and asked another question. "You said that this is the boy's nightmare and everything here is a reflection of the boy's subconscious. Then can you tell me, what role do you play in this nightmare? Or rather, what does you being in his nightmare represent?"

The expression froze on the old man's face, but he did not evade the question. "Similar to you, I came from outside the nightmare. We are outsiders, so even in the nightmare, we are playing ourselves."

"Playing ourselves?" Chen Ge came from the outside world, and there was no visible change to his body. The old man did not have a trace of liveliness to him, and Chen Ge could not move his focus away from the blindingly red coat. A thought flashed across Chen Ge's mind. *Is it possible that the old man was already wearing this coat when he entered this world? What has he done to dye a white coat completely red?*

When Chen Ge saw the old man for the first time, Chen Ge had a speculation in his mind. Three years ago, the Third Sick Hall's director had mysteriously disappeared, and his location had been a mystery ever since. There was no body and no news.

This old man before him, be it from looks or age, fitted the director perfectly, so Chen Ge suspected that the old director did not disappear years ago but stepped into the door. He had read the few letters written by the old director, and in the last letter, the director did show traces of interest toward the world behind the door.

But it was also because he had read those letters that Chen Ge had a good impression of the man. Therefore, he had a hard time overlapping the kind director in the letter with this Red Specter before him.

Chen Ge shook his head to calm down. His knowledge of the director was based wholly on those few letters. No one would willingly slander themselves in their own writing, so the director in the letters might not perfectly represent the actual director.

The thought of the electroshock therapy room, the crowded and dirty first sick hall, as well as the empty and deserted second sick hall made Chen Ge suck in a light breath, and he became more alert.

"Now do you understand what I mean? Do not wake the boy up. Put him down, and I'll bring you out of this nightmare." The old man's voice was soothing, and it would make others forget about the danger that he presented.

Chen Ge slowly moved toward the door. "I will not hurt the boy, but you have to tell me how to leave this place first. Show me your sincerity."

"Leaving is easy; you just need to step back over the door..."

BANG!

The old man was interrupted by a loud boom. It sounded like a room had exploded somewhere in the Third Sick Hall. Hearing this, the old man's face fell. His pale face twisted, and the forced kindness disappeared.

"What's going on?" Chen Ge had a feeling that this was related to Zhang Ya. When the old man first entered the room, he had noticed how twisted his fingers were, and his arms had been crooked in an unnatural way. They were probably injured when they were blocking a powerful force.

"It's nothing, a small problem," the old man said darkly. He stood in the middle of the room and raised his head to look at Chen Ge. "Give me the boy, and I'll bring you out."

There was no extra expression on the white face. It freaked Chen Ge out. The old man had finally dropped his pretense.

"Send me out first or no deal." Chen Ge stood fast. His hand that held the cleaver was shaking because this was the first time he dealt directly with a Red Specter.

"You want to leave? Fine, come with me." The old man turned around, suddenly so helpful. This caused Chen Ge to grow suspicious. He followed slowly behind the old man, maintaining a distance of three meters between them. He was certain that with this three-meter distance, no matter what the old man was up to, he would be able to react timely. However, he only took two steps when he realized that he had underestimated the Red Specter's cunning and cruelty.

Technically, he only took one step because before he could take the second step, his foot that hung in mid-air froze. He could control it no longer. He lowered his head. When he was conversing with the old man, blood vessels that had seen earlier had crawled to his feet. Now the blood streaks were drilling into his skin like viruses.

"Don't you want to leave? Come with me." The old man turned around and rewarded Chen Ge with a wrinkly and creepy smile. Of course, Chen Ge did not dare follow him. He held the cleaver and wanted to take a step back, but the leg that hung in mid-air slowly moved forward!

"It's because of these blood vessels?" Chen Ge's mind was numb from fear. He had no idea how many blood vessels had seeped into his left leg, and the scariest thing was, as the old man spoke, more blood vessels started to bleed out from the cracked walls and floor. Like little snakes, they slithered to Chen Ge.

A normal person would have lost their cool and waved the cleaver about, but Chen Ge had something that was different to most—the ability to stay calm no matter how dangerous the situation was.

As the blood vessels climbed up his body, Chen Ge's cleaver continued to press downward. The old man had purposely turned around earlier to trick Chen Ge, but he had turned around again to taunt him.

If the old man had full confidence, he could have controlled Chen Ge directly. He still seemed worried about the boy. Chen Ge could not understand why the old man was so afraid of the boy waking up, but in those circumstances, since the old man was more afraid of it, Chen Ge had more reason to do it.

The blade touched the skin, but there was no blood that trickled out from the wound. Weirdly enough, the blood vessels that the old man controlled seemed to go berserk whenever they were near to the boy, and they eventually returned to the boy's body through the open wound.

The blood seems to belong the boy to begin with. Could it be that the old man has merely stolen his power?

Chen Ge had discovered the old man's secret. He became braver—the cleaver created a larger wound, and the old man's scream drifted into Chen Ge's ears.

The wound was created around the boy's collarbone, and the boy, whose eyelids had been twitching, suddenly gripped his fists, and his eyes flew open!

The blood vessels in the room immediately split in two. A part of them continued to struggle as they retreated while the remaining ones were absorbed by the boy into his body.

"You madman! You've awoken the devil!"

The old man's face turned paler. He turned to run, but he only took several steps before a large wave of black hair swamped through the corridor from the other side.

Chapter 182: Doctor Chen

The black hair slammed into the old man like a wave. A slender and fair arm materialized within the hair to grab on the old man's shoulder like it was trying to yank the old man into the wave of black hair. The old man was shaking, feeling the grasp on his shoulder. Obviously, he had suffered under the threat of this arm before. "I sent you out, why did you return?"

The answer was a slam to the ground. The old man crashed heavily against the floor, and the red on his clothes dimmed quite a bit.

Zhang Ya is here! From what the old man said, it seemed he had also chased Zhang Ya out once, but Zhang Ya broke through the door again.

You came back to find me? A warmth surged through Chen Ge. He was about to speak when he saw Zhang Ya walk out from the wave of hair. The girl did not even glance at him and walked straight toward the old man.

In the quiet world behind the door, a blood curdling scream could be heard. It caused Chen Ge's teeth to chatter. *Are all baleful specters that prone to taking revenge?*

At his prime, the old man probably could have fought back, but he had been shocked by the boy's awakening and had half of his blood stolen by the boy, so when facing Zhang Ya, he was as powerless as level 0 mob.

There should be further level differences among Red Specters as well, and this old man is probably one of the weakest Red Specter.

Spotting Zhang Ya, Chen Ge's nervous heart started to relax. In this strange place, Zhang Ya was the only 'person' who could give him comfort. After the situation settled down, Chen Ge wanted to switch into a more comfortable position. However, when he lowered his head, he saw a pair of curious eyeholes staring back at him.

The clothes of the young boy in his arms had been dyed red without him noticing. His face was blanched, and his eyes were completely black, without pupils, iris, or anything else.

Cold sweat slid down his forehead, and Chen Ge saw blood vessels climb back into the boy's body through the wound that was left on his neck.

"I did that to wake you up; I had no choice. My intention wasn't to harm you."

The boy hung on his body, and it seemed like he was trying to climb on top of him. It was quite scary having the body crawl up him. Chen Ge's first reaction was to push the boy away, but he was afraid that might cause further misunderstandings.

"Men Nan, I know your name, and I came to save you. Your second persona was assaulted by a monster; it was me who saved him." Chen Ge was trying to win some points, but he was afraid that the boy might not give him the chance to say anything later.

Earlier, the old man had called the boy the Devil. To be able to be called the Devil by a Red Specter, this meant that the boy was not as innocent as he looked. The boy did not stop moving until his face was inches away from Chen Ge's.

At such a close distance, Chen Ge realized there were no eyes in the boy's eye sockets, simply two empty eye holes. Chen Ge did not know what the boy was looking for, and the hairs on his neck crawled. He reached into his pocket silently, took out the picture of Men Nan and his mother, and slid it between the two faces.

"I know about your past, and I understand your pain. If you need someone to talk to, you can tell me anything." Chen Ge repeated everything he had told the Men Nan in real life. "We have the same experience, so perhaps we can be friends."

A man who knew no fear, this was the perfect phrase to describe Chen Ge. Even at a time like that, Chen Ge was thinking about recruiting the boy to work for him at the Haunted House. When he saw his mother's picture, the boy's attitude softened. He released his grasp on Chen Ge and jumped down to the floor. "Where did you find this picture?"

Men Nan in the real world had asked this question before. Their way of thinking was similar.

"In the director's dresser inside his office."

"He dared hide my mother's picture." The boy raised his head. "Can you give me this picture?"

"Sure." Chen Ge passed the picture to the boy. He could feel the boy's hostility toward him had decreased. He squatted down to the boy's level. After a moment's hesitation, he asked softly, "Just now,

the old man said that this world is your nightmare, and after you wake up, the door that connects this place to the real world will close. Is that true?"

"This world existed before me, and I'm merely the first one who discovered it." The boy pocketed the picture, and his hollow eyes looked at Chen Ge. "Don't ask me anything about this world. The more you know, the harder it'll be for you to leave."

The boy's intelligence was disproportionate to his appearance. Chen Ge had just spoken, but he had also figured out Chen Ge's angle.

"You cannot tell me anything?"

"I can only say that this world is the reflection of human beings' darkest secrets. It is filled with sin and terror. It is similar to the real world but different, just like day and night." Then the boy walked out the door. The boy's red shirt was blinding. It seemed to be dripping in fresh blood.

"I still have two more questions. Don't move so fast." Chen Ge rushed forward. He had regained his agility, and the blood vessels that had seeped into his arms and legs earlier seemed to have disappeared.

The boy stopped and turned around. His empty eyes studied Chen Ge closely. "Aren't you afraid of me?"

"I am, but I have some questions that need to be answered." The appearance of Men Nan's real persona was meaningful to Chen Ge. "I want to ask about someone. Your second persona refers to him as Doctor Chen."

"Haven't heard of him."

"Your second persona once told me that you returned to the Third Sick Hall because you were invited by two individuals. One of them was the old director and the other was this Doctor Chen." Chen Ge sounded sincere. "This man is very important to me; he might be my missing family."

Perhaps the word family had touched the boy. He moved his empty eyes away. "This Doctor Chen is very common-looking but has a special pair of eyes. He's similar to you, the exact type of person that I detest."

"That's all?" Chen Ge was speechless before asking his second question. "This door that connects the two worlds, how can I close it completely?"

"Very simple." The boy smiled. "Keep a living person behind the door and ask him to guard the door for you."

"What kind of solution is that?" Chen Ge wanted to ask about the reason behind the appearance of the door, but the boy disappeared in the blink of an eye. "Is he hiding some important information from me?"

Chen Ge was afraid that the boy might get into an altercation with Zhang Ya, so he hurried to follow the boy.

After leaving the room, Chen Ge realized that the boy did not wander far. The boy's brows were deeply knitted together, and his dark eyes were looking forward.

The red on the old man's coat had almost faded, and he barely had a human shape left. His remaining body was surrounded by Zhang Ya's black hair and would disappear in a few seconds.

"Leave me the old man's body, and I'll let you go." The boy was small, but Chen Ge felt the threat coming from his words.

Her finger danced over her lips that were as bright as blood. Zhang Ya did not pay attention to what the boy said. With one leg on the director's broken body, she turned to look at the boy like she had spotted a new ingredient for dinner.

Chapter 183: Return

"Calm down!" Chen Ge immediately ran to the middle of the corridor. "We're all allies here; there's no need to harm each other!"

His back was drenched from being squeezed between two Red Specters. Chen Ge was shocked by this scene himself. Two Red Specters were going to fight it out, but he, a living human, was the mediator. Perhaps it was due to Chen Ge, neither the boy nor Zhang Ya made a move.

In reality, the boy was already compromising. After he woke up, the blood vessels inside the Third Sick Hall had continued to surge into his body, and the more he dragged this out, the more powerful he would become.

"I can give you the old man's body, but I must keep his head." There was a unique connection between the boy and the Third Sick Hall. If the Third Sick Hall was a monster, then he was the monster's child, so he had perfect control of the many things here.

Many blood vessels appeared on the surface of the corridor, and they curled themselves around the old man's neck. The old man, who had surrendered to his fate, suddenly opened his eyes and started to struggle. Unfortunately, Zhang Ya's feet were still on his body, so he could not even move.

The blood vessels drilled into the old man's neck, and the image that happened next was a bit gory. The old man's scream reverberated down the hall. The blood vessels formed tentacles of sorts and transported the old man's head to the boy.

"What kind of mistake has the old man made?" Chen Ge was past feeling pity for the man. After all, he did try to kill him earlier.

"When the door was first opened, the man used the patients as test subjects." The boy's hollow eyes looked at the head in his arms. "He forced the patients to enter the door and that included my mother.

The boy hugged the man's head and was smiling sweetly. "He is a very fake and selfish man. The reason I fell asleep was because of him and a few of his patients."

"Him and a few patients? There are other people inside the door?" Chen Ge nudged toward Zhang Ya; he felt safer being close to Zhang Ya.

"I promised Doctor Chen that I would guard the door after entering it. However, five years ago, the door was forced open from the outside." The boy started to explain what happened five years ago. "The old

man suffered from cancer, and he knew that he wasn't going to live for long. To extend his life, he turned his interest toward the world behind the door.

"But he was scared, so like so many years ago, he sent a few patients into the door first. The Third Sick Hall was a quarantine building, and the patients there had no family or background, so the whole process was very hush-hush.

"After one week of trials and making sure that there was no danger, the director entered the door with a few patients." The smile hung on the boy's face as he petted the old man's screaming head. "After the door closed, this place became my world, and there is nothing inside the Third Sick Hall that can harm me.

"I didn't want to harm them; I just wanted to find something to do after so many years of boredom. However, to my surprise, to escape, these people opened the door for the monsters to enter the Third Sick Hall. Some of them even got possessed by these monsters.

"When I discovered this, it was already too late. They trapped me inside the electroshock therapy room and had the dying director look over me while the others escaped with the sin and terror."

After listening to the boy, Chen Ge nodded. "I've seen several patients of the Third Sick Hall in the real world. A thin monster possessed each of them. The old man said that they were a manifestation of human desire."

"Indeed, those are creatures that originated from inside the door, but they are also the weakest." The boy's words scared Chen Ge. The thin monster was the weakest, but he had always thought that the mirror monster was the weakest.

"Five years ago, seven patients entered the door, and four of them were possessed by the weakest monsters. As for the other three, I couldn't tell." The boy glanced at Chen Ge. "The fact that you're here means that you've fought with them already. The remaining ones might seek you out for trouble."

"Can you tell me about the three that are most dangerous?"

"There's an incredibly beautiful woman, a man with a ruined face, and the last one is called Wu Fei." The boy's teeth gritted together when he said Wu Fei's name. "It was this Wu Fei who came up with the plan to trap me."

Then, the boy added, "But Wu Fei is not the most difficult to deal with. You have to be careful about the ruined face; he's the most dangerous."

"Thank you for the reminder."

"There's no need to thank me because I have a favor to ask of you." The boy had observed Chen Ge for a long time and finally voiced his real purpose. "I am just a persona, and this Third Sick Hall behind the door is my host. Since I've been here for so long, from a certain perspective, you can say my consciousness has joined with the building. Outsiders cannot kill me; they can only weaken me and make me fall asleep.

“They cannot kill me, but they can influence me by harming my second persona. In fact, they might be able to control me through him. That is what I’m most worried about, so, if needed, please help me protect my second persona. I have no family left in that world, and he is my only friend.”

“No problem. I am friends with your second persona as well, so I will never not help him.” Chen Ge tried to befriend the boy and wished that one day he would be able to hire him as one of his workers. His Haunted House needed someone of his age.

“Hopefully, you’ll hold onto your promise.” The boy carried the old man’s head to Room 3. “Staying too long in this world will damage your spirit and body. It’ll be filled by negative thoughts. If you stay long enough, you too will go insane.”

He pushed the door to Room 3 open and placed the old man’s head beside the bed. “I’ll send you off. If there’s any problem, you can come find me at midnight; I’ll hold the door open for one minute.”

“Why one minute?” Chen Ge’s eyes twitched.

“That’s the limit of my control,” the boy answered. “This world is huge, and there are many other doors. Some doors, like this one, are guarded by people, and some are left unattended. Normally speaking, if there is someone guarding the door, the time of door opening will be one minute.”

“Okay, I understand.” Chen Ge lowered his head, thinking about the door in his Haunted House.

When both Chen Ge and Zhang Ya walked into Room 3, the boy closed the door. He stood beside the door. “You can go back now.”

“But how?”

The boy pointed at the door of Room 3. “Push it open, you only have one minute.”

Chapter 184: Gripped by Passion

Chen Ge still had many questions, but the boy did not give him any chance and started the countdown. He could see that the boy was also struggling. His body had not fully recovered, and the blood on his clothes was fading. “Stop wasting my time, go!”

When he walked closer, Chen Ge realized that the door was filled with small cracks, and there were plenty of blood vessels weaving through it to fix the wounds. He was reminded of the loud bang that accompanied Zhang Ya’s appearance. He thought about it. “After being sent out by the old man, Zhang Ya burst through the door again. Looks like the door can be broken, but it’ll repair itself.”

Pushing the door open, the world that greeted him was no longer in shades of red, and Chen Ge found the darkened corridor to be quite comforting.

“Meow?” A white cat squatted beside the door. It turned to look at Chen Ge, its multi-colored eyes shining with intrigue. After exiting the door, Chen Ge wanted to turn to thank the boy, but the boy slammed the door shut in his face.

I have a feeling the boy is hiding something, but what is it? Is he afraid of Zhang Ya? The red school uniform that fluttered in the wind appeared in Chen Ge's mind, and he shivered. This three-star Trial Mission had given him a new understanding of Zhang Ya. The Red Specter Zhang Ya was a complete opposite of the person she had been when she was alive. She was cruel and unforgiving. She shattered the door and would attack anyone who dared stand in her way.

Zhang Ya should have exited the door with me, right? Chen Ge turned to look, and Zhang Ya was standing one foot away from him. The red on her uniform was brighter than before.

Chen Ge's fingers twitched like they were spasming, and Chen Ge let out an awkward laugh to hide how panicked he was. "Just look at how funny this whole thing is. I went inside the door because I was worried about you, but in the end, it was you who saved me."

Zhang Ya was silent as she studied Chen Ge's face carefully. Chen Ge was frozen solid under her scrutiny. He was trying to figure out a way to lighten the mood when he realized that, in the twenty or so years he had been alive, his experience of talking with girls was zero.

What have I been doing for the past twenty years? Finally, Chen Ge squeezed out the following. "The things here have been dealt with. Let's go home."

Zhang Ya did not answer but took a step forward. When her face was almost touching Chen Ge's, she suddenly increased in speed to phase through Chen Ge's body before entering his shadow.

The black phone in his pocket vibrated, and Chen Ge leaned against the wall before sliding down it. His forehead was already covered in cold sweat. The pressure Zhang Ya gave him was too high.

"Is that an alert that the mission has been completed?" After taking a deep breath, Chen Ge took out the phone and opened the alert.

"Zhang Ya's affection level increased slightly! Soon, it will break through to the next level—Gripped by Passion!"

The alert that appeared on screen made Chen Ge suck in a deep breath. *Gripped by passion, why does it sound so dangerous? Will Zhang Ya accidentally tear me apart when she is in the throes of passion?*

Chen Ge hugged his head and groaned painfully from the terror. The white cat jumped onto his backpack and lay down lazily. It seemed like it had gotten used to the various weird antics of its owner.

In any case, there's no need to worry about that yet. Chen Ge stood up, and after taking a look at his phone, he saw that all signals had been cut off after he entered the door. Then, he remembered his livestream. He entered the platform and saw that his own livestream had been temporarily banned, but his account was not frozen. He could still comment like normal.

What's going on?

He glanced at the viewer count. With this one livestream, his number of followers had shot up to 150,000. Click into any bigger livestream, and they would be talking about Chen Ge and Qin Guang's stories. Chen Ge calmed himself down and went searching for Qin Guang's livestream. The man's stream was blocked as well.

What's happening? Chen Ge called Liu Dao, and it was picked up after seven rings. "Liu Dao? Why are my livestream and Qin Guang's livestream both blocked? Is it because of the overly long black screen?"

After a few seconds, an unknown male voice replied, "This is the city's investigation team. Give me your location immediately. Stay where you are, and don't move around."

The police? When did they get here, and how did they know I'm at the Third Sick Hall? Chen Ge glanced at the time. It was already 3:50 am. He had only been inside the door for a short time, but time had passed by so fast in the real world. After his livestream was cancelled when he entered the door, Liu Dao's team had probably called the police. Unlike those online viewers, Liu Dao understood how dangerous things could be and knew Chen Ge's exact location.

"I'm at the mental hospital's third building first floor. There are two victims trapped inside the second building's laundry room, and I've collected evidence of the suspects."

"The two victims have been rescued. Don't ruin the crime scene. We'll be there in a minute; keep the line open."

"My phone is dying, so I'm afraid it won't hold out for long." Chen Ge then hung up. He immediately hid the hammer and cleaver.

I have to take the thing inside the director's dresser too.

He raced to the second-floor office. When he grabbed the letters inside the dresser, Chen Ge accidentally found the dresser's secret. The partition at the back of the dresser could be opened, and it led to a hidden passageway. At the end of the passageway was a steel door.

The door's lock fitted the key Chen Ge had. After unlocking it and pushing the door open, Chen Ge was surprised to find himself back in Room 3.

This should be the secret tunnel mentioned by Wang Haiming in Room 3. This passageway is connected to the director's office, so the old man definitely knew about it.

Looking at the patient's bed, which faced the hidden passageway, Chen Ge was reminded of Men Nan's mother who stayed in this room, and he had a rough idea of why the boy tormented the old director.

Wang Haiming was once a resident of Room 3, and this key was probably stolen from the director with the cooperation of the mirror ghost.

The police were coming soon, so Chen Ge pocketed the key, returned everything back to how it had been, and sat quietly inside the room, waiting for the police to arrive.

At 4 am, the Third Sick Hall was pried open, and Chen Ge, who had been waiting for so long, rushed forward, carrying his backpack, a cock in his hand and a white cat slumbering on his shoulder.

Before Chen Ge got near, the police surrounded him. Chen Ge had not seen any of these faces before.

"I'm a friend! I've found these things left behind by the suspects."

After a short interrogation, Chen Ge explained why he was at the Third Sick Hall. He removed the things related to ghosts and said that he was chased by the twisted face and ended up being locked by the crazy people inside the Third Sick Hall.

“The suspects’ fingerprints were left on the fourth floor’s steel door. They are three of them; they were all once patients at this Third Sick Hall.”

He struggled to stay awake until dawn, and after receiving the mission success alert on the black phone, Chen Ge left the mental hospital with the police.

Chapter 185: Is Your Brain Filled with Lead?

“Get in, and don’t act funny.”

Chen Ge slipped into the police car, hugging the chicken and cat. From the tone of the policeman, he realized that things might have gotten a little serious this time.

“Thank God, you’re okay.” There was another person sitting in the backseat. His face was tense, but his voice was familiar.

“Liu Dao? Why are you here? Was it you who called the police?” Sitting inside the police car, Chen Ge felt oddly comfortable. He was not only not worried, and he felt like falling asleep. “Also, why was the livestream banned? What was the highest viewership tonight? Because my follower number has increased to 150,000.”

“Why do you still care about the livestream?” Liu Dao grabbed Chen Ge’s arm. “Brother, didn’t you say that all the people in the mental hospital are actors from the Haunted House? I’ve vouched for you in front of the cops, but you’ve pushed me into the pits of hell.”

“But there are my workers in the mental hospital, you just are unable to see them.” Chen Ge was not ashamed of his words. For this livestream, he had brought the Pen Spirit, Xiaoxiao, and the white cat out from the Haunted House.

“I didn’t mean to blame you, just...” Liu Dao’s face fell. “Never mind, it’s my fault for not taking more precautions, and to be fair, many viewers were tricked by you.”

“What are you talking about? Mind explaining it to me.” Chen Ge wanted to pet the white cat’s head but was warned off by the cat’s cruel gaze.

Liu Dao shrugged. “Normally, when a person enters a mental hospital in the middle of the night and sees victims trapped inside cages and murderers pursuing him with axes, wouldn’t that person be afraid?”

“Yes, fear is the appropriate reaction.”

“But the problem is, you chased the murderers up and down the building with a large hammer for at least twenty minutes! No matter who sees this, they’ll think it’s a set-up, right?” Liu Dao was at the verge of a breakdown. “I’ve been in the livestream business for four years already, and until now, I never thought that someone would go chase after a real murderer! Weren’t you afraid? Is your brain filled with lead?”

“You’re exaggerating—I was just doing what a lawful citizen would,” Chen Ge emphasized. “To be honest, I have a strong sense of justice. When I saw the victims, I was angered by how much pain they’d been through, and the anger overwhelmed my fear. That’s why I dared to chase after those murderers.”

Chen Ge was loud, and the two policemen in front could hear him clearly.

“It’s too late to say anything now. This is all my fault. I should have called the police earlier.” Liu Dao massaged his temples. “When you started the livestream, there was already a report. At the time, I thought that it was people from Qin Guang’s side playing tricks, so I ignored it. Then, when your viewership rose to 400,000, someone demanded that we call the police, and I had my men suppressed the motion. Finally, when your livestream went over 600,000 and broke the record for any newbie host, I had a very bad feeling. You started to scream and wave that cleaver at the air. I thought that it was some kind of performance, and due to personal greed, I forced Sister Lee to continue the broadcast.

“It was not until you entered that sickroom and the screen went black that I realized the gravity of the situation and called the police.” There was a trace of relief in his voice. “So be it. No matter what, at least you’re safe now.”

Liu Dao sighed, removed a small pill bottle from his shirt, and popped two pills into his mouth.

“What are those?”

“Pills for angina. Give me some peace. This is my first time inside a police car, so I need to calm myself.”

After they arrived at the city police station, Liu Dao and Chen Ge were led into different interrogation rooms. The police questioned him on all the details. Chen Ge stuck to his earlier explanation. He accidentally ran into a conspiracy, and to protect the victim, he chose to resist and fight back. The whole process was broadcasted, and that was all the evidence Chen Ge needed.

The thing that was most difficult for the police was, all evidence pointed to the fact that Chen Ge was also one of the victims, but this ‘victim’ had chased after the culprits aggressively.

After the interrogation, the police did not show any sign that they were going to let him go. “Mr. Chen, we need to have a meeting to discuss your situation.”

“Okay, but can you give me back my phone? I wish to call my family to tell them that I’m safe.” Chen Ge actually wanted to call Inspector Lee for help. This time, things were different. His livestream was no longer limited to a small circle. It had broken 600,000 viewers; in other words, the situation had gotten a bit out of hand.

“Please wait patiently.” The police officer rejected Chen Ge’s request and left the interrogation room. It was not until noon that the door opened again. Chen Ge, who had been fully cooperative, turned to look at the door.

A slightly fat police stood at the door. He wore a uniform that was different from others’.

“Captain Yan?” Chen Ge was surprised. It was this officer who had presented his medal when Chen Ge helped solved the case at Ping An Apartments.

“Follow me, someone wants to meet you.” Different from last time, Captain Yan’s expression was severe. Chen Ge stood up slowly and wondered, *Am I going to meet some big character?*

After exiting the interrogation room, they walked down the corridor before stopping outside a room. Through the glass window, Chen Ge looked in. The girl who had been trapped inside the cage was safe. She was wearing the police outfit someone had given her, and she cowered in a corner of the room, hugging a bottle of water. She was shivering non-stop and would not communicate with anyone. She did not even dare to sit on the chair.

Standing not far from her was a middle-aged man, and this was the first time Chen Ge had seen a man break down so completely. The middle-aged man appeared to be the girl's father. He was calling the girl's name, but she did not give any response. She was still shrouded in fear.

"Go in, the father wants to meet you."

When he walked in, the middle-aged father immediately rushed to Chen Ge. His emotions were running so high that he could not even finish a complete sentence.

...

About ten minutes later, Captain Yan and Chen Ge left the room.

"Earlier, we were all discussing about you, to determine whether what you've done has broken the law or not. At the end of the discussion, I also brought them here." Captain Yan looked at the pair in the room. "If not for you, the girl would have spent the rest of her life inside a cage and the father would have spent his looking for his only family in this world."

Chen Ge had a hard time controlling his emotions. Even though the girl was safe now, it would take a long time before the scar on her heart was healed.

"You've done good this time." Captain Yan turned to Chen Ge. "After our discussion, we decided to temporarily ban your livestream, but as compensation, we'll award you a record of merit."

Instead of a punishment, banning Chen Ge's livestream temporarily was more like a protection. This was to prevent Chen Ge from being used by others due to his newfound popularity.

As for that record of merit, Chen Ge did not know what it was. But since Captain Yan had specifically mentioned it, it should be a good thing.

"Thank you, but I was merely acting on my sense of justice. Sometimes, I just cannot control myself." Chen Ge was not sure. After all, what he did yesterday night was rash. He had been armed with a cleaver and a hammer, and he had broken a culprit's leg with the hammer. "Then, can I really go now?"

"Don't try to get information from me." Captain Yan pointed at his uniform. "We will not cheer for violence, but never will we punish a good conscience and sense of justice."

Chapter 186: New Competition

After grabbing his stuff, Chen Ge left the station with the white cat.

This Captain Yan is different from the others.

Chen Ge turned back to look and decided to stay low for a period of time. This incident had reminded him that the main city is different from Western Jiujiang. The previous few times, he did not get into any trouble because Inspector Lee had been helping him.

After completing the three-star Trial Mission, there's no need for me to go unlock other scenarios for now. I should focus on the Third Sick Hall.

In reality, even if there was a four-star mission for him to choose, Chen Ge would not pick it. Starting with three-star missions, the danger level doubled and tripled. After he got into the taxi, Chen Ge placed the white cat and chicken to the side before pulling out the black phone to check his unread messages.

“Player managed to reach the Mission Location on time and survived until dawn. Trial Mission, Third Sick Hall successful! A new scenario has been unlocked. Player can manipulate the props inside the set freely using the interface available on the phone!

“Trial Mission Completion Rate 60 percent. Player has not achieved more than 90 percent completion rate, so the hidden item for this mission has yet to be unlocked.

“Completing the hidden quest of the scenario will increase the Trial Mission's completion rate, and when the completion rate is above 90, the hidden item will be unlocked.”

After reading the message, Chen Ge was shocked. *The mission completion rate is only sixty? Where is the problem? Did Men Nan's main persona hide something from me, or does this have something to do with those mental patients who have escaped?*

Chen Ge anticipated the hidden items that were rewarded after the mission, but he also discovered a pattern. The higher the star of the Trial Mission, the greater the reward of the hidden item and the hidden missions. For example, the one-star Ping An Apartment gave him a missing person notice with malice points, but the two-star Mu Yang High School gave him a rare ghost—the Pen Spirit.

Will the hidden reward for the three-star Trial Mission be the little boy? Chen Ge thought that was quite possible; after all, Men Nan's main persona had said that his consciousness had merged with the Third Sick Hall. Men Nan's main persona's relationship to the Third Sick Hall is rather similar to Director Luo's daughter's relationship to New Century Park, but one was guarding their place behind the door while the other guarded around their location.

As for what kind of hidden missions the Third Sick Hall would offer, Chen Ge would need to enter the scenario himself to trigger it. Under the taxi driver's curious gaze, Chen Ge took his stuff and got out of the car. Once he entered New Century Park, he noticed that the visitors were tossing him weird looks.

If I'm not mistaken, today isn't a public holiday, so why are there so many visitors at the park?

The normally quiet amusement park seemed to have been given a new lease on life. Chen Ge was embarrassed from being gawked at, and he escaped toward the Haunted House as fast as he could.

Chen Ge stopped before he reached the Haunted House because he saw how long the line at his Haunted House was. It felt like he was dreaming.

“Why are there so many visitors?”

“Boss!” Xu Wan stood at the steps of the Haunted House, and she saw Chen Ge as soon as he got near. “You’re finally here!”

The visitors all turned following her shout, and Chen Ge shivered under their watchful gazes. He squeezed through the crowd, and after hearing Xu Wan’s explanation, he understood that most of the visitors had come to see him.

The influence of the previous night’s livestream was bigger than he had expected. His livestream had been cut into pieces and shared on most big news sites. ‘Fake livestream leads to interaction with real murderers’—such headlines had already appeared on the internet.

The key thing was, Chen Ge realized, the decision he made while the popularity of his livestream was rising to promote his Haunted House was brilliant. Because he had used the largest font for the address, those who shared the video had to block ¼ of the screen if they wanted to hide the address. Instead of ruining the experience, they decided to be fair and helped Chen Ge with his promotion.

This meant that many forums and platforms had helped Chen Ge promote his Haunted House. Some of the visitors were from Jiujiang, and they came to pay the Haunted House a visit.

After the previous night’s livestream, his account’s followers number had kept on climbing, and the comments went into the millions. Even though his livestream was blocked, Chen Ge still managed to squeeze into the popular ranking for newbies.

Chen Ge reaped many rewards, but Qin Guang was truly unlucky. The platform had used who knew how much to cultivate him, but after the constant broadcasting problems, the livestream was finally closed entirely. Based on rumors, Qin Guang was scared until he was sent to the hospital. When Qin Guang woke up, he realized that because of Chen Ge, his supernatural livestream was also banned. He probably coughed up more blood at the hospital.

Due to the large number of visitors, Chen Ge could not rest even if he wanted to. He had a little nap that morning inside the interrogation room, so he could still hold on. After giving a brief explanation on the different levels of the scenarios, Chen Ge asked Uncle Xu to look after the crowd while he and Xu Wan went to put on their make-up and move to their designated places.

There was no break throughout the entire afternoon. Even when the sun was falling, there were still visitors lining up outside the Haunted House. The park had to delay its closing time for half an hour, and it was not until 6:30 pm that Chen Ge and Xu Wan managed to leave the Haunted House.

With her face white from exhaustion, Xu Wan sighed. “Who would have thought one day, we would need to work overtime at the Haunted House?”

“There are still many things that you wouldn’t expect in the future. Stick with me, and I’m sure your future will be bright.” Chen Ge looked at Xu Wan and smiled. Ever since he discovered that he could hire ghosts as workers, his desire to hire a new worker had died down a lot. Perhaps, throughout his career, Xu Wan would be his only living worker.

“Boss, there’s something else I want to tell you.” Xu Wan took out a flyer from her pocket. “There’s a very famous travelling Haunted House that’s coming to Jiujiang. They’ve rented the spot at the city central’s merchant street, and tomorrow will be their official opening day.”

“Competition is a good thing, don’t mind it.” Chen Ge glanced at the flyer. The Haunted House was called Tian Teng Medical School. It combined the themes of a scary hospital and a school. It was a large moving Haunted House following the tradition of Japanese Haunted Houses.

“When they started their promotion, I did not pay them much heed either, but this morning, when our popularity skyrocketed, they changed their promotional ad on their website, saying that their Haunted House was designed by foreign specialists and is definitely scarier than the other Haunted Houses in Jiujiang. They say that they are on a completely different level.” Xu Wan took out her phone to show Chen Ge the website of Tian Teng Medical School.

Chen Ge took a look. The team behind Tian Teng Medical School did seem like they were aiming to slander. Even though they did not state it explicitly, the only other famous Haunted House in Jiujiang belonged to Chen Ge.

“Looks like they’re looking for a fight.” Chen Ge held onto the flyer. “No worries, when they are open tomorrow, I’ll go to give them my ‘support’.”

Chapter 187: Tian Teng Medical School

After Xu Wan left, Chen Ge returned to the Haunted House alone. He still had many things to do. After fixing the Pen Spirit’s pen, Chen Ge buried the chicken beside the Haunted House. Chen Ge had no clue what had killed the chicken. There were no wounds on its body, so he suspected that the killer came from behind the door. For the sake of security, Chen Ge did not leave the chicken’s body anywhere else but chose to bring it back to the Haunted House to bury it.

After dealing with all the chores, Chen Ge entered the underground parking lot. The Third Sick Hall had been fully copied. Its size was double the size of Mu Yang High School, and it was placed opposite from the school. All the scenarios were joined together, and the paths crisscrossed. The shape of a Maze of Terror was already forming.

Chen Ge walked through the scenario, and after making sure that there was no danger, he installed a few of the cameras that were left from before at several key points before leaving the scenario.

Mu Yang High School came with two hidden missions, and the Third Sick Hall is a three-star scenario, so it should have more hidden missions. However, I’ve walked through the entire scenario, and there is nothing out of place. Looks like the trigger for these hidden missions isn’t so easily found.

After returning to the staff breakroom, Chen Ge was about to lie down when he got the message from Inspector Lee. After thinking about it, Chen Ge gave Inspector Lee a call. “Uncle San Bao, I’m fine now. No need to worry.”

“Well, at least you’re optimistic.” There were footsteps on the other end. Inspector Lee was walking to a secluded spot before he continued. “I’ve seen the footage from last night. When you saw the trapped victims, you should have called the police already.”

“I understand. I’ll more careful next time.”

“There’s still a next time?” Inspector Lee sighed. “So be it. I’m just trying to remind you to be careful. Also, two things to inform you. According to your statement, three individuals were involved in the trapping of the victims. All three of them are in the wind, so you have to be careful. They all suffer from mental illnesses and could do anything.”

“Okay, I’ll be careful.”

“The second thing is related to Western Jiujiang’s Private Academy.” Inspector Lee sounded like he was flipping through some files. “I’ve inspected all the men who were related to the school starting from five years ago, and we’ve narrowed down the pool to 21 suspects. In less than a week, we’ll be able to find the culprit who forced the girl to kill herself.”

Zhang Ya was finally going to get her justice. Chen Ge exhaled deeply into the phone. “Inspector Lee, after you apprehend the killer, can I have five minutes alone with him?”

“We’ll see about it later, but don’t get your hopes up.” Inspector Lee hung up, and Chen Ge looked at his phone, spacing out until he eventually fell asleep.

...

In the blood red room, Chen Ge sat in the bed. The blood vessels on his legs were surfacing. He looked around dumbly, and Men Nan’s voice appeared beside him. “You don’t have much time left.”

He turned around and saw the boy standing the middle of the room. Red lines were coursing through his body.

“Men Nan?”

“You don’t have much time left,” the boy said expressionlessly. When he was about to repeat it the third time, the red lines went taut, and the boy’s body shredded into pieces.

“Hey!”

Chen Ge’s eyes flew open, and he woke up from the nightmare, his forehead soaked with cold sweat. It was 3:40 am, and this coincided with the time he exited the ‘door’.

Why would I have a dream like that? Did anything happen to Men Nan’s main persona inside the door? Chen Ge lost all interest in sleep. He took his phone, toolbox, and backpack and headed for the Third Sick Hall.

Chen Ge returned to this place at 5 am. The sun was coming up, but the buildings still looked quite creepy. Chen Ge jumped over the fence into the mental hospital. The police had broken down the locks to the Third Sick Hall, and Chen Ge headed for Room 3 immediately.

He pushed the door open, and everything looked the same as when he left it. His investigation came up with nothing. Chen Ge walked deeper into the sick hall as he contemplated. He retrieved the hammer and cleaver that he had hidden the night before and rushed to the director’s office. Using the tools from his toolbox, he pried the four blood red nails from the corners of the dresser.

They look to be normal iron nails. Chen Ge tore a piece off from the curtain, used it to wrap the nails, and placed it inside his backpack.

The day was starting. Knowing that he still had plenty of things to do, he exited the mental hospital, walked quite a distance, and eventually found a taxi. He returned to New Century Park.

After placing down his backpack, Chen Ge put up a sign for temporary closure and carried a bunch of stuff before hurrying to the city center.

“Sheng Yuan International Plaza’s third floor.” Chen Ge held the flyer in his hand as he waited for the elevator. There was a group of young men and women near him, and they were chit-chatting among themselves. They were very excited.

“I’m shocked that Tian Teng Medical School decided to come to Jiujiang! When they were stationed at Xing Hai last year, I was so ready to hop on a train to go visit them!”

“Sounds like you’re exaggerating again. Su Su, I hear we also have a good Haunted House, and it’s quite famous online.”

“Don’t buy into online rumors. The Haunted Houses we have only rely on cheap tricks; they’re no competition for Tian Teng Medical School. You’re not an aficionado like myself, so you wouldn’t understand it.”

The Su Su who spoke was a rather cute girl. She was about 1.6 meters tall, and her front was as flat as her back. Standing beside Su Su was a tall young man. He added shyly, “But aren’t all Haunted Houses the same?”

“Most Haunted Houses are in it for the money, but Tian Teng Medical School is different; they’re aiming for a real haunting experience. The two are leagues apart.” The girl seemed to be a real Haunted House fan. “You won’t understand it even if I explain it to you. Later, you just stick behind me.”

The girl was quite interesting, and she had Chen Ge’s interest. The elevator door opened, and all of them went up to the third floor. The elevator opened to reveal a hall that was filled with waiting visitors.

“Tian Teng Medical School is so famous?” Chen Ge had risked his life and energy doing all sort of promotion online, and he had barely gotten the popularity of his Haunted House up. In comparison, Tian Teng Medical School managed to attract so many visitors just from word of mouth alone. That was quite impressive.

“They are, of course, famous! They’re the biggest moving Haunted House currently available on the market! They hired a professional Haunted House designer from Japan who had over ten years of experience. The make-up team and every set piece are custom-made.” The girl called Su Su overheard Chen Ge and patiently explained to him, “Uncle, even though the price of admission is rather expensive, it is definitely worth your money! The scares utilize sound, light, electricity, and smell. It’s the best Japanese-style Haunted House in the nation.”

“Uncle?” Chen Ge’s lips twitched slightly. The things he had seen yesterday were scary enough. After managing his expression, Chen Ge walked past the girl, mumbling, “I’ve not experienced a Japanese-style Haunted House before, but I wonder, compared to the Third Sick Hall, which is scarier?”

Chapter 188: One Is Enough

The hall was filled to the brim with people; there were still people downstairs, and the elevator kept bringing new visitors. At 10 am, the proprietor for Tian Teng Medical School finally appeared. He was of average height, had a short haircut, and looked to be in his thirties.

There were two models in revealing nurse costumes trailing behind them. Even though their make-up was startling white, their eyes never stopped releasing electricity. The man tried the loudspeaker and stood at the steps before the entrance of the Haunted House and said, "Everyone, thank you for your kind support. Tian Teng Medical School has always maintained..."

Chen Ge's eyes scanned the two models. He was not going to pay attention to the man's introductory speech. He was thinking about designing a pretty and sexy costume for Xu Wan when his Haunted House had its next activity.

The man talked for two to three minutes before finally getting to the point.

"Our team optimizes the Haunted House every six months. With the aid of a professional foreign team, all the scares are updated, and as the proprietor, it is my responsibility to tell everyone that Tian Teng Medical School is scarier than all the other Haunted Houses available on the market!

"We strive for the most realistic terror, unlike certain unethical Haunted Houses who rely on online water armies to brush up on their popularity. They think that this was clever, and some did fall for the dirty tricks, but to be honest, I find this behavior laughable!"

Chen Ge was getting impatient from all the slander. He nudged forward through the crowd, but there were too many people. Finally, he reached the ticket seller. "One ticket please."

"Did you book a ticket online?"

"No."

"I'm sorry, today's tickets have all been sold. How about you stay until afternoon? Perhaps there might be an opening then."

"The tickets are all gone?"

The proprietor continued to speak on stage. "If the Haunted Houses on the market are first generation, my Tian Teng Medical School is a fourth generation Haunted House that combines many high-end technology!

"Today is the first day we're opening our doors for the citizens of Jiujiang. To let everyone have a clearer understanding of the situation, I'll randomly select four visitors to experience the Haunted House with an audio recorder and a portable electrocardiographic monitor! Through the speakers that are connected to the audio recorder and the cardiograph broadcasted on screen, you'll be able to see for yourself how scary our Haunted House is!"

Before the proprietor finished talking, there was already cheer from the crowd. It was hard to tell whether this was a set-up or not.

"There's a code behind every ticket, and we'll select the lucky ones with a randomized code generator." The man nodded to the sales counter, and the workers started to do their work.

Chen Ge saw everything with his eyes. The man stepped on his Haunted House to bring himself up, and he could not take that lying down.

“Wait!” Chen Ge raised his hand and walked onto the stage. “You said earlier that your Haunted House is scary but other Haunted Houses depend on online water army to brush up on their popularity. That, I don’t agree with.”

The man frowned. If not for the crowd, he would have called for security to haul Chen Ge out.

“I am the boss of Western Jiujiang’s House of Horrors, the owner of the Haunted House that you’re happily slandering online. The day before yesterday I just hosted a livestream that has more than 600,000 viewers.”

When Chen Ge walked to the stage, there was a familiar voice from the crowd that called out. “Boss?”

Chen Ge followed the voice and saw He San and Gao Ru Xue standing in the crowd.

“Why are you here?” Chen Ge was baffled. He San was openly supporting his enemy. “If you want to experience a Haunted House, why didn’t you come to me?”

He San did not know how to explain himself. He could not openly admit before the proprietor of Tian Teng Medical School that Boss Chen’s Haunted House was too scary. His class was still having nightmares from their previous experience and thus decided to come to another Haunted House to seek some relaxation.

The man took this in as well. He had already recognized Chen Ge. “Looks like your Haunted House is not that popular; even your own friend won’t support you. Fine, if you insist on learning some tricks from us, we’re willing to provide you with this opportunity. Don’t say that we’re not generous people.”

The man was clever. Since they dared slander Chen Ge’s Haunted House online, they obviously knew of Chen Ge. By letting Chen Ge into the Haunted House, his intention was clear. If Chen Ge was scared inside Teng Tian Medical School, he could use this as a point of promotion and forcefully yank the customers from Western Jiujiang’s House of Horrors. Chen Ge had the same idea as he did; they both wanted to persuade the other’s visitors to come to their own.

Due to the recent livestream, Chen Ge’s Haunted House had become a hot item online, but he knew that the popularity would not last for long. At most, it would last for a week. Even though Tian Teng Medical School was not as popular as Chen Ge’s Haunted House within Jiujiang, they had a large national popularity and a number of loyal fans like Su Su.

“Come, help him put on the audio recorder and heart monitor.” The two models walked toward Chen Ge. “Now, we’ll pick the remaining three lucky visitors.”

“I don’t think that’s necessary.” Chen Ge shrugged. “Challenging a Haunted House alone is more fun. If you can manage to scare me, I will admit that my Haunted House is not as scary as yours on my website and promote your Haunted House for a whole month.”

The man was intrigued by what Chen Ge said, but he was cautious as well. He was sure Chen Ge was up to something. “How are we going to gauge that we’ve managed to scare you?”

“You’ve installed the heartrate monitor, right? The normal heartrate when a person is walking is between 60 to 100. When they’re scared, the oxygen in their blood will drastically decrease, and the heart will pump faster.” Chen Ge looked at the man and calmly said, “If my heartrate ever rises over 100, I’ll lose.”

“You have a deal.” The man did not give Chen Ge any chance to change his mind. Even a small jog would bring a man’s heartrate over 100, much less being scared. From how he saw it, Chen Ge was bound to lose.

“Don’t be so hasty. If I lose, I will admit your Haunted House is scarier than mine online, but what if you lose?”

“Don’t worry, if we lose, we’ll also admit that our Haunted House is not as scary as yours online.” The man pointed at the crowd. “Everyone here can be your witness.”

“Actually, I still have one small request.” Chen Ge smiled innocently. “I think that you still have some misunderstandings about my Haunted House. I hope that your team will be willing to come visit my Haunted House. I’ve added a new scenario, and it hasn’t been opened to the public yet.”

“Okay, no problem,” the man promised easily and earned affection from the crowd. Only He San and Gao Ru Xue had a curious expression on their faces. Looking at the man, they saw themselves in the past overlapping with him.

Chapter 189: Rivalry

Chen Ge removed his shirt, and the two nurses helped him apply the audio recorder and heartrate monitor. After testing, several fluctuating lines appeared on the screen in the middle of the hall. The man stood to the side of the stage and pointed at the lines. “HR/PR represents heartrate and pulse rate. SpO2 stands for peripheral capillary oxygen saturation, an estimate of the amount of oxygen in the blood. RESP is respiratory rate. TEMP is body temperature. Based on these few lines, we can clearly and objectively see the change in your emotions.”

After putting on his clothes, Chen Ge shrugged. “Can we start now?”

“The entrance is to the left of the hall; the exit is on the right. We’ll wait for you at the exit,” the man explained briefly to Chen Ge. “There is a guide inside the Haunted House, so he’ll tell you what to do.”

“Okay.” Chen Ge walked into Tian Teng Medical School. Looking at Chen Ge’s back, the man smiled. They had organized similar activities in Xing Hai before, and the lines on the screen seemed to go through a roller coaster. Combined with the screams would be that broadcasted through the speaker, even the visitors outside could experience the fear vicariously.

“Such an interesting fella.” The man locked the door silently and took out his phone to inform the workers inside the Haunted House that their prey was coming. He told them not to hold back.

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As the door closed, the light in the room dimmed. Chen Ge waited until his eyes had familiarized themselves with the darkness before he moved forward. The first scene was a security stop. A person in

a security outfit was sitting down, facing away from Chen Ge. There was a blood-splattered screen before him, and the images kept flitting about. They seemed to show scenes inside the hospital.

This was the preparation room, mainly used to inform the visitor of the Haunted House's background and to bring the visitors into the story.

The key to moving forward should be the security guard. This set-up is quite interesting.

Chen Ge walked to the door of the security stop, leaned against the only window, and yelled into the small room, "Boss, what are you looking at?"

Hearing Chen Ge's voice, the man slowly turned around. His face was covered with sweat, and with his finger pointing at the screen, his lips stuttered, "There, there..."

A stutterer's character setting? Very professional.

Chen Ge walked into the room to have a closer look at the screen. The screen was repeating several headlines about the hospital: Patients mysteriously jumping from the building; immoral doctors selling organs on the black market; confirmed dead patients returning the next day. The team had put plenty of effort into these headlines because there was even a surveillance tape attached to them.

In the darkened hospital corridor, a woman in white was staggering forward with her head lowered, her black hair covering her entire face. The video was edited so that the woman appeared to be far one second but close to the camera the next. The woman's face appeared at the camera on the third second, and a scary face filled up the screen.

"There's a ghost!" the security guard who sat behind Chen Ge screamed.

He had probably practiced this many times because his timing was perfect. Chen Ge sighed as he shook his head. "Great set-up, but you might be able to scare me if she's wearing red."

A female Red Specter had a special meaning for Chen Ge. At the end of the video, there was a layout page for the Haunted House. Basically, Chen Ge had to follow the designated path, and that would be all.

This kind of design was the most effective, but it was not as entertaining as Chen Ge's Haunted House, which was open for you to wander about. After memorizing the map, Chen Ge prepared to leave. When he turned around and saw the security guard, his eyes narrowed, and his heart rate rose slightly.

The security guard had put on a thin ghost mask, and it looked rather similar to the ghost face that had appeared on screen earlier. He looked at Chen Ge silently, and Chen Ge looked at him silently. "If you have nothing to say, then move on. Don't waste time."

"Our Haunted House is really haunted. If you stumble across anything weird, remember to holler at the camera!" the security guard said seriously, and it did not sound like he was lying.

"Can you be more specific? What kind of ghost?" Chen Ge scanned the room. There was a flashlight and some tools under the counter. They should have been provided to the guests, but the security guard did not seem like he was going to give Chen Ge any.

“You’ll understand soon enough. The way to begin is on your left-hand side. Push the wall open, and your exploration of the secret at Tian Teng Medical School will officially start,” the security guard said mysteriously before hauling Chen Ge out of the security stop.

“There’s an actual ghost? At most, it’ll be a lingering spirit.” Chen Ge mumbled something that the security guard did not understand before pushing the wall and moved on. The Haunted House was filled with many traps. The wall opened and closed on its own. Someone was controlling it from afar.

The details are on point; no wonder they’re so popular.

Just the design at the preparation room had impressed Chen Ge. He wondered if he could use that inspiration inside his own Haunted House somehow.

Behind the wall was a long corridor. Due to the limitation of geography, the corridor was half the size of a normal corridor, and the most interesting part was that there was a dried ‘female body’ hanging in the middle of the road, as if warning the visitors of incoming danger.

The corridor was most likely a buffer zone for the visitors to prepare themselves for the upcoming scare. This was quite the kind design. Chen Ge walked toward the body, and when he approached, he stopped.

At the corner of the corridor, away from the focus of the visitor, was a steel box that did not capture much attention. A normal visitor would be attracted by the female body and ignore the steel box.

There has to be someone hiding inside the box. After being scared inside the security stop, they would be tense. When they first passed through the door, their attention would be dominated by the female body, and when they tried to walk past the body, a ghost would jump out at them from the box hidden in the corner. That’s quite interesting.

A heartless design met Chen Ge, who did not know the meaning of the term ‘bottom line’. The match between shameless and cunning was officially starting.

I seem to have rediscovered the childhood joy of visiting a Haunted House. Chen Ge leaned his body against the wall. Since the actor was hiding inside the box, Chen Ge’s position was exactly inside his blind spot.

As he nudged closer, instead of watching the swinging body, Chen Ge kept his focus on the box. The fake box looked flawless, at least from the front, but from the side, one could see that the back of the box was already loosening. There was even a small gap on the corner. Probably due to the hard-to-notice angle of the gap, the team had not fixed it.

The person inside the box must be fully focused, waiting for me to walk past so that he can jump out to scare me.

Scaring people required timing, and the more professional the actor, the better their timing.

Chen Ge thought about it and took out his phone to set a one-minute alarm. He set the alarm tone as Wedding Dress, and he slowly squatted down and slid the phone into the box through the open gap.

Chapter 190: Don’t be Scared, I’m a Visitor

The corridor suddenly became so quiet that even the sound of breathing could not be heard. The 'ghost' inside the box did not realize what Chen Ge had done. He was still waiting for the moment to give Chen Ge the fatal blow.

In the corner, Chen Ge was also silently counting the time. After thirty seconds, there was a creaking sound inside the box. The actor had probably gotten tired from maintaining the same pose for a long time.

In comparison, Chen Ge was more like an experienced hunter. He arched his back and slowly nudged forward. After forty seconds, the 'ghost' was confused because the visitor still had not shown up. He leaned his body forward to adjust his angle in the hope of spotting Chen Ge.

The silent confrontation was about to reach its climax. When only three seconds were left, Chen Ge took a step forward to block the front of the box. At the same time, the sound of the ghost's screaming appeared inside the box. Different from Black Friday, Wedding Dress started with a crescendo!

The actor, who was focused on locating Chen Ge, was tense, and the sound of a shrill female scream appeared behind him. The actor knocked into the door, and in his panic, he seemed to accidentally trip on the prop that he was supposed to use to scare Chen Ge. He fell inside the box with a thud.

"What was that sound? What was that sound!"

The dark and cramped box became his greatest nightmare because it sounded like the female ghost was just beside him. He banged on the door madly. Chen Ge, who had predicted everything, very kindly stepped one step back to block the door from opening.

"What sound is that? Let me out!" Afraid that the blocking might expend too much of his energy, Chen Ge soon moved to the side.

The door was slammed open, and a male ghost in a patient's garb and fake blood over his face crawled out from it. He gasped greedily for air with his arm over his chest. He collapsed in the middle of the corridor looking just like a trauma victim.

"Don't be scared, I'm just the visitor." Chen Ge talked into the recorder naturally. He then picked up his phone and turned off his alarm. He acted like everything was completely normal.

As his cold sweat mixed with fake blood, the man looked at Chen Ge with mixed emotions. He looked as pitiable as could be.

"Why did you fall? Are you hurt?" Chen Ge turned to look inside the box. Sitting on the floor were two specially made mannequin heads, and one of the head's long hair had come off the mannequin. "You guys planned to use such a scary prop? So wicked."

Chen Ge planned to go help the man, but the man crawled away from him. "Don't touch me! Go ahead... I can stand up on my own."

"You sure? You look so pale."

"That's the make-up! Just leave me be, go on!" The male ghost struggled back into the box and closed the door behind him.

“Then you be careful.” Chen Ge set the alarm alert back. This Wedding Dress sure was useful. Something hit him on the back of his head. Chen Ge turned back to look. The ‘female body’ was still swinging in the air.

He reached out to grab the body’s feet. They felt cold to his touch. There was even a name written on the body’s patient outfit—Xu Zhenzhen.

“The handiwork is not bad but still worse than the mannequins inside my Haunted House.”

After giving his comment, Chen Ge continued to move forward. He turned the corner, and the ‘female body’ in the corridor started to sway again.

Chen Ge officially entered Tian Teng Medical School. The white walls were scrawled with words that were written in dried blood. There were proclamations like ‘I don’t want to die’ and ‘Give me back my organs’.

“This Haunted House’s background sure is complicated. I suppose the aim is for the visitor to explore the place on their own and come up with the solution to reconstruct the actual origin story.”

Chen Ge stood inside the corridor. The windows on the sides were painted, but combined with lighting effects, it gave the feeling that something was running outside the window. The person who designed this place was indeed an expert. The windows on the side were a mixture of fake and real. When Chen Ge walked past the fourth window, a hand reached out to grab him. That was not all. The ceiling above him clicked, and a mannequin head that was hidden above rolled down and fell right into Chen Ge’s arms.

If this was someone else, they probably would have been screaming, but Chen Ge had never been so calm. He held the head up and felt nostalgic. “When I was four or five, I used to run all over the place with fake heads like this. Time flies.”

The actor who held Chen Ge on the other side of the window was confused. *Holding a fake head and running about when he was four or five? What kind of upbringing is that?*

The person silently released his grip and retreated behind the window. The light in the Haunted House slowly darkened, and there were green lights installed every few meters. The corridor grew smaller, and there were surgical rooms that started to appear on both sides.

“Surgical rooms? So soon?” Chen Ge stopped at the first room and looked around. This was something that he had learned after completing many Trial Missions. He needed to check the room for safety before entering it.

When he turned back to look, he was surprised to find the security guard. He was still wearing the ghost mask. He was helping to get the man from earlier out of the box.

“Normally, there should be a ghost chasing after the visitors, and that would increase the excitement of the experience.”

The man inside the box had his limbs turn into noodles and could not get up on his own. The security was in an awkward position; the whole scary atmosphere was lost.

“If there’s only two of them, it’ll be fine, but how come I feel that there’s a third person following?” Chen Ge made a mental note of that before waking into the autopsy room. The tables were pushed to the side of the wall, and fake blood covered the mannequins in the room. The scene looked gory.

“The Japanese and Western styles love this kind of design.” Chen Ge was looking for fear and terror. Gore was more of a manifestation of violence. His eyes scanned the autopsy room, and to Chen Ge’s surprise, there was no actor hiding in there, just broken mannequins.

He picked up a few of them and realized that every one of them was missing a different kind of organ. More interestingly, everyone was wearing a patient’s garb with the same name—Xu Zhenzhen.

“Is this a special request by the boss?” Chen Ge tried to go over the video he had seen in the security stop in his mind. There was no mention of this name.

“Xu Zhenzhen? Could she be the woman who was featured inside the video?”

Chen Ge exited the autopsy room. The security guard and the man inside the box had disappeared; they seemed to have left the Haunted House.