

## Horrors 561

### Chapter 561: Fourth

*Zhang Ya...*

Silently calling her name, Chen Ge was slightly unsettled because he got no response. He turned to look behind him. The night was so dark that he could not see his own shadow.

“What are you doing?” The man noticed Chen Ge’s strange action, and he commented in a low voice, “You don’t look so good.”

“This is the first time I’ve heard about a suicide prevention hotline operator. What do you do daily?” Chen Ge did not lose his footing. He immediately adjusted his emotions and led the topic away.

“There are more than a million people who die from suicide annually. This number far exceeds homicide, but this topic is seldom brought up due to taboo and shame. Actually, we should tackle it head on. When someone shows any suicidal tendencies, we should help and cure them, not isolate and blame them simply because we cannot understand them.

“No one is dumb enough to make light of their own life. When one is really pushed to that state, only they can understand the pain that they’re experiencing.” The man seemed to be reminded of something and looked into the horizon. “I was a suicide prevention hotline operator. Every day, I reached out toward those who were walking into the abyss. My wish was to tell them that there are people who are willing to help them in the world. I could not pull them back from the abyss, but the least I could do was to share with them the beauty of this world.”

“That number is for a suicide prevention hotline?” Chen Ge nodded. “No wonder the tone of the people who talked to me was so weird.”

“They’re not weird. If you experienced the same thing as them, then perhaps you might be similar to them.” The man turned around to look at Chen Ge. “Actually, those who have the firm desire to die will not call our number. Those who would call it have a love for this world buried deep in their heart. Their difference, their uniqueness, is actually a manifestation of them asking for help.”

“Asking for help?”

“Yes, suicide is not a spur of the moment thing. The reason will be buried in their heart since a long time ago. Then suddenly, one day, due to a certain trigger, in that instant, the person will be overwhelmed by negative emotions. Many suicides are premeditated, but people around them rarely notice it. If they paid a little bit more attention and made some changes, so many lives could be changed.”

The blood on the man’s shirt was slowly fading. Even the tattoo on his face was lightening. This was the first time that Chen Ge had happened across something like that. The Red Specters that he had met before, no matter what happened, the blood on their appearance would barely change. The Red Specter before him seemed to be very different.

The man did not mind Chen Ge’s eyes on him. He probably just wanted to find someone to talk to. “I’ve heard many reasons for suicide. A factory owner owed too much money after he tried to keep his

factory running. At the last moment of his life, he did not have the courage to go home to face his family. When I accepted the call, the man who was around fifty kept on crying. His only wish was to see his children, but he couldn't do that. There were many similar situations. Whenever it was midnight, humanity would become incredibly fragile. Midnight to 3 am is the time when we would be the busiest. That is also when I failed to save someone for the first time."

With the track between them, Chen Ge and the man had not moved from their positions.

"Do you still remember the first number that you called?"

"Yes."

"The author once called me when he was still alive. I could hear the madness in his voice, but I had underestimated his resolution. I thought that he just wanted to share his story with someone because he sounded so calm, and I could not hear anything strange during our conversation—he just sounded a little bit down." When the man spoke, the blood tattoo on his face slowly shifted to become the face of another person.

"I remember it clearly. That was my first failed intervention. Even now, I can recite word for word our conversation that night." The man's voice was pained. "I read about him the next morning in the newspaper. I was swamped by regret. He had handed me his last hope, but I had ignored him. I was responsible for creating that tragedy.

"From then on, I would be extra careful when I talked to people, but the situation did not turn for the better.

"One month after that, I failed again. It was the man's thirtieth birthday. He purposely chose that day and wore his work outfit to bid farewell to the world at the place that was most meaningful to him." The man should be talking about the patient with Nobita-Giant Syndrome.

"A living man's life disappeared before my eyes, and I didn't stop it." The blood tattoo changed again. Chen Ge realized that whenever he talked about someone, the tattoo on his face would change. From his experience dealing with Specters, the lingering spirits of those who had committed suicide had probably entered the man's body. In other words, the man was shouldering the pressure of all the lingering spirits alone.

"My third failure happened the next day. I was planning to personally visit the previous victim." For the first time, the man's tone changed. "He was really a very kind person. I once asked him what his wish was. The answer that he gave me was that he was worried that the landlady might not be able to rent the place if he died there, so he purposely sought someplace else. He had left the utility fee on his luggage, but he had no friends, so he hoped that I would help him inform the landlady and pass the money to her.

"I had a long chat with him that night until he fell asleep. I should have called the police, but I had no idea where he was.

"Before this incident ended, I had another caller. He suffered from cancer and was ravaged by illness. Different from other callers, he called me in the morning. He had planned this for a long time." The man turned to look at Chen Ge. "My job is to pull one from the depths of despair, but that day, I did not do

something like that. Perhaps it was the pressure, or maybe it was the multiple failures, but that day, I did not talk him away from suicide but chose to respect his choice.”

Whenever the man mentioned the victim, the blood tattoo on his face would change.

“I didn’t do the job that I was supposed to, but have I done something wrong?” The man’s emotions were running wild. “All the calls that we received at the center were recorded, and it was no different for that call. I have no idea what happened later, but not long after his incident, the last conversation that he had with me on the phone was revealed to the public.”

## **Chapter 562: Unique Red Spectre**

“After that, the first person who found me was my teacher. It was 5 am, and I was resting in the breakroom with my jacket wrapped around me. I heard the door open, but I was too drowsy to care.

“When I opened my eyes at noon, I saw my teacher sitting at the table inside the room. He was reading Menninger’s *Man Against Himself*, a book with a focus on suicide psychology.

“Sun filtered into the room. At the time, I had no idea what happened outside—I just thought that my teacher was acting strangely. He was the most experienced counsellor at our office. He was the one who taught me everything, so even though I was no longer under his tutelage, I still referred to him as my teacher.”

From the man’s voice, Chen Ge realized that he respected his teacher a lot.

“Your teacher told you everything? What were his thoughts?” Chen Ge was curious. He even wanted to become friends with the Red Specter, and for that, he needed to understand his personality and his wishes. Only then would the man willingly work for him.

“He didn’t tell me anything related to the news—he only asked me one question.” The man looked at the darkened night. “If one day, he was standing at the edge of the building, what would I do to talk him off the ledge?”

“I’d never considered that question before. In my eyes, my teacher was a very powerful person in terms of his faith. This scenario would never happen in my mind, but I still shared my real thoughts with him. If that day really did happen, I would use everything that he had taught me on him and try my best to save him. If I failed, then I would choose to respect his decision.

“I had never thought how saintly my job was; I just knew how important it was. It was no different from the doctors in an emergency room. I give it my all to save the patients, but similarly, I would respect their wishes.”

As the man spoke, his voice lowered.

“After he heard me say that, he smiled satisfactorily. Just like an old friend, he sat next to me and told me one thing.

“He said that I was a good student, the student he was most proud of in fact, but I was not a qualified suicide prevention hotline operator.

“My teacher saw the imbalance in my emotions, so he told me to go for a walk to clear my mind. A suicide prevention hotline operator is a very unique job. Aside from the prank calls, everyone would receive around twenty mildly-dangerous calls and one to five emergency calls every night. With the continuous calls, the operator themselves would be affected. They would cry on the phone with the callers. Whenever that happened, you had to tell yourself to calm down and try to detach yourself from the situation and help them from an outsider’s perspective.

“A person’s body is like a balloon filled with water. Good and bad emotions fill up the balloon. If one can’t make the adjustments, when the balloon bursts, that is when a person faces a mental breakdown.

“As a suicide prevention hotline operator, the brain is soaked in tears and pain every night. Most leave the job after a certain period of time, so initially, I didn’t get what my teacher was trying to say.

“When I tried to ask for clarification, my teacher patted my shoulders and left, but he left behind the book that he was reading. Later, after I found out that my phone conversation had been released online and became the first operator that convinced my caller to kill themselves, many people came at me with horrible words. However, at the time, I was very calm. No matter what others said, it had nothing to do with me—I only cared about right or wrong.

“From a certain perspective, I was a very dumb person. I would cry due to the callers’ stories and would talk to these strangers until dawn. I would cry with them and even laugh with them. I understood their pain. I never saw myself as a savior; I merely treated them as my friends.”

The man’s eyes were clouded when he said those things, but soon, they were replaced by red, and blood leaked out from his skin. “Before that ended, something else happened.

“When you stop a person hellbent on dying, even if you’re successful one time, they might use a more drastic method next time.

“To prevent that from happening, we occasionally allow them to try it within an acceptable range. For example, if there was an ambulance, safety cushion, and a relatively-small building, we would not forcibly pull one away from the edge.

“I know this might be hard to stomach, but think of it from a different perspective—empathy is a hard to practice effort. Even biological parents have a hard time doing that. Prevention that is too harsh will only need to a negative effect—that is something that shows that you do not understand the person’s pain.

“Allowing them to try is a type of respect, a respect that they can feel for real.”

Hearing that, Chen Ge had a bad feeling. “Have you really done that before?”

“During one of our missions, I did something similar. Actually, it is not as scary as you think. We are merely allowing it within a controlled situation. To give you another example, one of my callers wanted to die from a sleeping pills overdose. His emotions were very unstable, and we were unable to communicate. At the time, I tried to negotiate with the police and found sleeping pills with a very low dosage for him to try. After experiencing death once, he had a big change and started to love life again.

“I have many successful results, but these methods appear like it has violated our responsibility. After the recording was exposed, these methods attracted a lot of criticism. I was trying my best to save people, but people pinned me as a murderer.

“I started to think. My teacher came to talk to me, and many friends consoled me. However, the key was not me but whether it was right or wrong.”

The man did not look much older than Chen Ge, but he sounded far more worldly than Chen Ge. He looked at the dark night and was silent for a long time. The expression on his face turned ugly, but it slowly returned to normal before he smiled a faithless smile.

“Perhaps I am not a qualified suicide prevention hotline operator, but those that I once helped really did treat me as the last friend that they could trust at the end of their lives.” The man’s shirt was completely dyed red, and the tattoo on his face kept changing. “This is something I understood after my death—there was so much hope that was placed on me.”

### **Chapter 563: A Ghost with Shadow**

A faded light cut through the night, but neither Chen Ge nor the man turned to look at it.

“They have placed their hope on you?” Chen Ge could understand to a certain degree why the man turned into a Red Specter. His own resentment was not that strong, but he had interacted with many patients when he was alive, and the key part was that those dead patients had treated him as the sole person that they could talk to.

All their negative emotions, all their sad past, all their regrets that could no longer be fulfilled, the patients poured all these things into the operator, and he kept them locked up in his heart. A qualified operator would know how to adjust the emotions in his heart. They would be able to keep their distance from the patients and would know how to siphon out the negative emotions that they got from their work. They would engage the callers when they were on the phone, but once the call ended, they would toss the case out of their mind.

However, the man on the other side of the track was different. He had been deeply influenced by his callers. Like Chen Ge, he had placed himself in their shoes and tried his best to empathize with them, to connect with them. When he was standing at the edge of the abyss to help his patients, he had slowly been pulled into it with them.

There was a limit to a person’s ability to accept pressure. Even for professional counselors, they would have some inner problems after working at their post for too long. The man had failed to adjust his conditions after every case and then a new case would arrive. He had reached out to grab those victims, but he did not realize that his own body was slowly being pulled down into the abyss with them.

The man’s teacher had noted the problem, so he had told the man to go for a rest, but in the end, the result proved that he had failed to follow his teacher’s instructions. He had become one of his patients; a suicide prevention operator chose to commit suicide.

“Why would you do that? Death will not solve any problem.” Chen Ge tried to console the man, but considering the man’s job, he had a surreal feeling.

“I’ve considered everything that you’ve said before. After all, I’m the expert in this field.” The man’s body was covered with blood. He was different from other Red Specters. He turned to look at the light from the distance; he seemed to like brightness and light.

“There are several major reasons someone commits suicide. One is because the person’s understanding of their environment and world has become twisted. They use a gray view to look at the world and believe life is a painful ordeal. My death is not this kind.

“Next is when someone feels overwhelmed by guilt due to a certain incident, and they cannot see themselves out of it. Obviously, my death is not this kind either.

“The third is for the sake of revenge. They want to use their death to make other people feel regret. This doesn’t match my situation either.

“There are more than ten reasons to the cause of suicide if we’re being really detailed. However, I don’t belong to any one of them. In a way, I’m a unique suicide victim.

“Actually, I tried to convince myself. I reminded myself that I’ve saved so many people, but when I was trying to save myself, I realized how weak language really is.

“The author, the worker at the park, the cancer patient, each of them represent a different personality, a different attitude toward life. I felt sorry for their loss, and I hated myself for how powerless I was. I really wished they had another chance to live!

“I tried my best to explain, to persuade myself, but after hearing what they had to say, I understood that they had their own reason to leave. Sometimes, I envy the doctors because they only need to prescribe medicine to save their patients. But it’s different for us. Even though I know death is a type of release, a type of medicine, I can never prescribe them that.

“When the people on the internet attacked me, I explained my thoughts. It was a public execution, just without the blood.” The man’s eyes were calm. “Many people said that I am sick, that I’ve lost my mind. I’m an executioner, and I’ve killed so many people, but in reality, I was just trying to help them.”

The light came closer and closer. The man stood next to the track and had no intention of evading.

“Those who have not witnessed death will never understand their pain. So, who gave them the right to point their fingers at us? Who allowed them to have the moral high ground?”

As the light got closer, the man spoke faster. Blood leaked out from his forehead to dye his uneven face red. “When I stood up from the pool of blood, I understood. Those lives that were unlivable, lives that were nothing but despair, channeled into my body. I finally understood them, understood why they would make this ridiculous choice.”

The man’s eyes were red. The calmness left his face, and his voice became more and more crazed.

“I tried everything to cure them. Perhaps I could find a way to make them feel love and make them give love and even accept love, but I could not change the love, or the lack thereof, in their surroundings. This is why many people continue to repeat the action after they are stopped for the first time. This is because their living environment has not changed. The bullied become easy targets, and the taboo makes them even more isolated. The group of people who really could save them did not include me, a meager hotline operator—it was the people around them.

“After you get to know most of them, you’ll realize, the real evil is the people around them. They used their power to decolorize the world of these people—they are the real murderers!

“Even when they died, those who killed them would never show a trace of sadness, but those who loved them would feel more pain.

“Is that fair?”

The man looked at the approaching train, and he slowly raised both of his arms.

“I understood these things after my death. Actually, many victims have regrets, but they have no chance to redo their lives. They could only channel their last wishes into me, to ask me to seek justice for them.”

“Justice? What do you plan to do?” At that moment, Chen Ge felt intense murderous intent from the man. After experiencing so many things, the man was completely corrupted.

“To punish those who would only demand love but would never give love. I need to clean up the trash so that kind people will not suffer pain anymore.”

The way the man said that made it sound like he was going after not one but many people. Compared to other Red Specters, this man’s cruelty and madness was hidden deep inside his heart.

“Calm down first. I feel like there is a better way.” Chen Ge took a step back and called Zhang Ya’s name in his heart.

“This is not my decision alone—it’s everyone’s wish.” The blood boiled, and the train lit up the stretch of the tracks. When the light shone, Chen Ge could see the many black shadows that crowded up the space behind the man.

#### **Chapter 564: Live Life with Kindness, Happiness, and Honesty [2 in 1]**

“Can you hear their voices? They are telling me their stories and pain. Even though their bodies have perished, their lingering spirits have remained.” The man slowly opened his arms, and the changing side of his face slowly settled down to become his own face.

He looked at Chen Ge. “I once personally witnessed something like this. The girl was standing at the edge of the roof. The firemen tried their best to talk her back from the edge, but the passersby who were gathered were cheering for her. They saw her death as a type of entertainment. I know it’s not appropriate to say that, but that is the truth. They took out their phones to take pictures and urged her to jump. Then they would record everything—they might even share it online and couple it with an emotional response.

“These people are not an exception. It’s because of their existence that so many people that should not have died were forced to the edge of despair.”

Chen Ge looked at the man on the opposite side of the track. He understood the man to a certain degree, but it did not mean that he agreed with him fully. “Friend, I understand that there are many terrible things and people in the world—they are all around us—but other than them, there are still many more beautiful things in the world. The mix of good and bad forms the foundation of our lives. I think that your teacher has quite a good point—you are someone who sincerely placed himself in the shoes of your patients and are a good man, but you are not suitable to be a suicide prevention hotline operator.

“You said it yourself, you hope to change people into someone who can absorb and release love, but you did not realize that you have been subconsciously and slowly influenced by your callers. Your world was slowly corrupted by these terrible things, and all you can see are those ugly and disgusting things.

“Actually, the world hasn’t changed; it has always been like that. The thing that has changed is you.”

The Red Specter on the other side was a kind-hearted man. This was also the first time that Chen Ge had seen a pure and kind person become a Red Specter after their death. This went against his previous experience with Red Specters. They were normally formed from a collection of negative emotions, desperation and despair.

The man had become a Red Specter not because of extreme hate or extreme love, and not because of negative emotions or resentment, but because of kindness. A normal person needed to shoulder the painful pasts of many suicide victims—that was impossible in Chen Ge’s eyes, but the man before him had managed to do that. From a certain perspective, this Red Specter might have greater potential than Zhang Ya, but the man did not seem to know how to utilize it.

The man did not expect Chen Ge to counter his perspective. He looked at Chen Ge straight in his eyes. There was a unique type of emotion turning in his eyes. His calmness was shattered, and he appeared rather agitated. “Do you know why I told you these things, why I chose to share them with you?”

“Why?” Chen Ge had not expected to convince the man with just a few words. He knew that a person’s way of thinking was not going to be so easily changed. He simply thought that the man must be so tired of shouldering all that pain. Be it when he was alive or after death, perhaps he could try to find a different way of living.

“The phone number that you’ve saved in your phone, that was my operator number. The people that you’ve called and talked to, those are the victims that I failed to rescue.” The man’s tone and expression became weirder and weirder. His facial features slowly twisted. If he had given Chen Ge the impression that he was no different from a living person at the beginning, that sense of humanity had now completely disappeared.

“The callers were your test. If you did not help them, mocked their deaths, or ignored their plea for help, then you would have soon joined the legion of shadows behind me.” The man had moved from one extreme to another—this type of thinking was very dangerous.

“Looks like I’m quite lucky. Does that mean I’ve past the test?” Chen Ge knew that it was not so easy to gain a Red Specter. He had spent plenty of energy to convince normal Red Specters like Yan Danian and Xu Yin to join him. To get Zhang Ya, he had even sacrificed his happiness for the rest of his life. To gain the reward, one had to provide the same amount of effort. Everything provided by the black phone was an equal trade. There was no shortcut or bargain.

“You were supposed to communicate with seven callers, but I did not expect you to pinpoint one of the callers’ location just from environmental clues; that is something that I would not have been able to do.”

The man’s expression was still scary and savage, but his eyes had softened by a lot.

“I also did not expect you to risk your life to save someone who is nothing but a stranger to you. In fact, you rushed to the track and jumped before a train before you could consider whether the person was a

human or a ghost. Did you consider this? If you were a few seconds slower, then you would have lost your life too.”

“Whether it’s real or fake, I would have done the same thing because a human life is on the line. I could not hedge my bets, even if I was ninety-nine percent certain that this was a trap. For the possibility that a human life could be saved, I am willing to be tricked.” Chen Ge’s voice was even but powerful. It sounded comforting to the listener.

“Then you’re really an idiot.” The man paused, and complicated emotions entered his eyes.

“So be it, perhaps I really am an idiot. I’ve done many similar things before. Many people have called me out on it, but I’ve gotten used to it myself.” The atmosphere slowly softened, and Chen Ge asked probingly, “Now that I’ve passed your test, what are you going to tell me next?”

He looked at the Red Specter across the tracks with anticipation. His eyes were glowing as he scanned the crowded black shadows behind the man. Being stared in that manner, the man frowned slightly. “Indeed, this has never happened before. This number is merely a tool that I used to silence and appease the hatred of the suicide victims. I used it to sift out the creeps that dared to mock the dead and then take their lives away. You have passed the test, but that only means that you’ve earned the right to live.”

“You’ve used this number to kill?” Chen Ge’s voice turned icy. He really did not expect that this number, which had once saved so many lives and represented hope for so many people, would end up becoming a tool to kill. The man treated the same number in a completely different manner prior to and after his death. This made Chen Ge feel a certain way.

“I know that you’ll think that is weird, but doesn’t that fit the wishes of certain people?” A smile appeared on the man’s strange face. “After my death, this number that has saved so many lives was painted by these crazies to be a number that is cursed by the devil. Those who called the number would be cursed and become unlucky. They would get into accidents and die. They even wretched a horror story around me. What I’m doing now is merely turning their stories into reality.”

There was no joy of revenge in the man’s voice—it just sounded cold and detached. Chen Ge understood the man’s thoughts. He had never wanted to hurt anyone, but he was the one who had ended up being hurt the most. Even after death, he could find no peace, if the man’s personality did not change after experiencing all that, then something was really wrong.

After giving it some thought, Chen Ge slowly spoke. “Actually, we are rather similar. We are the type of idiot who will give up everything to place ourselves in the shoes of other people, but in the end, we end up losing ourselves.”

When the man heard Chen Ge, his frown relaxed. He was about to say something, but he was interrupted by Chen Ge. “But we’re also completely different. The road that I chose is different from yours. You chose to silently keep everything in your heart until, eventually, you couldn’t fit anything in anymore and collapsed. Actually, you do not need to lead such a tired life. You cannot change everyone, but the person whom you can change is yourself. I’m not trying to get you to change who you are—I just hope you’ll understand your own importance.”

Chen Ge used his own experience to try to persuade the man. "I've met many horrible people in my life, and they all came from different walks of life. They came after other people's lives to either cure the illness in their heart or to fulfil a certain belief. They would stop at nothing and would destroy everything to get what they wanted. Of course, there are those who were born with a broken heart and sealed the love that they could not enjoy in the wall. I've seen many similar stories."

Chen Ge kept his tone even and calm. He had really experienced many things in this short period of time. The man studied Chen Ge and believed that Chen Ge was not lying. "If you've seen so much evil in the world, why would you risk your life to save a dead person? Did you realize that this was a trap from the very beginning, speculate about my intention, and then purposely do something like that?"

In the man's eyes, Chen Ge was a very clever person. He had managed to figure out the caller's location from the background noises on the phone. Now, he started to form suspicions about Chen Ge, believing that this could be a trick.

"Yes, I've met many bad people, but I was not influenced by them. I have my own way of living, and I have my own principles. No matter what they said or did, I knew that I only had to make sure that I did one thing well." Chen Ge stood across from the Red Specter. Their power was not on the same level, but in terms of presence, they were quite similar.

The man had this similar concern before, and he asked Chen Ge without thinking about it, "What is it?"

"To be myself." Chen Ge was a normal-looking person, but he had a very bright smile. He was able to bring comfort to people around him no matter the time. "Society is very cruel, but I made sure to maintain my own warmth. I do not care about the chaos in the world; I only hope that I can maintain my honesty and kindness and stay true to myself. That is more than enough."

"That is all?" The man opened his lips to say something, but the train came through right then to separate him from Chen Ge. The ground shook, and what the man said later was swallowed up by the trundle of the train. Chen Ge could not hear him clearly.

The train ran toward the horizon. The light slowly disappeared, and the surroundings were swallowed up by darkness once more. In the dark night, Chen Ge and Red Specter stood on opposite sides of the track.

Neither of them spoke. Chen Ge had no idea whether his persuasion had worked or not. He sincerely wanted to help the man—he really could use the man to save more people in Eastern Jiujiang. He felt like he shared a same target with the man, so they should definitely work together.

With his hands in his pocket and the night breeze in his hair, Chen Ge stated everything that was in his heart. "Stop holding on to so much pain. There are so many things in this world that you have not experienced. There are so many people standing behind you, and they have placed their last hope on you. You should try to live the life that they were not given on their behalf. Become the person that they want to be with their hopes and dreams—I think that is the real thing that they want to see."

Standing in the night, no one could see the crowded shadows behind the man. He stood where he was for a long time before walking over from the other side of the track. With every single step, the blood on his body disappeared. When he stopped before Chen Ge, the red shirt had returned to normal. He

looked just like a normal guy. If he had not found out earlier, even Chen Ge could not have guessed that this was a special Red Specter who shouldered the will of so many suicide victims.

“You shouldn’t trap yourself inside that small circle. You are not alone. You should let them enjoy happiness and light. After all, that is the thing that they desire the most in their lives.” Chen Ge saw the man nod in agreement, and he revealed a kind smile. “The best life is one with spices. Why don’t you follow me for now? I can introduce you to many new friends to regain that warmth and happiness.”

“Follow you?” The man’s tone was confused. Normally, people would stay away from ghosts, but this young man did not appear all that normal.

“I’m already quite surprised that you’re not scared by me. There’s no need to force yourself.”

“Nothing is forced.” Chen Ge did not expect the man to consider him first at a time like this. He reminded himself not to be too eager, or he might scare the man away.

“Your issue is that you always put other people first. I’ve welcomed many homeless ‘friends’ before, and I believe that they would be happy to have you join us.” In a few days, Chen Ge planned to do something big in Eastern Jiujiang, so he needed as many friends as he could find. Furthermore, the man could transform into a normal person. This was a very powerful ability. Other people would think that he was just a normal Specter, but in reality, he was an extremely scary Red Specter.

No matter what Chen Ge said, the man did not reply. He was different from other Red Specters—he had retained all of his memories from when he was alive. Unlike Zhang Ya and Xu Yin, he had his own autonomy.

“I will go to your place to take a look, but not now.” The man showed a rare smile. “After I finish the will of all the spirits that depend on me, I will follow your instructions and try to start a new life.”

“The wishes of all the suicide victims?” Chen Ge thought about the mass of shadows following the man. If he completed the wish of every single of them, he probably would not meet the man until several years later.

Chen Ge did not want to wait for years to use the Red Specter that he had won from the black phone. He thought about it and said, “Can you complete so many wishes on your own?”

“That is my promise to them, so no matter what, I will do it.”

“You misunderstood me.” Chen Ge waved his hands. “I’m actually asking, would you like me to help you complete their wishes? That will make things go faster. I am sure you don’t want the victims’ souls to remain tormented in this world for too long, right?”

“You want to help me?” This time, the man was really touched. No one had ever treated him like Chen Ge.

“Don’t worry, I don’t ask for anything else. I just want you to realize, even if the whole world has abandoned you, there is someone who is always willing to stand by your side.” Chen Ge extended his hand toward the man. “By the way, I have not asked you for your name. How should I refer to you?”

The man was silent for a very long time before reaching out to shake Chen Ge’s hand. “My name is Zhang Wenyu.”

## Chapter 565: New Special Visitor

“Zhang Wenyu?” Feeling the cold from the palm, Chen Ge revealed a sincere smile. “I’ve remembered your name. I will help you complete the victims’ wishes, so we will certainly interact more in the future.”

The man thought that Chen Ge was quite a good person. He took back his hand silently and suddenly did not know what to say. In all his life, he had not met anyone who could understand him, but he had found one after death.

“Do you have any wishes that can be completed around Jiujiang? Let’s start with those that are closer to us. We need more preparation before we can tackle things that are further away.” Chen Ge had said that he would help the man, and he was not joking.

The man did not answer. He was not sure whether he should do that or not. After all, he was the one who shouldered all the pain of the victims.

“Don’t worry, I don’t have any hidden intentions and will not ask anything from you as compensation. I’m just helping you out of convenience. You have to understand that you’ll have difficulty completing some of these wishes, but I’m different. I’m a living person, just leave those things that are not that convenient for you to me.” Chen Ge was telling the truth, and the man was slowly convinced. He had realized that he would face many problems on his journey due to his unique identity.

“Okay, how about we do it like this?” The man looked at Chen Ge, and the red in his eyes completely disappeared. “If you help me complete the wishes of these victims, in return, I will help you do some favors that are not in violation of my principle.”

“You’ll help me?”

“Yes, if you help me then I’ll help you, isn’t that fair?”

Chen Ge did not expect the man to be so upright. At the man’s insistence, Chen Ge was ‘forced’ to agree.

“The author’s wish is to shoot a horror movie that is beloved by many and has great ticket sales.

“The Doraemon costume’s actor’s wish is to make sure the landlady receives the utility bill that he left on his luggage.

“The wish of the cancer victim is to find someone to look after his family.

“After you complete these three wishes, I will tell you the wishes of other victims so that they can leave this world without regrets,” the man said and walked away. “If you want to reach me, just call that number.”

“Okay, I’ve memorized the number.”

Chen Ge watched the man walk away. He walked down the track before disappearing into the darkness.

*That went smoother than I thought. I should make some time to complete these wishes. In that case, if some danger comes to me in Eastern Jiujiang, the man should come out to help me.*

Before the futuristic theme park opened for business, Chen Ge planned to deal with everything in Eastern Jiujiang. He did not waste any time and found his backpack, leaving in the opposite direction from the man.

*Of the three wishes, the simplest is the theme park worker's. The cancer patient's is not that difficult either; the most challenging is the author's. He wants to shoot a movie that is both popular and well received by the critics.*

Chen Ge did not get why an author's last wish was to create a movie.

*A qualified Haunted House worker is also a good actor, so I'll have no problem with casting, but the problem is, who will my viewers be? How can I guarantee both popularity and quality?*

Not knowing anything about movie making, Chen Ge fell into deep thought.

*Yan Danian's wish to become a bestselling comic artist has not even completed, and now I have to shoot a movie. I'm just a Haunted House owner, do I have to go attend some movie making classes?*

It was really difficult to make a horror movie famous, and for the time being, Chen Ge did not plan to try that.

*I have enough actors, but I lack a professional director and budget. In the future, I should focus on talents like that. If the movie is famous, it can also serve as a good promotion for the Haunted House.*

After taking a taxi back to the children's theme park, Chen Ge knocked on the landlady's door again. "Big sister, I'm still here for my friend. Have you found the money that he left on his luggage?"

The door was opened, and the middle-aged woman looked at Chen Ge with extreme guardedness. "What's your goal here? The man left us so long ago, and now you're coming to ask me whether I've received his utility bill payment?"

"It's like this. Before my brother left, he didn't have much worry..."

"Wait, I'm not going to lie to you. I've dumped all of his luggage. You know it's a taboo." The landlady sounded impatient.

"You've dumped it?" Chen Ge was startled, but he soon recovered. "Then how much was the bill that he owed you?"

"280, why? Are you planning to pay me on his behalf?" The middle-aged woman looked at Chen Ge coldly. Then she saw Chen Ge take out three hundred from his pocket.

"He was worried about this before he left, so he purposely reminded me about this. Take this money. I hope you won't mind. No matter what choice he had made, he did not want to owe anyone."

After paying the lady, Chen Ge took the cab back to New Century Park. Chen Ge opened the door to the staff breakroom. When he sat down on the chair, he finally relaxed, and his expression slowly changed. Chen Ge thought about what had happened that night, and there was one problem that confused him.

*When I ran into the operator, I tried to call Zhang Ya, but there was no reply. Did she already know the man was not threatening, or has her injury worsened?*

Zhang Ya had refused to leave his shadow, so Chen Ge had no idea how she was doing. He wanted to help but could not.

*Is she hungry? Should I capture some ghosts to feed her?*

Chen Ge thought he had to do something.

*Xiao Bu told me that if I return to Li Wan City, I will be in mortal danger, but I can go to other places at Eastern Jiujiang. I should complete the two-star missions given by the black phone first.*

With a plan made, he removed his jacket and lay down in bed to sleep. At 8 am, Chen Ge walked out from the Haunted House. He pushed the gates open and looked at the rising sun. "A new day has begun."

Before he could immerse himself in the beginning of the new day, the black phone in his pocket vibrated.

*A message at a time like this?*

Taking out his phone, Chen Ge clicked open the unread message.

"The special ability of the Midnight Ticket Booth has been activated! A special visitor has arrived!"

Chen Ge was gobsmacked looking at the phone. *I'm not even open for business yet, where does the special visitor come from? Is the phone broken?*

Holding the phone, Chen Ge looked around. Suddenly, he noticed that the guard at the gate was in the middle of an argument with someone.

## **Chapter 566: Father and Daughter**

"Visitors so early in the morning?" Chen Ge walked toward the gate. The guard was a very cordial person. In fact, this was the first time that Chen Ge had seen him in an argument.

"This is not an issue of tickets. The theme park is not yet open, and the employees aren't here yet to operate the attraction. Even if I allow you to enter the park, there's nothing you can do!"

Even from a far, Chen Ge could hear the old guard's voice. He jogged over and saw that next to the guard house was a little girl and a middle-aged man who looked rather blank in the mind.

The man toyed with the money in his hands. His expression was off, and his words came intermittently. His voice was strange, and saliva even dripped out from the corner of his mouth. "Play, my daughter, wants, play, long time."

"Brother, the park will open in another half an hour. You only need to wait for a while. If I let you in now and something happens to you, I won't be able to shoulder the responsibility!"

The guard had his points, but the man shook his head vehemently like he could not understand the guard.

“Money, enough money, we want play.” The man seemed to have difficulty controlling his tongue. It was a difficulty for him to even speak, and whenever he did, the muscles on his face shook. He did not seem to understand why the guard was stopping him. He gripped the money and shoved it to the guard.

“How come you don’t understand?” The guard held his head. “Such a big problem so early in the morning, there sure have been many weird things happening around Jiujiang lately.”

“What’s happening? They... are they visitors?” Chen Ge walked out from the park and studied the two. The middle-aged man appeared mentally-challenged, and the girl was reticent. Her facial features were slightly off, but her eyes were clear, hiding a faded trace of fear. The girl seemed to suffer from the same illness as the middle-aged man.

“These two insist on going into the park. I’ve explained to them that the park opens at 9 am. I just need them to wait a little while longer, but they refused to listen to me and think that I’m discriminating against them. Am I someone who would do that?” The guard was only doing his job.

After hearing that, Chen Ge grasped the situation immediately. He stopped before the man and the girl. The man thought that Chen Ge was the owner of the park. He grumbled incoherently before pushing the money to Chen Ge. As if afraid that Chen Ge could not understand him, he kept pointing at the Ferris wheel in the park.

“Okay, I’ll handle this.” Chen Ge smiled at the guard. He accepted the money from the man. There were coins, but they totaled up to the price for two tickets. It was clear that it had not been easy for them to collect this amount of money.

“You have more than enough. The ticket price for children is only half, here.” Purposely treating people with disability differently was a great disrespect. The most respectful way was to treat them as he would anyone else. Chen Ge wanted to return the money to the man, but the man did not dare to accept it. He even became agitated. His throat made a loud noise, but no one could tell what he was trying to say.

“See, we can’t even communicate with him. He thinks we’re trying to harm him.” The guard sighed helplessly.

“It’s fine. I’ll just give them a tour around the park.” Chen Ge did not force it. He patted the man’s shoulder lightly to get him to follow him. “Most of the attractions will open at 9 pm, but before that, we can walk around the park first.”

“Xiao Chen, be careful. Since we’ve already accepted their money, they’re visitors. Do not let them enter your Haunted House!” The guard was really concerned about the man and his girl. Chen Ge might appear trustworthy at times, but those who really knew him understood how unreliable he could be.

“Don’t worry.” Chen Ge waved his hand, and the three entered the park. Inside the empty park, a small part of the employees were performing maintenance on the attractions. Other than the man and the girl, there were no other visitors on the road.

“Ferris wheel and the merry-go-round only open at 9 am, and before the opening, we have to inspect them first.”

“She, my daughter, wants play...” The man gestured. It was obvious that he did not understand Chen Ge’s meaning.

“Your daughter?” Chen Ge lowered his head to look at the little girl. She was very shy and hid behind the man. Walking next to the father and daughter, Chen Ge could see the old shirt that was hidden under their white-washed jackets. They were from a poor family.

“Where are you from? Did you come to New Century Park just to play? Are there any attractions that you have to go on? I grew up here, so I’m very familiar with this place.” Chen Ge talked slowly, and as he talked, he gestured with his hands. After a long time, the man finally understood his meaning.

“East... east...” The man repeated the same word twice before apparently cursing. “Damn.”

At the time, Chen Ge did not catch onto its significance.

“Is it Eastern Jiujiang?” Chen Ge was slowly leading them to his Haunted House. “Currently, only the Haunted House is open for business—this is my baby. If you want to enter it, I can accompany you.”

The special visitor that the black phone had detected seemed to be one of these two, but considering their physical condition, Chen Ge did not plan to have any ghost scares them. He just wanted to have them walk around the scenarios and see if he could trigger the mission on the special visitor.

The middle-aged man stood where he was like he was trying to decipher what Chen Ge had said. However, his daughter walked out from behind him like she was very interested in the Haunted House.

“Since I’m not yet officially open for business, I won’t take any ticket money.” Chen Ge touched the little girl’s head, and for some reason, he was reminded of Xiao Bu. Pulling back the curtains, Chen Ge led the pair into the Haunted House. “I have many scenarios here...”

Before he finished his introduction, the girl ran up to the steel door that led to the underground scenarios. She squatted down and kept her eyes glued to the door.

*This girl, can she sense their presence?*

The man waddled to catch up to his daughter. Chen Ge thought about it and decided to test them out further.

“Do you want to go down there to play?” Chen Ge thought that he sounded quite scary, but to his surprise, the girl raised her innocent face and then nodded seriously.

“This girl sure is unique.” Chen Ge used both hands to push the door open, and cold air rushed out.

“Don’t wander off, and stay behind me.” To take care of this pair, Chen Ge even turned on all the lights in the corridor.

Entering the underground was like entering a different world. The middle-aged man was unsettled, and he gripped the girl’s hand tightly while sticking close to Chen Ge.

The girl’s reaction, however, was different. Her clear eyes were filled with open curiosity.

## **Chapter 567: Sister**

Chen Ge had been watching the father and daughter closely, wanting to confirm who the special visitor was.

“The left leads to Mu Yang High School, a large haunted school. To the right is the Third Sick Hall, a scenario based on a scary mental hospital. The road in front leads to Coffin Village. It’s a scary scenario based on an isolated village that is unique to our country. The road behind us leads to the underground morgue. Its inspiration is one of the district’s medical university.” Chen Ge personally introduced the scenarios to the pair and stayed with them, afraid that they would run into an accident.

Since theme park had not opened, he was not afraid of being seen by other visitors. After the man entered the underground scenario, his body kept shivering. This should be his first time visiting a place like the Haunted House, and he looked suitably nervous. His daughter’s reaction was comparatively stranger. Her eyes widened, and if not for the man holding her hand, she would have wandered away already.

“Which scenario would you like to visit?” Chen Ge gave them the choice—this was a test as well. The man opened his lips and a ‘wu, wu’ sound came out. It sounded like he was asking his daughter’s opinion.

After spending some time with them, Chen Ge noticed that the girl was actually quite cute. But in a way, he could sense the regret. Due to genetics, the girl appeared mentally-challenged as well. The girl did not know where to go, so she looked at Chen Ge shyly.

“How about we visit them one by one? Since the park has not opened, I can be your personal tour guide.” Chen Ge walked ahead and led them into Mu Yang High School.

Eerie winds blew on the dark corridors. The empty test papers fluttered in the air, creating a scary sound like hands caressing one’s heart. The classroom doors on the sides were left half-open, and old tables and chairs were arranged within. Soon, they arrived at the door to the last classroom. Without any preparation, many human faces showed up at the door, and in the classroom, many ‘people’ were seated.

The man obviously did not handle that scare well. He staggered back, and due to the unevenness of his body, he fell. Chen Ge, who had been watching them, quickly reached out to help the man. He had underestimated the scariness of his Haunted House, especially for those who had not been inside one before.

“Be careful.” The man’s reaction told Chen Ge that he was probably not the special visitor, so he focused his attention on the girl. When the man was falling, the girl had escaped from his grasp. She stood at the window and looked at the mannequins.

They looked into each other’s eyes. After a while, she leaned against the window and reached out her hand to touch the mannequin’s face through the window. The mannequin inside the window cooperated. It slowly leaned forward to push its face toward the window.

Realizing that the mannequin could move on its own, the girl’s eyes widened even more. There was fear in her eyes, but more than that, there was also curiosity.

Standing to the side, Chen Ge caught this. He thought that the girl was similar to how Fan Yu was when he first came to the Haunted House, but they were not completely the same.

*She should not be able to see the ghosts and is not as clever as Fan Yu.*

After interacting with Fan Yu, Chen Ge had realized that the boy had a maturity that was way beyond his age. He knew many things, but mostly, he kept it to himself. The girl's situation was different. She gave off a feeling of purity and innocence. She got close to the mannequin not because it was hiding a homeless soul but because she was curious.

Since the boss was standing there, the mannequins naturally would not scare the girl. They put away their scary expressions to reveal welcoming smiles. They appeared so harmless and obedient, different from how they were in front of other visitors.

They moved deeper into the scenario. When they passed the Pen Spirit's room, Chen Ge stopped. "This is one of my Haunted House's famous scare point, the Pen Spirit. Many people with questions come from other cities to ask the Pen Spirit, and the spirit will sometimes answer."

Chen Ge picked up the pen that was on the table. "Do you want to give it a try? This is the chance to ask the question deep inside your heart. The Pen Spirit might answer it."

Squatting down, Chen Ge communicated with the Pen Spirit before handing the pen to the girl.

The child accepted the pen, but it was unclear if she understood what Chen Ge had said. She mirrored Chen Ge and squatted down beside the chair, gripping the pen like how she would hold a knife.

The tip of the pen fell on the paper. The girl's brows were furrowed, and she looked cute.

"Follow your heart and ask the question." Chen Ge sounded like a devil seducing a child. The girl thought for a long time before writing out the term 'Big Sister' on the paper. The handwriting was awry.

"Big sister?" The girl did not ask the Pen Spirit any questions, and Chen Ge was sure whether it was not the Pen Spirit who had written it because the spirit, Chen Yalin, was currently floating behind the girl to braid her hair and not in contact with the pen.

*The girl wrote this herself?*

*Is this the question she wants to ask the Pen Spirit?*

*Or is this the answer she gave herself?*

If this was any other person, Chen Ge would not have cared, but this girl could be a special visitor. So, Chen Ge tried to read her every movement deeper.

"The child has a big sister? Why didn't she come along to the park then?" Chen Ge turned to ask the man, but when he heard Chen Ge, he appeared to be greatly shocked. He stopped the tour and went forward to grab the girl, pulling her away.

The girl was spooked, and like a startled pigeon, a shrill voice escaped from her lips. Before Chen Ge could stop him, the man already dragged the girl out of the girl's dormitory.

“Don’t rush. If you want to leave, I can escort you out at any time.” Chen Ge believed that if they continued the tour, he might affect the pair’s relationship, so he sent them out directly. The sun fell on them again, and the strange pair finally calmed down.

“Drink some water, rest here for a while. The park will open officially after thirty minutes.” Chen Ge just deposited the pair at the resting hall when he saw the guard rush over with a woman who looked about thirty.

“I’m sorry to give you so much trouble.” The woman was in a pantsuit. She appeared to be a worker at some company, and she gave off the feeling of a powerful businesswoman.

“You are?”

“I’m his little sister.” The woman pointed at the man rather embarrassedly. “He sneaked Wen Wen out when I was working. I’ll bring them back now.”

### **Chapter 568: Water Ghost**

“Since you’re here, then there’s no need to hurry and leave! The tickets have already been paid for, so why don’t you let them stay here to relax? I feel like they’ve been wanting to come to theme park to play.”

“The tickets have been paid for?” The woman turned to the man. “Brother, where did you get the money?”

“Sell, rubbish, I collect them,” the man stammered, and he looked scared of this woman.

“Have I treated you badly before? I never brought you here because I’m afraid that you might get into an accident!” The woman appeared embarrassed. Perhaps from her youth, her big brother had been the reason that she could not hold her head high.

“Regardless, I’m about to be late for work. It’ll be easy for you two to get into an accident if you stay here. Come on, let’s quickly go home.” The woman sounded stern. The middle-aged man hesitated, but when he saw his daughter’s eyes, he persisted and shook his head.

“Why don’t you let them stay here? I’ll stay with them and watch over them. I promise nothing will happen to them. After they’ve visited everything, I’ll personally take them home.” Chen Ge took the responsibility on. The service was flawless. Seeing how kind Chen Ge was, the woman started to hesitate as well.

“Don’t worry, every attraction at our park has passed the examination. If the attraction is dangerous and too much, even if they want to, I won’t let them get on it.” Chen Ge attempted to persuade her for a long time, but the woman still refused. She seemed to have some difficulty that she could not say.

“It’s not that I don’t want them to stay... you don’t understand.” The woman waved at Chen Ge, and the two walked several meters away. After making sure that the father and daughter would not hear them, the woman finally revealed her worry. “My brother and Wen Wen are a bit not right in the head. My brother is slightly better, but Wen Wen’s condition has not stabilized—she could act up at any time.”

“What kind of illness is this?”

The woman sighed softly. “It’s a family illness. It’s mental retardation. When she acts up, it’ll be no different from epilepsy. It’s very troublesome.”

“Have you brought them to the doctor? I mean, what did the doctor say? Is there a chance for them to be cured?” Chen Ge had a feeling that the girl should face more than just a family illness. To be chosen as a special visitor by the black phone, there had to be some secret surrounding her. The girl’s father was mentally-retarded and could not communicate normally, so this woman became Chen Ge’s opening.

“Their hereditary illness cannot be cured—it can only be improved...” The woman turned to look at the man and the girl. “My family has a short life expectancy. Perhaps my ancestors have done something to offend the gods. When they’re alive, they have to suffer the pain from the illness, but even for myself, who is normal, life is not easy either. I broke up with my boyfriend of many years because of them as well. I couldn’t just ignore them, but my boyfriend refused to take them on.”

“You’ve been taking care of them? Where is your brother’s wife?”

“That woman was just there to cheat my family’s money!” The mention of this woman made her grit her teeth in anger. “If not for her, we would not have ended up in this state. Initially, I also thought that she would look after my brother, but she was just in it for the money. After giving birth to Wen Wen, she abandoned them and ran.

“I also don’t know how long I can hold on. I’m already thirty-four this year.” Speaking of this sad part, the woman’s tone rose, and she caught herself after a while. “I’m sorry for losing myself.”

She turned to look at the pair with complicated emotions. “Fine, perhaps I should respect their decision. If they want to stay, then they should, but you have to guarantee their safety.”

“Don’t worry, I’ll be by their side.” Chen Ge had not gone out last night, so he did not need to sleep.

“By the way, there’s something that you have to be careful about.” The woman was suddenly reminded of something, “Do not let Wen Wen go on any attractions with water. The best is to make sure she stays away from water, not even the fountain.”

“Stay away from the water?” This was the first time Chen Ge heard a request like that. He didn’t think too much of it at first but after a while, suddenly the mission about the Twin Water Ghosts appeared in his mind. The girl and her father came from Eastern Jiujiang, and her father once said the term ‘Eastern Dam’.

Thinking about it, could the father have been referring to Eastern Jiujiang’s dam, the place where many drownings had happened. Was the girl related to the Twin Water Ghosts mission? Was the previously-mentioned big sister actually dead?

The woman saw how silent Chen Ge was, and she assumed wrongly that Chen Ge was wondering why she would say that. “Don’t ask me why. Just make sure she stays away from the water. I need to go to work. I’ll come back to fetch them after I’m off work. I’ll depend on you in the meantime.”

“Wait...”

“I’m going to be late!”

“One last question.” The more Chen Ge thought about it, the more he felt that something was wrong. He took out the white paper that the girl had written on in the Pen Spirit’s room. The two words were still left on it. “Do you only have three members in your family?”

“Yes, what about it?” The woman was impatient, seemingly very worried about being late.

“But how come I heard Wen Wen say that she has a big sister?”

When he said that, the woman’s expression froze, and her eyes shuddered. She needed a long time before she calmed down. “Wen Wen is sick—that is her imagination. If there’s nothing else, I need to go. I’ll come back at 7:30 pm.”

The woman’s expression became very bad, and her tone was icy. She stopped talking to Chen Ge and rushed to leave New Century Park.

“She must know something.”

“Boss, who is that woman?” Xu Wan walked over from the gate with breakfast. “It’s rude for you to keep looking at her like that.”

“The two visitors over there have a heredity illness, and she is their family. She’s worried about them, so she hoped that I can look after them for her.” Chen Ge took over the breakfast and started eating.

“Today, you and Xiao Gu will have to work harder. I might get off work earlier to send them home.”

“Personally sending them home? How come you’re so good to them?” Xu Wan rolled her eyes.

“I’m always so kind. Also, let’s go and do your make up quick.” Chen Ge helped Xu Wan with her make-up. Like the day before, he summoned Ol’ Zhou and Duan Yue. He gave them the same outfits as before and had them help at the Haunted House.

The park opened at 9 am. Chen Ge had delegated all the job at his Haunted House. He accompanied the man and the girl as they experienced the park’s many attractions.

Seeing the smile on the girl’s face, Chen Ge was greatly satisfied. This was the pure, original purpose of a theme park, bringing people happiness.

### **Chapter 569: Bury Seed [2 in 1]**

Chen Ge accompanied the father and daughter and experienced all the theme park’s attractions that interested them. The girl showed some signs of fatigue at around three or four in the afternoon. She leaned against her father and sat at the resting hall outside of the Haunted House to catch her breath. Her eyes were closed, and she hugged a bottle of water in her arms with a smile still hanging on her face. It appeared like that day had been a lot of fun.

The father looked at his little girl with love in his eyes. His hand lightly touched the girl’s head, and he suddenly realized that someone had added a little braid to the girl’s hair. He did not know who had done that, but with this small braid, the girl looked more vibrant and lively. The father and daughter leaned

against each other. Even though they were both physically impaired, Chen Ge had to admit that the picture that they formed was quite heartwarming.

“Why don’t you two rest here for a while? Don’t wander off on your own. I’ll go talk to my workers at the Haunted House, and then I’ll come back to take you home.” Chen Ge maintained his sense of rationality. One of the main reasons that he had agreed to accompany the father and daughter around theme park was because he could make use of this opportunity to get close to them and make them lower their guard.

Of course, Chen Ge did not once think about harming them—he just wanted to get to the bottom of the truth. The girl leaned against her father, and she looked very sleepy, barely able to get her eyes open.

There was still quite a period of time until that woman had promised to come. Chen Ge decided to personally take them home because it gave him the perfect chance to take a look around their family and understand their family situation. He had a feeling that there had to be a relationship between this girl and that water ghost.

Returning to the Haunted House, Duan Yue and Ol’ Zhou had completely gotten used to their new identities. Chen Ge told them some things that they needed to be careful about, and then he went searching for Xu Wan. He told her to remember to close the door at 6 pm. After arranging all that, Chen Ge found his backpack and slid the recorder and the comic inside it. Xiao Gu was using the Skull-cracker’s hammer as a prop, so this time, Chen Ge did not carry it with him.

“Come on, I’ll take you home.” Chen Ge held the bag in one hand. It was hard to deny the sincerity in his eyes. The man scratched his head like he was in the middle of a deep hesitation. “My, sister, no, let, other, people, home.”

“Your little sister doesn’t like you bring strangers to your home?” Chen Ge smiled. “I can understand that. She is worried that other people might bring you harm, attracting burglars to the house, but I’m not a stranger, am I? We had so much fun playing together, right?”

After some more persuasion, the middle-aged man finally agreed. After sending the two out of New Century Park, Chen Ge called a taxi and got into the car with the father and daughter. The little girl fell asleep not long after she got into the car. To not disturb her, Chen Ge and the middle-aged man very cooperatively did not say anything. Based on the address given by the middle-aged man, the taxi arrived at a very old residential area at the edge of Eastern Jiujiang.

The place was filled with old apartments that were about six or seven stories high, and the paint on the walls was peeling greatly. Chen Ge could hardly tell what the original color of the walls had been.

“From the looks of it, this place has been in existence for at least two or three decades already, right?”

After paying the cab fare, the group exited the car. “Your family stays here? But didn’t you tell me that you lived near Eastern Jiujiang Dam?”

Chen Ge even purposely asked the taxi driver about it when they were coming over, and it seemed that this residential area was quite a distance away from Eastern Jiujiang Dam.

“My, house.” The man then said a few terms that seemed to be connected in some mysterious logic. Chen Ge could not grasp fully what he was trying to expression. Holding the sleeping little girls in his

arms, the middle-aged man walked ahead. Since the man did not chase Chen Ge away, Chen Ge naturally followed behind the man.

The middle-aged man might have been intellectually lacking, but he had enough common sense to survive. He walked past the many old buildings to head toward the building that was furthest away. The sun was setting, hanging low in the sky. The surroundings were completely silent. It was still daytime, but for some reason, Chen Ge felt that the area was rather dark.

Perhaps it was just his imagination.

The corridor had a very low ceiling. Chen Ge would bump his head against it if he jumped a little higher. The only sensation that Chen Ge felt once he entered the place was a sense of pressure.

With the middle-aged man leading the man, they climbed up to the third floor. The man reached his hand into his collar and searched for a long time before finding the key that was tied around his neck. Like a child, he took out the key and placed it before his eyes. He studied it for a very long time before opening the door.

“Do you mind if come in?” The man did not say anything. He opened the door and then carried the girl into the room. He placed the little girl on the couch and then half-jogged into the bedroom as if he was in search of something. The place was very clean, different from a dirtiness that Chen Ge had been expecting. Even though the place was sparsely decorated and there was little furniture, everything was cleanly and neatly arranged.

*There are only two pairs of slippers, one big and one small. There are also only two toothbrushes in the bathroom. Looks like the man’s sister does not live with him. Normally, it is this man who looks after this child.*

Someone with a mental problem looking after a child who also suffered from the same problem had managed to keep their living area so clean and neat—this came as quite a surprise to Chen Ge. He looked inside the bedroom. The man was kneeling on the ground. He opened the bedside table and took out a wool blanket.

As if afraid that he might mess up the things inside the room, his every action was very careful and deliberate. After finding the blanket, he rearranged everything before exiting the bedroom. The middle-aged man seemed to only have the little girl in his eyes. He covered the girl with the blanket with as light a touch as he could. He then sat down on the other side of the couch and looked at the girl lovingly, completely ignoring Chen Ge, who was still standing in the room.

“No wonder your little sister does not allow you to bring strangers home. If you run into a bad person, even if he cleared out this place, you probably would not have realized it.”

As he wandered around the room, Chen Ge began to respect the man more and more. The place was not big; there was only one bedroom and one very small kitchen. It was simple, but it felt very warm and homely. *The man suffers from this family’s hereditary illness and was abandoned by his wife, but he is able to survive with such dignity and determination. That is quite impressive.*

Chen Ge walked into the bedroom. When his gaze scanned past the bedside table, he accidentally caught a framed picture that was sitting on it. He picked up the picture frame to take a closer look, and the picture inside the frame looked rather strange to him.

On a bright and sunny grass field, the middle-aged man was smiling blankly while the little girl was running after a fluttering butterfly. There should have been someone who stood beside them, but the person had been cut off from the picture. There was a hole in the shape of a person.

*Could this be the child's mother?*

He wanted to look for more clues, so he opened the bedside table. Chen Ge found a notebook that was hidden under the stack of clothes. He flipped through it and realized that the notebook was completely empty, but then again, he noticed that many pages of the notebook had been torn out already.

*Whose notebook is this?*

Looking at the notebook, Chen Ge was reminded of a detail. Even though the girl suffered from the same hereditary illness as her father, meaning her intelligence was lower than normal, she knew how to write. Chen Ge had personally seen her write down the term 'big sister' in the Haunted House.

*Who taught her how to write? Was it her father, or was it someone else?*

When the middle-aged man heard the words 'big sister', his reaction had been huge. Those two words seemed to be a taboo that could not be mentioned at the home, so the person who taught the little girl to write those words should not have been a family member.

Closing the notebook, Chen Ge placed it back where he found it. He closed the drawer and was about to stand up and leave when he noticed that the middle-aged man had been standing at the bedroom door for who knew how long, watching him silently. Probably due to his natural limitation, his expression was unreadable, but there was a trace of uncertainty in his eyes as he looked at Chen Ge.

"The picture..." Chen Ge did not know how to move the topic away, so he grabbed the thing that was closest, which was the picture frame. Before he could come up with a reason, the man walked into the bedroom. He did not seem to mind what Chen Ge was doing—he just moved past Chen Ge silently and picked up the pillow that was on the bed. During the whole process, he did not say a word to Chen Ge. After he grabbed the pillow, he walked out directly and placed the pillow under the girl's head.

Chen Ge was scared for no reason. He continued to walk around the place, but he could not find anything valuable.

"Since you're already home safely, then I feel much better. If you want to come to New Century Park in the future, or if you need any help, you can call me at any time." Chen Ge found a pen and paper, jotted down his phone number, and placed it on the coffee table.

The girl was sound asleep on the couch. Throughout the whole day, the black phone had not sent any message, so the mission that was attached to this special visitor had not been triggered by Chen Ge. However, Chen Ge was not that disappointed. He had already confirmed the girl's identity and address, so there would be plenty of chances in the future. After bidding the middle-aged man farewell, Chen Ge left their home.

After closing the door and heading toward the stairs, he heard a sound coming from the corridor. “Hey!”

Stopping his footsteps, Chen Ge looked around. He noticed that the door of the room right opposite from the middle-aged man’s home was open a sliver, and the sound seemed to have come from inside it. “Were you calling me?”

“If you don’t want any trouble, it’s best if you stay away from that family.” This time, Chen Ge heard it clearly. It was an old lady who was speaking behind the door, and she sounded very vehement.

“I’m not afraid of trouble—their whole family is too pitiable. It’s better if we can help them to the best of our ability.” Chen Ge walked toward the old lady’s room.

“Those who are pitiable must have something that is detestable. Listen to me, don’t walk too close to them, or you might get unnecessary trouble.” The old lady’s words interested Chen Ge greatly. It seemed that the lady knew some things.

“Granny, they suffer from a hereditary illness. That is something that you are born with...”

“I saw how kind hearted you are, so I opened the door to remind you. What you want to do with the information is your own business.”

After saying that, the old lady was about to close the door, but Chen Ge jumped forward to grab the door. “Granny, can you not just tell me half of the truth? You’ll only make me even more curious.”

The old lady probably was touched by Chen Ge’s acts of kindness, so after a few second of hesitation, she opened the door fully. “Come in, and I’ll tell you.”

“Okay.” With such a sudden turn of events, of course, Chen Ge would not let it go. After entering the old lady’s home, Chen Ge realized that something was wrong. The old lady’s home was fully covered with scary-looking Taoist paper charms. There were even various charms hanging on the door. This place was completely different from the middle-aged man’s home.

“Granny, this place is...”

“Don’t be afraid. These talismans are to ward against evil spirits. They are harmless against living humans,” the old lady said confidently, but Chen Ge shook his head. The ghosts that he carried had no reaction, not even fear to these things, so the old lady had definitely been tricked by someone.

“You’ve just interacted with that family, and you might be followed by those scary things. When you leave, I can give you a few of the talismans.”

“Scary things? Are there really ghosts in this world?” Chen Ge scratched his chin. “Granny, have you personally seen them before?”

The old lady was silent to think before finally nodding. “It was just inside this building. Whenever the clock strikes midnight, the sound of water dropping comes from the corridors. It sounds just like rain, and then you will hear a sound that is similar to someone mopping the ground. But think about it, who would come out to mop the corridor at midnight?”

“Could there really be a ghost?” Chen Ge cooperated fully with the old lady and revealed a shocked expression.

“There was this one time when it was so noisy that I could not sleep, so I leaned against the peephole on the door and looked out.”

“What did you see?”

The lines on the old woman’s face were creased together like she was reminded of something very scary. The expression on her face was serious. “I’m not lying to you. At the time, I saw a woman who was completely drenched walked down from upstairs. She stopped at the door of the opposite room. Her skin was white from being soaked in the water for too long, not how a living human should look. There were also things like water grass and other weird objects curling around her body. Her long hair was dragging on the ground, and she was mumbling the name of the girl next door.”

“Someone completely drenched and calling Wen Wen’s name?” A thought flashed across Chen Ge’s mind, and the words just tumbled out of his mouth. “The big sister?”

The old lady was surprised that Chen Ge would say that, and her expression softened quite a lot. “Looks like you also know about their family business.”

“I do not know much.” Chen Ge took out the paper that the girl had left at his Haunted House from his pocket. “I’m a worker at New Century Park. Our park saw how fragile they were and was afraid of their safety, so they ordered me to personally bring them home. I only knew about this big sister because that girl once wrote this down when she was visiting one of our theme park attractions.”

Looking at the words on the paper, the old lady’s lips were pressed tightly. She waved for Chen Ge to move away from the door. The two walked into the living room, and then the old lady whispered, “In that case, I won’t hide the facts from you anymore. Actually, many people in this old residential area know about this. Their family has been involved in something called Bury Seed, and this is karma coming to get them.”

“Bury Seed?” Chen Ge was confused.

“It is what it means literally. Their family has a hereditary illness, but according to rumors, it only affects the males, not the females. However, their family wanted to have a healthy boy to continue the family legacy. They started to look for alternative methods, and someone recommended the method of burying seed.

“The method is quite cruel. First, you have to find a girl and bury her as a seed inside another child’s body. I am not quite sure about the actual procedure, but I know that their family has tried this before. However, it failed. The child that was born was not a boy, and even though a girl was born, she could not escape the fate of the family illness.”

“But how is that related to the ghost that you saw?”

“The seed that was used by that family was their first child, the big sister. They used their first child as the seed, and the child that was buried with the seed was Wen Wen.”

What the old lady said made Chen Ge take in a cold breath. He could understand why the Trial Mission was called Twin Water Ghost. It was not because they were twins but because it was a twin birth.

## **Chapter 570: Talismans**

“Granny, what else do you know about bury seed? Have there been successful cases before? Who told the family about this method?” Chen Ge needed to confirm his thoughts, and for that, he needed a greater understanding of the situation.

“Why are you asking all that? Knowing too much has no benefit to you. When it comes to certain things, once you get too close, you’ll be dragged into it.” The old lady only wanted what was best for Chen Ge. She walked into the bedroom and took out two yellowed paper talismans. “These are for you. Take them with you. They’ll save you at key moments.”

Chen Ge did not reject the old lady’s kindness and accepted the talismans. They were painted with a weird pattern. However, it was not painted with cinnabar but just common red dye.

“Granny, are you sure these things are effective?” Chen Ge’s ghosts were not only not afraid of the talismans, and they even purposely came out to take a look due to curiosity.

“I have no idea whether they’re effective or not, but ever since I covered my place with them, that thing stopped appearing near my place.”

“She once appeared at your place before?” Chen Ge was suspicious. Some ghosts were highly aggressive, and they would attack anything that stood in their way, regardless of their innocence.

“You keep trying to jinx me. If she had entered my home, do you think a bag of old bones like myself would have been able to survive?” the old lady grumbled with dissatisfaction. She coughed twice at the door, but Chen Ge did not know the purpose of that. “When I first saw the ghost, she was standing at my door with her head lowered. After I covered my home with the talismans, she finally went to the opposite door.”

Chen Ge understood that this was probably not the effect of the talisman—the ghost originally wanted to find the girl. There was probably another reason for why she stopped at the old lady’s door, but Chen Ge could not ask about that openly. The old lady might have looked kind, but Chen Ge had a feeling that she had something to do with what had happened to the family.

“Granny, I’m not going to talk circles around you. The girl’s situation is not so good. The ghost that you mentioned might be haunting her. If we ignore this, the child might be in mortal danger.” Once Chen Ge said that, the old lady hesitated.

“No matter what their family has done in the past, the child is innocent—she shouldn’t be made a sacrifice. Furthermore, we have not reached a point of no return yet.”

“You’ve not seen it—that’s why you’d say that. There are really ghosts in this world, and this one appears every midnight. Once you see it, you’ll never say such things. This is what that family deserves. If you intervene, you’ll be targeted by the ghost.”

The old lady wanted to stop Chen Ge, but he was determined.

“Since I’ve run into this, then I have to do something.”

“Why are you so stubborn?” After several seconds, the old lady said, “Fine, if you insist on chasing death, then I won’t stop you. I hope that you’ll have a better luck.”

The old lady's tone changed. "Originally, I didn't want to bring this up again. The person who suggested the method of bury seed was my husband. The old coot didn't mean any harm by it. He just tossed it out as a suggestion. We did not expect the family to really do it. The old man died not long after Wen Wen's birth. When he left, he was wrought with guilt and regret."

"The person who buried the seed in Wen Wen was your husband?"

"What? No! My husband had only heard about it. He just meant well." The old lady walked into the room again to grab a few yellowed pages from the drawer. It looked like a prescription. "This is the procedure for bury seed. I can't understand it. I hear it was obtained by the elders next door. My husband found it and hid it. He wanted to stop them, but by that time, they had already lost their minds."

"Their family illness only affects the boys, not the girls. To continue the family line, to change their family legacy, they treated their first daughter as the 'seed'. I'd seen that child; she was healthy and cute. The actual process of bury seed was only known to my husband and the opposite family's grandfather and grandmother. However, they died from sickness one after another, so no one really knows what they did to that first child."

The old lady's face was covered with lines as she tried to think. "I can only remember a few things. When the first child died, they started running all over Eastern Jiujiang, apparently to find a suitable location. In the end, they chose Eastern Jiujiang Dam. I don't know what happened later."

"Looks like I'll have to go to the dam to take a look." Chen Ge accepted the pages and scanned them. He could not understand the meaning either—they looked like Chinese characters, but he could not grasp their meaning. "Granny, can I take these pages with me? I want to find an expert to read them to see what they really mean."

"No, definitely not. I won't allow these pages to leave this place. If not for the special order by the old coot at his death bed, I would have burned them all already."

"Then do you know where they got these papers?" Chen Ge asked casually, but he got a big surprise.

"Eastern Jiujiang, Li Wan City. I heard that the elders next door got it from a building called the Ghost Apartment."

"Ghost Apartment?" Chen Ge had heard this term when he was on the last bus for Route 104. Only by taking that bus did people have the chance to reach this ghost apartment. *Could this bury seed be related to that culprit as well? Was this just a move he made in isolation, or is it connected to a bigger conspiracy?*

Chen Ge suspected that the culprit had harmed so many children in Eastern Jiujiang for this bury seed.

*Bury seed only needs one child, but the number of children who have disappeared in Eastern Jiujiang is high...*

The term 'Ghost Fetus' flashed across Chen Ge's mind. Originally, he had thought that this was just a simple two-star mission, but it looked like it might be related to the four-star mission.

"Granny, can you give me a few more talismans? I plan to go to Eastern Jiujiang Dam tonight to see the place myself. Perhaps I might find something."

“Go to Eastern Jiujiang Dam? The day is ending, why are you going there?” The old lady thought that Chen Ge was acting strangely. “Many people have drowned there; the place is not safe. You’d better think carefully.”

“I’m afraid, but compared to that, I want to get to the bottom of the truth.” Chen Ge took out the talismans given by the old lady earlier. “Granny, please give me a few more. What if I run out at a key moment?”

“If you’re so scared, then don’t force yourself.” After she said that, she still walked back into the room to look for more talismans. While she was preoccupied, Chen Ge took out his phone to snap a few pictures of the yellowed pages.