

## Horrors 691

### Chapter 691: Sitting on Shoulders

The third-floor basement was wet, dark, and dim. The host, Yellow Wolf, held his phone and started his so-called 'exposé'.

"I am not going to introduce this Haunted House any further. Just by searching the name online, you can find countless legends, but it is hard to tell which are real and which are fake.

"There are many ghost stories that extend from every single scenario here, like dolls that follow you everywhere, student mannequins that show up at any time and any moment, a ballpoint pen that will curse you once you ask it about love, and so on.

"There are more ghost stories than that, and I believe everyone must be curious, how many of them are real, and how many of them are fake? Today, I have personally arrived at this Haunted House to find the answer for you."

He took out a piece of white paper and a ballpoint pen from his backpack and slithered into an empty sickroom. "The story about the Pen Spirit is the most famous on the internet. According to the rumors, it was a man by the name of Fei Youliang who first used his sincerity to persuade the Pen Spirit to appear. He was the first one to have met the real Pen Spirit inside this Haunted House, and he was the first visitor to have been sent to the hospital after a Haunted House visit. At the time, many visitors were there to bear witness, so it must be real."

Glancing at the chat, Yellow Wolf placed the pen and paper on the bed. He put on a serious expression. "Now, I will personally attempt this game. Yes, you heard me correctly. I will attempt to livestream a Pen Spirit game for you right inside this Haunted House that is filled with ghost stories!"

The atmosphere was hyped to the maximum. Yellow Wolf placed the phone by the pillow while he stooped down on the other side of the bed. He picked up the ballpoint pen that he had brought with him.

"My dear friends, I am going to start now. I hope none of you will blink in the next second because I too have no idea what will happen," he uttered in a convincing tone as he carefully placed the ballpoint pen perpendicular on the white paper. "Pen Spirit, Pen Spirit, you are my spirit from my previous life, and I am your spirit in this life. Can you tell me who my future wife will be?"

Inside the dark sickroom of the Haunted House, there was nothing but silence. In his environment, Yellow Wolf trained his focus fully on the tip of the pen. One second, two seconds, when it was the third second, Yellow Wolf's pinkie that was hidden from view by his palm hit the body of the pen, which caused the pen that stood above the paper to move imperceptibly.

"Look, it's here!" Yellow Wolf's expression was filled with terror. He glanced toward the camera and placed his index finger on his lips to make a shush gesture. Without moving a muscle, he stayed next to the bed for another minute before slowly standing up.

He picked up the piece of paper and showed it to the camera, pointing at the minute dash on it. "You can see it for yourself. After I started the game, the pen did move on its own! The Pen Spirit has appeared! With regards as to why it didn't stay, I believe that's because it is afraid of my jade pendant."

Turning the camera back on himself, Yellow Wolf whispered in a façade of fear. "I know you still might not have believed me, and this smudge isn't going to explain many things, but I shall use my diviner's power to determine and see if there is Yin energy gathered at this place."

Yellow Wolf walked out of the sickroom. "The corridors here are very dark. Probably because it has been built underground, walking through it gives you chills."

Turning the camera, Yellow Wolf aimed it behind him. "The dolls and mannequins did not show up, but I discovered something even scarier."

He pointed at the doors down the corridor. "When I entered the room earlier, many doors of these sickrooms were left half-open, but now, take a look again. Most of the doors have been completely opened! It feels like something has escaped from these rooms!"

Messages flooded the chat. Some of the viewers noticed this discrepancy as well and had started their own prediction. Of course, some still harbored suspicion, believing that this was all an act by Yellow Wolf.

"I know that many of you still do not believe me, so I will use this method taught to me by my grandfather to seek proof for you. Actually, my grandfather warned me against using this except for in emergencies, but for my dear friends, I shall attempt it today." Actually, Yellow Wolf was not afraid at all. He had prepared the script with Lee Jiu already, and he believed that it was Lee Jiu who had opened those doors.

"This method is called walking through the Yin Door, also known as 'feeding the Yin rice'." Yellow Wolf took out a small black pouch from his pocket. It was strangely wet, and opening it revealed a clump of white rice. "You place the Yin rice at the junction and then walk down the corridor, passing through the other doors. When you reach the fourth room, place the rice at the door, walk into the room, and stomp your feet four times.

"After that, spread a few grains of rice in the room and walk out. If the pattern of the rice outside the door has become different from how you laid it down earlier, then enter the room again and repeat the process four times. If the place is haunted, when you enter the room for the fourth time, you will see a 'stranger' because you won't be entering your own home—you will have travelled with 'them' across the Yin door.

"This is the method that has been used by my ancestors to examine haunted houses. Of course, please do not try this at home. I do not wish harm on any of you."

After saying all that, Yellow Wolf walked to the stairs and placed a small mountain of rice at the mouth of the staircase. Strangely enough, after he left, the mountain of rice did reduce conspicuously in size.

"And we shall start now." Yellow Wolf took a deep breath, and a severe countenance came over him like he was doing something extremely dangerous. He placed a few kernels of rice outside the fourth sickroom and then opened the door and stepped into it.

He aimed the camera around the room so that he could take down everything in view. "I need everyone to remember the placement of the objects in the room because they might change their locations later."

Messages crowded the chat box. Yellow Wolf fixed the phone on the bed, and it was the perfect angle to look at the door.

"Be careful, a stranger might enter the room later." He warned and walked out from the room. After placing the rice, he closed the door.

When the door was closed, thus shutting him away from the camera's view, Yellow Wolf took out another phone and made a call. After it rang twice, he ended it. This was a code that he had devised with Lee Jiu. He glanced toward Lee Jiu's hiding place, but the latter did not give him any response.

"Where is the man? Still putting on make-up?" Yellow Wolf did not dare disappear too long from the livestream. A few seconds later, he pushed the door open and rushed to the camera with this urgent look on his face. "I think I heard footsteps! They came from the stairs! Something is coming, and it is coming to me!"

Then, Yellow Wolf put down more rice and walked out of the sickroom again. He looked down the corridor, and it was completely quiet like a black ocean. He called Lee Jiu on his phone again. It rang four times, and there was no answer. "Is he really doing this to me at a time like this?"

Agitated, Yellow Wolf felt the back of his neck starting to itch. "He's not answering the call, so what is he up to?"

He scratched his neck heavily. "How come it feels like someone is sitting on my shoulders?"

## **Chapter 692: Cooperative Actors [2 in 1]**

Whipping his head around, Yellow Wolf realized that there was no one behind him. "That was strange."

He tried to turn his neck as far back as he could. Finally, he saw that a part of his skin on the back of his neck had turned purplish like a strange bug had bitten him.

"What is that?" When he raised his phone to aim the flashlight at the back of his neck to take a better look, the phone in his palm suddenly vibrated. "F\*ck! Who is calling at a time like this?"

Yellow Wolf glanced at the caller ID; it was Lee Jiu.

He walked to the side, away from the door, and after making sure that he was definitely not in the view of the camera anymore, he answered the call. He had just pressed the accept button when Lee Jiu's strange voice came through Yellow Wolf's phone. "Yellow Wolf, there is something seriously wrong with this Haunted House. Things aren't right with the actors either. This place is seriously wicked!"

"Get over here immediately! I have more than 100,000 viewers on my stream. If you dare drop this on me, I will never forgive you!" Yellow Wolf lowered his voice dangerously in warning. This man was completely different from the persona that he put on when he faced his audience.

“Stop the stream. Get out of the Haunted House first, listen to me!” Lee Jiu’s voice was not much different from his usual voice, but his tone was strange.

“Do you know how much the company has invested in this livestream? I have been hyping this livestream since last week, and all of my fans are anticipating this livestream. I am waiting for this chance to get to the top of the platform, and you’re asking me to leave?” Yellow Wolf squeezed the words through the gaps in his teeth. “If you are doing this because of the pay, then fine, you win. As long as you cooperate with the rest of the script, I will pay you double once we leave this place.”

“This not the issue of money; there is something different about this place compared to other Haunted Houses!” Then came a burst of static through the line, and Lee Jiu’s voice was distorted. “This place is really haunted!”

The call was still connected, and the phone did show that Lee Jiu had not hung up, but the man’s voice could not be heard anymore. The only sound coming through the phone was a sharp static sound.

“A phone signal disruptor?” Yellow Wolf ended the call immediately. He ran back to the sickroom and checked the phone that was conducting the livestreaming. Compared to Lee Jiu, he was more worried about the disturbance to his livestream.

“Where is the man? Where has he gone to? Has the host been captured by the ghosts?”

“If you challenge them often enough, they will naturally answer to you eventually. According to my prediction, he has bitten off more than he can chew this time. I have been to this Haunted House before. The kind of terror is not something that you can possibly imagine. At the time, there were seven of us who challenged the Haunted House, and only two of us came out on our feet.”

“You have to be joking, right?”

“The understanding of terror will be refreshed once you visit this place. Have you ever seen a Haunted House that prepares a trolley to transport fainted customers? Have you encountered a Haunted House that has a VIP room for unconscious visitors at the local hospital? Have you visited a Haunted House where every single employee there knows emergency resuscitation? I had not seen it before, and I have personally experienced it myself. Just wait and see, this is going to get much more interesting.”

The messages rushed forward on the screen. Seeing that the livestream had not stopped, Yellow Wolf sighed in relief. He forced a smile and returned to the scene. “I just went out to take a look, and the rice left on the ground has indeed been disturbed. When we walked into this room, someone else walked past the door.”

Lee Jiu had left alone, abandoning him inside this place, so Yellow Wolf could not follow the script anymore. Yellow Wolf looked at the screen, and occasionally, he scratched his neck. He suppressed the annoyance in his heart and uttered in a strangely nervous voice, “Perhaps you might think that I am lying, or perhaps you believe I have been lying to you, but that is really not the case. Ever since I stepped into this Haunted House, I have felt weirdly unsettled, and there is a sensation that someone has been following me...”

He was rambling to buy time as he figured out a way to pull this all around, but to his surprise, the chatroom of his stream suddenly exploded with activity!

In that instant, the website lagged from the endless stream of messages. This was the first time that he had encountered something like this as well.

“What is happening?” Standing where he was, Yellow Wolf refreshed the page several times before the chatroom became normal again. However, due to the overwhelming number of messages, the video was still stuttering at places.

“Look behind you!”

“What the f\*ck! That is one hell of a scare!”

“There is a face on the window! Turn back! Host!”

“Outside the door, he is just outside the door!”

“Motherf\*cker! They are real! They are coming!”

The messages exploded, and the video had become so filled with messages that the host could not be seen anymore. This was the first time in his life that Yellow Wolf had experienced this kind of popularity and viewership. He did not listen to the advice and look behind him, but instead, he went to check his livestream numbers. In just a few minutes, his viewership had shot over 350,000 viewers, and it was still increasing at a startling speed.

*With 700,000 viewers, I will be able to get the top spot on the website. Based on this development, that should not be too difficult.*

Yellow Wolf still did not turn his head around. After he promised the double payment, Lee Jiu finally returned to help him. Everything was still within his control, and of course, he did not forget about the necessary facial expressions.

Looking at the messages, Yellow Wolf appeared, for all intents and purpose, to be frozen in fear. Only the corners of his lips were twitching wildly. “Ghosts have really appeared? Don’t try to trick me! My grandfather forbade our people from opening the Yin gate. This could lead to very serious repercussions!”

The viewership was climbing like a rocket. Because most Haunted Houses kept their interior a secret, it was rare for there for a livestream inside a Haunted House. Furthermore, Yellow Wolf had chosen the most popular Haunted House online to carry out his livestream, and there was a reason behind his stream’s rising popularity.

His already large fanbase and the heavy manipulation of his company, combined with the popularity that Chen Ge’s Haunted House enjoyed on the internet, all contributed to an effect that was beyond everyone’s expectations. The users on the platform all swarmed into his livestream room, and the messages started to roll over the chatroom.

“Ghosts are real! Big Brother Wolf has encountered actual ghosts!”

That topic rose to the top of the website immediately, and that only worked to attract more viewers to join his room.

Yellow Wolf was overjoyed internally, but he had to put on a mask of fear. “Do not panic. Especially at a time like this, we shan’t panic. Do not worry. My ancestors are all diviners, and because of that, I have experience when dealing with problems like this!”

The more he said things like that, the more the viewers reacted. Many asked for him to turn around, and many others told him to run. After all, there really was a ghost behind him!

Yellow Wolf was in deep appreciation of Lee Jiu’s make-up skill. For such an effect, paying double price was absolutely worth it. His body swayed unevenly from left to right, adding to the impression that he was shuddering in fear. The more the messages told him to leave, the more he stayed put.

He placed his arms before his chest to assume a strange pose. Without turning around, Yellow Wolf yelled at the camera, “Since this has already happened, running away is too late. Calm down! We must calm down!”

He slapped both of his palms together, and Yellow Wolf exclaimed loudly, “No matter who is standing behind us, there is no reason to fear! Find the serenity in your heart; know that heaven is always watching over you!”

Once he uttered that statement, Yellow Wolf’s gaze turned instantly. The expression of fear that he had assumed earlier was slowly disappearing.

“Do not be afraid. The more fearful you are, the more they are likely to bully you!” Yellow Wolf picked up the phone and claimed in a courageous voice, “Do not worry, I am never alone. With all of you with me, we will survive this together. Do not forget to tip your host for his bravery, and in a minute, we will charge out to vanquish this evil!”

Seeing the money that viewers were sending his way, joy spread through Yellow Wolf’s heart, and even his cheeks looked redder. He turned around to face the door and bellowed, “As my grandfather once said, you have to firm calm your heart! Clear your mind and practice the Ba Gua in your heart. The soldiers will rise behind you!”

He pointed both of his fingers at the window. Even at a time like that, Yellow Wolf did not forget to adjust the camera so that both himself and the window and door of the sickroom appeared on screen. The sickroom door that was closing caused a creaking sound, and a pale face was peering in from the window.

This was a paleness that was not achievable by make-up; it was a lifeless type of white. The person appeared like he was there, but it felt like he could drift away at any moment.

The unknown face, eyes that were missing two black pupils, the cracked, dry lips, and the black hair that swayed downward covering both of the ears...

When Yellow Wolf saw that face, his body staggered involuntarily backward, and then a compliment for Lee Jiu arose in his heart. *He’s a true professional. This is too good!*

With his arms shaking, the livestream was a mess. Of course, there were still sceptics claiming that this was just a ploy by the Haunted House workers. Some of the viewers even suggested calling the police to send the law enforcement to the Haunted House to rescue Yellow Wolf.

The presence of sceptics was predictable, but Yellow Wolf could not ignore the people who wished to call the police. He was in the middle of acting with Lee Jiu. How was he going to continue if the police got involved? In less than half an hour, the viewership shot up dozens of thousands, which was unprecedented for Yellow Wolf and even the other hosts on his platform.

“There is no need to trouble the police. At the very least, I am a descendent of a long line of powerful diviners. Today, I will show you the true power that I have inherited from my ancestors. If it is effective, I hope that the users will rescinded the negative reviews that they have left on my paper talisman Taobao shop.” He reached into his backpack and crushed some cinnabar. Then he leaped upward and placed his finger on the forehead of the face that was beyond the thin pane of glass. “Hear my cry, the Emperor of the Sky! Be gone, demon! You are no match for my power!”

His voice echoed in the sickroom. Yellow Wolf used the cinnabar to draw a symbol that no one could have understood on the glass. Then he staggered backward while gasping for air like he had done something incredibly taxing. “Everything should be fine now.”

Yellow Wolf lifted his head to glance at the window, and the human face outside the window was still there. The perfectly white eyes were filled with confusion like they were looking at an idiot.

*What the hell is going on?* Yellow Wolf gritted his teeth in anger. Based on their agreed script, Lee Jiu should have retreated by now, but ‘Lee Jiu’ was not cooperating at all. *Is he going to demand more money? Give him an inch, and he’s going to take a yard!*

His heart was boiling with fury, but after all, Yellow Wolf was an experienced live-streamer from Xin Hai. He could adapt to the situation with ease, so he said, “Hear my cry, Goddess of Mercy! Be cleansed of your sin, evil spirit. Return from whence you came!”

After mumbling his mantra, Yellow Wolf leaped around the room, and while his hand was hidden from the camera, he extended three fingers to the face on the window. He waved his three fingers about, stressing that he was willing to give Lee Jiu three times the pay!

*That’s triple the pay; you should be satisfied now!*

The face on the window did not look like he knew how to deal with this situation either. Seeing the three fingers that Yellow Wolf kept waving at him, he seemed to have understood something and slowly disappeared.

After Lee Jiu disappeared from view, Yellow Wolf derided him for his greed, shamelessness, and unprofessionalism internally, but none of that resentment showed on his face. He stopped all the gesturing and panned the camera to aim at the door again.

“You see! That thing has disappeared already!”

The chatroom rejoiced, and Yellow Wolf enjoyed a moment of peace. “Earlier, it was a minor ghost who followed me out of the Yin door. As you can see, that was not an effect achievable by make-up. If I am not mistaken, the thing was floating in midair.”

There was some questioning from the viewers because they did not actually see the ‘ghost’ disappear, but Yellow Wolf chose to ignore all that. “It is fine now. Based on my grandfather’s teaching, the first

few spirits that escape from the Yin door are never too courageous. After they leave, they shan't return again."

Wiping away the cold sweat that was not on his forehead, Yellow Wolf continued. "It was definitely dangerous earlier, but thankfully, I know what I am doing. Okay, we shall leave this place now and continue our exposé..."

The more he said, the more unsettled Yellow Wolf felt. The screen started to shudder again, and the chatroom was rife with activity. A bad feeling rose in his heart. Yellow Wolf lifted his head to look and discovered that the ghost face had returned!

*You mother\*cker! Are you done with this or not?* Yellow Wolf gritted his teeth. 'Lee Jiu' could stray from the script, but he could not.

He retreated several steps, and Yellow Wolf acted like he was mortified. He turned to the camera and said, "This is bad! Looks like it was not only minor ghosts that escaped from the Yin door this time! The Yin energy at this Haunted House is too powerful!"

He glared angrily on the face on the window. "This time, it will not be easy for me to escape, but worry not because my grandfather has given me many powerful relics!"

He reached into his back to pull out a talisman with a red background and black character. Yellow Wolf's presence was different from before. He channeled all the hatred that he had toward Lee Jiu and said, "This talisman is the most expensive item at my Taobao shop, and there is only a limited number of them in the world! They are all relics left behind by my grandfather! There is no time to waste; it is my fault to have invited this ghost into our world, so I will banish it banish to the hell realm no matter what!"

Holding the talisman, Yellow Wolf spun around. "Hear my cry, Ruler of Hell! Claim this wandering soul for it is yours. Linger in the mortal realm no more!"

As he ended the mantra, Yellow Wolf extended four fingers at the face on the window. Due to the previous experience, this time, the face understood Yellow Wolf's meaning instantly after he saw the four fingers. He nodded silently and disappeared. The two parties cooperated seamlessly. After the face disappeared, Yellow Wolf completed his theatrics and pasted the talisman on the window with a flourish!

"There is no need to worry this time! With the talisman given to me by my grandfather, it will definitely not return again!" Yellow Wolf sighed deeply. This livestream was much more difficult than he had expected, filled with endless tests and trials. He glanced at the window with some measure of fear. He was afraid that 'Lee Jiu' would continue to return, so he hurried to prepare to leave.

"Alright, we shall move on now." Yellow Wolf picked up the phone, opened the door, and walked out.

In the underground corridor, the cold wind blew, and children's laughter tingled down the corridor.

Once Yellow Wolf exited the sickroom, he felt a chill run down his spine. He turned to the phone, and he noticed that the chatroom was going haywire all over again. This time, not only his livestream, the whole platform was lagging from the overload.

The viewership at that instant broke the platform's all-time record.

"What is it this time?" Yellow Wolf turned around, and when his eyes landed, a chilling air crawled up his feet to his scalp.

Standing several steps behind him were four ghosts dressed in patient's garbs standing in a row!

Their bodies were twisted in such a way that they did not appear human at all, and the expressions on their faces only worked to accentuate that point!

All of them looked at Yellow Wolf quietly. Then the patient in the middle pointed at himself and then pointed at the three ghosts beside him before raising his arm at Yellow Wolf and extending four fingers toward him.

### **Chapter 693: I've Been a Livestream Host Myself [2 in 1]**

*Four?*

When the strange man in the patient's garb showed him four fingers, Yellow Wolf felt like the blood in his body rushed to his heart, attempting to overload it. Pain radiated from his chest, and his head was going light. If he was not in the middle of a livestream, he would have tossed the phone away, turned the other way, and run for his life.

*Calm down! You are inside a haunted house! These are all human actors! Everything will be fine; everything will be fine!* Yellow Wolf tried his best to convince himself, but his body had started to spiral out of control. His legs could not stop shaking.

The man who was normally so good with words was rendered speechless. The cold air caressed his petrified body, and he sensed that the four characters gathered before him were incredibly unique.

Even for people who were born with deformities, they would not have grown up to these strange states. Their limbs were contorted into weird binds. Their bones were not structured like a normal human's. Some of them had their eyes gouged out, and only two dark holes remained in their skull. Another had pupil-less eyes that would occasionally roll around in their sockets. The four patients were arranged in a straight line. The dim lights showered down on them, and Yellow Wolf only then realized that all four of them did not possess a shadow!

"Don't come any closer!" A scream escaped from his lips. At that moment, Yellow Wolf had lost the cool that he had shown inside the room. He finally understood that he had not been interacting with Lee Jiu but the actors inside the Haunted House. After that point registered in his mind, another question surfaced the next second.

*Where has Lee Jiu disappeared to then?*

He remembered that when he was on the phone with Lee Jiu earlier, the man had sounded different from usual, like he was in serious trouble.

*Lee Jiu has worked at a Haunted House for so many years. He is an experienced prop designer within the industry. To be able to make him say things like that, it can only mean that this place is really haunted!*

Cold sweat kept sliding down his face. Before Yellow Wolf had gone there, he had done a lot of research regarding the ghost stories that surrounded Chen Ge's Haunted House, and at that moment, all the ghost stories surged into his mind, enveloping him in endless fear.

*I should have left when I had the chance!*

Alas, regret was already too late. The four characters started to move. Their distorted bodies teetered unevenly as their expressions slowly changed until they hissed dangerously and charged at Yellow Wolf with a roar!

*These are not human beings! This Haunted House is really haunted!*

Yellow Wolf's lips fell open, but words failed to escape from them. Fear flowed out of his eyes, and he felt like he was about to faint from a lack of oxygen.

"Big Wolf, why have you run out on your own? From the beginning, you have been talking to yourself. This is different from the script that we have rehearsed!"

The sickroom door that about several meters away from Yellow Wolf was pushed open at that moment, and following Yellow Wolf's requirement, Lee Jiu walked out after painting his face scarily.

Hearing Lee Jiu's voice, Yellow Wolf's frozen heart seemed to have welcomed a warm ray of light, and his brain recharged and reassumed control of his body. He turned back around and saw Lee Jiu. He sucked in a deep breath and was about to scream for help when the phone in his hand vibrated noisily.

He lowered his head out of habit to look, and Yellow Wolf saw the name that showed on the caller ID—Lee Jiu.

*Lee Jiu is calling me? Then who is this Lee Jiu standing before me?*

He touched the accept button with shaking hands. Yellow Wolf used the dregs of strength that he had left and raised the phone to his ear.

"Big Wolf? I can't contact Jinyuan and Cold Guy anymore! I am currently hiding near the entrance. You have to come to me immediately! There is something seriously wrong with this Haunted House!" Lee Jiu's voice came out from the phone—it was filled with nervousness and anxiety. "I am not kidding with you! You have to leave! Now!"

"I know you are not kidding with me..." Yellow Wolf looked at his phone dumbly and then lifted his eyes to inspect the Lee Jiu who was walking toward him. "But the problem is... now there are two of you!"

An indescribable fear crawled into his body through his pores, and this was way beyond Yellow Wolf's threshold. He screamed and launched himself at Lee Jiu, who was in front of him, like his life depended on it. There were four monsters behind him, and there was only one in front of him. At that moment, Yellow Wolf's biological instinct compelled him to make this choice.

"Have you lost your mind? I am Lee..." Before he finished, the mentally-collapsed Yellow Wolf had already reached his side. He gripped his backpack and swung it heavily at Lee Jiu. Lee Jiu had been busy putting on his make-up earlier, so he had no idea what had happened. In that state of innocence and ignorance, he was smacked in the face by Yellow Wolf's backpack.

“I am Lee Jiu! F\*ck! You’re going to ruin my make-up!” Lee Jiu reached out to grab Yellow Wolf, but the latter resisted like crazy. After all, in his mind, he was being attacked by a ghost, so of course, Yellow Wolf was going to struggle like crazy to escape. In the struggle, Yellow Wolf abandoned his backpack and the phone, which was still livestreaming. He barreled down the corridor, screaming all the way.

“Yellow Wolf!” Lee Jiu held his injured nose. His voice became more nasally from the attack. He was quite worried about Yellow Wolf, so he quickly chased after the man. The two visitors, one running in front, the other chasing at the back, disappeared from the third-floor basement.

The four employees in the patient’s garbs gradually slowed down. They shared a look with each other, and they felt like they were being excluded from some kind of fun.

The white eyes turned slightly around, and the ‘patient’ in the middle had his black hair lifted up from his scalp. The anger in his heart could not be suppressed anymore. When he first appeared, the visitor had shown him three fingers. After he finally gathered three employees, the visitors had shown him four fingers instead.

Now that he had gathered four employees, after fulfilling the man’s unreasonable request, the man had left without even a word of thanks for him. This was such a waste of the employee’s time!

This was too much! Such disrespect! He should not be forgiven!

Dangerous and scary wounds surfaced on the pale faces. The four angry employees shed their disguise out of fury, and they showed their true faces. The corners of their lips cracked out, and they groaned darkly. Then, the whole building seemed to come alive, and behind the half-open sickrooms, a few more dark-gray arms reached out into the dark.

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The chains scraped against the floor, creating a bone-chilling noise. A shadow that was pulled long by the light stood alone in front of the Li Wan Private Hospital’s entrance.

“They have split up?” Wearing Doctor Skull-cracker’s apparel, Chen Ge held the hammer in one hand and stopped before the hospital door. He lowered his head to look at the message sent to him by Tong Tong.

“Someone is conducting a livestream at the third-floor basement of the hospital!”

“I have allowed taking pictures, I have allowed recording videos, and now you people have started livestreaming inside my Haunted House, have you? Have I been too kind with the degree of freedom that I’ve given them? Have they forgotten who the boss of this place is?” Chen Ge was a good-natured person, and it was rare for him to get angered unless they stepped over his bottom line.

The spikes on the hammer dragged against the ground, and Chen Ge in the skin mask moved to the third-floor basement of the hospital.

“Where have they gone?” The corridor was dark, and there was no one around. However, the temperature was curiously low. Taking out his phone, Chen Ge was about to contact Tong Tong when he noticed a black-colored backpack and a phone abandoned outside Sickroom No. 4.

“A black backpack? I remember a visitor carrying this with him. He should have entered with that creep.” Chen Ge did not go to pick the items up immediately. “If the backpack and the phone have been left here but the people has gone missing, it can only mean that they abandoned them out of fear. I wrote in the worker’s rulebook that they do not need to hold back once they encounter people who are using their phones to take picture and record videos inside the Haunted House. Could the owner of this backpack be the hidden host? Is it possible that the phone left there is still in the middle of livestreaming?”

After clearing so many Trial Missions, Chen Ge’s power of observation was much better than most. Standing away from the phone camera’s view, he removed Doctor Skull-Cracker’s apparel and then walked to stand beside the black backpack.

“Who is so careless to have left their stuff unattended here? Thankfully, we have surveillance cameras to ensure one hundred percent safety of our visitors.” After saying that, Chen Ge turned to the phone lying at the side. “Whose phone is this?”

He picked up the phone, and the chatroom was lagging. Following Yellow Wolf’s disappearance, the popularity of his stream did not decrease. If anything, it only continued to rise, and he was only a few steps away from reaching the top.

“A livestream?” Chen Ge had done livestreaming before. When he conducted his mission at the Third Sick Hall, he had even been taught a few tricks on livestreaming. “Good afternoon, everyone. I am Chen Ge, the boss of the Haunted House at Western Jiujiang’s New Century Park. Can anyone tell me what happened here earlier?”

Whenever he introduced his Haunted House in public, Chen Ge desperately wished to include the whole address of his Haunted House so that there would be no mistake. The website was lagging, and after a few refreshes, Chen Ge got a brief idea of the whole process.

The host who was responsible for this livestream was Yellow Wolf, nicknamed Big Brother Wolf. He had claimed that he was a descendant of a long line of powerful diviners, and he seemed to have encountered an actual ghost during the livestream. Then, he was so scared that he abandoned his phone and absconded on his own.

When Chen Ge saw that many messages claiming that his Haunted House was really haunted, he felt weirdly exposed, but when he noticed the viewership of the livestream, a glint appeared in his eyes like he had come upon a valuable treasure.

“Actually, all of you have been tricked by Yellow Wolf. How can there be real ghosts in this world? I believe that he was behind everything that you saw earlier.” Once Chen Ge said that, he garnered the dissatisfaction from Yellow Wolf’s loyal fans.

Chen Ge was not angered. He picked up Yellow Wolf’s backpack and soon discovered some problems. “Earlier, someone said that there was a family heirloom, a jade pendant worn by Yellow Wolf, and it would crack on its own when he ran into evil spirits. The pendant had nine cracks once he arrived at my Haunted House, but take a look at these...”

Chen Ge pulled out a bunch of similar-looking jade pendants from the backpack, and there were plenty that were already cracked. "These are jades with horrible quality. This whole bunch here is not even worth much."

Chen Ge conducted the indictment in front of so many viewers, but that was just how open and clear Chen Ge was.

He placed the jade pendants back inside the backpack and opened another pocket. It was filled to the brim with paper talismans with a red background and black characters. Some of them even had the price tag still attached to them. "These are the talismans that his ancestors have left for him, are they? And supposedly, there are only a few of them in the world. Look here, the purchase price is five cents each. How much is he selling one for on his Taobao shop?"

With the truth placed before everyone's eyes, there was no need for argument. Chen Ge replaced Yellow Wolf's stuff and turned to address the camera. "Running into a real ghost inside a Haunted House? That is all a show directed by Yellow Wolf himself. If you would like to see a real ghost and supernatural livestream, I would recommend that you follow me instead."

Chen Ge did not feel that shameless for using this opportunity for advertisement. "My account name is Western Jiujiang Haunted House, and the profile picture is the gates of my Haunted House. I livestreamed for some time in the past, but it kinda fell to the wayside after things got a bit too busy. If there's a chance in the future, I will bring everyone a real supernatural livestream to search for the real ghost stories that are hidden in the shadows of this city!"

Chen Ge took out his phone and logged into the streaming account that he had not been using for a long time already, and he advertised himself shamelessly in Yellow Wolf's stream. After he did all that, the follower number for his account experienced a drastic increase, and in fact, some of the viewers in Yellow Wolf's room managed to recognize him.

"After this round, the viewership should shoot over 250,000." The other company had invested a lot in Yellow Wolf to help him gain traffic, and the platform itself had been promoting Yellow Wolf since the start of the week, so of course, Chen Ge was not going to let that go to waste.

After he was done promoting his own personal account, it was time to advertise his own Haunted House. Perhaps because the platform that Chen Ge used was different from Yellow Wolf's, this kind of open advertisement attracted the platform's ire, and it did not take long for the official party to temporarily ban Yellow Wolf's livestream room.

Looking at the darkened screen, Chen Ge felt quite saddened and empty. "As I should have known, opportunities are given to those who are readied and prepared. I should have spoken faster in case this happened."

Deactivating Yellow Wolf's phone, Chen Ge looked at his account's follower number, which was still rising, and he revealed a smile. "This brother has gifted me a very big present. I should personally thank him myself."

Putting his backpack and phone away, Chen Ge put on Doctor Skull-cracker's apparel, the human skin mask, and lifted the hefty hammer.

To thank Yellow Wolf, Chen Ge decided to track the man down himself, to show his appreciation in person.

### **Chapter 694: I've Found My Admirer! [2 in 1]**

In the end, Chen Ge discovered Lee Jiu and Yellow Wolf in Li Wan Private Hospital's morgue. When he arrived, the two were already unconscious, but thankfully, their vital signs were still stable, and they did not need immediate medical attention. The child's handprint behind Yellow Wolf's neck had already disappeared. Tong Tong was the one behind it—he had been influencing the phone call between them.

“Go and get me the trolley from the underground morgue.” Chen Ge dragged the hammer and turned to order the patient who guarded beside Lee Jiu. “Don't worry, I am not going to blame you. Feel free to scare such visitors who insist on using their phones inside the Haunted House even after multiple warnings. Furthermore, I believe that they are here to create problems, so if anything, you have done a very good job.”

“We are staffed with the best doctors, and I plan to invest in a whole set of modern medical equipment when there's enough money so that the visitors can really enjoy themselves without any worry when they are at the Haunted House.”

Seeing how open-minded Chen Ge was, the patient who shifted his weight nervously quickly nodded and prepared to leave.

“Wait a minute.” Chen Ge turned back to look. “Why are you leaving in such a hurry? Was it you alone who scared these two until they fainted?”

The patient glanced at the autopsy tables that were covered with white cloth, and after some hesitation, he nodded.

“Li Wan Private Hospital needs a leader, and you're not bad. I will focus on cultivating you in the future.” Chen Ge was not just joking—he never joked with his words. “It will be a harsh journey to evolve into a Red Specter, but becoming a Half Red Specter is still easy enough.”

The patient was dumbfounded. He was honestly enjoying himself when he scared the visitors earlier. The group of ghosts had chased the two for almost ten minutes. It was not until the two men fainted that they realized that perhaps they had crossed the line...

The image of that scary man flashed through their minds, and many patients dispersed in a hurry. Only this most honest man had stayed behind. Actually, he felt rather guilty about the whole thing. He had tried his best to satisfy the visitor's request, but in the end, he had realized that he was being toyed with. That had caused the ghosts of the entire hospital to go on a rampage. Now that the visitors had fainted, he felt like he was the main culprit, so he had stayed behind to accept the punishment.

He was ready to be punished, but to his surprise, Chen Ge not only did not blame him, he even promised to help him evolve into a Half Red Specter. This kind of change in emotion aroused a strange and indescribable feeling in his heart that was consumed by resentment.

“Alright, stop standing there dumbly. Please go and get the trolley from the underground morgue and transfer them out of the scenario.”

The patient drifted away in a haze of joy. Meanwhile, Chen Ge squatted down next to Lee Jiu and Yellow Wolf and started his inspection. “Lee Jiu has make-up on his face. Why would a visitor like him come to my Haunted House and pretend to be a ghost? Is he trying to scare my workers?”

“Yellow Wolf came to my Haunted House and started a livestream. He planned to expose the design of my Haunted House before tens of thousands of people. Lee Jiu came to my Haunted House to masquerade himself as an employee to wreak havoc. These two have a clear separation of responsibility—this was definitely planned.” Chen Ge found a small make-up bag in Lee Jiu’s pocket, and inside it was an access card for the futuristic theme park. Currently, futuristic theme park was still not open to the public, and the internal attractions were kept under wraps. To gain access, one needed an access card.

“As I suspected, they are related to the futuristic theme park.” Chen Ge replaced everything that he had found. He did not confiscate anything. “The futuristic theme park is opening soon, so there is no more time to waste. I need to release the four-star mission to the public before they open for business!”

Standing up, Chen Ge dragged the hammer and left Li Wan Private Hospital.

...

At the second-floor basement of Li Wan Residence, Shinozaki and his female assistant were focused on undoing the tape in the room. This was the mission given to them by Wei Jinyuan. However, to their consternation, several minutes ago, Wei Jinyuan’s bone-chilling yell for mercy had come from a deeper part of the building.

Neither of them had been that courageous to begin with, and Wei Jinyuan’s scream only caused their already unsteady hearts to race even faster.

“Do you think we should go downstairs to take a look?” Xiao Xia asked out of politeness even though her desire not to do so was plainly written on her face.

“Let him be, we should leave this to the professional. After all, Wei Jinyuan did say that he works at a Haunted House, so I believe that he has the capability to handle everything on his own.” Shinozaki coughed awkwardly. When he saw the handprints on the back of Wei Jinyuan’s neck earlier, he had known that something like this was bound to happen.

“Then, what should we do now?” Xiao Xia asked a very key question. Even though Wei Jinyuan did not appear like he had a fully functioning brain, at least they had felt a sense of security when they were with him. Now that Wei Jinyuan had been ‘attacked’, the two were left to deal with the monsters and ghosts on their own.

“We can’t panic.” Shinozaki thought about it and came up with a good idea. “We should wait here. Wei Jinyuan has a partner inside the adjacent building. He will come over here after hearing the man’s scream. We will just follow him.”

“Okay.” Xiao Xia glanced at the door that was left ajar. Beyond that was the darkened corridor. “Should I go close the door?”

“Hmm. We will pretend like there is no one in this room, and we’ll observe the situation outside through the peephole.

“But we have already taken down the tape on the door, haven’t we?”

“Now is not the time to mind such details.”

The two closed the door, stayed guard beside it. Shinozaki leaned against the door and looked out through the peephole. All he saw was darkness—there was nothing that he could glean. Xia Xiao leaned against the wall. Cold sweat kept flowing down her face. For some reason, she was feeling incredibly panicky like there was a third individual in the room with them.

“Sir, why do you think all the furniture was covered with tape?”

“I have no clue,” Shinozaki answered absent-mindedly. He adjusted his posture, trying to figure out the best position to get the best view through the peephole.

“Is the tape to prevent the objects from cracking open? Is it possible that the furniture knew how to move on its own? All the gaps were taped shut. Do you think it’s because the drawers can suddenly open on their own? The house owner taped up all the gaps to prevent that from happening?” Xia Xiao still had not realized how scary the situation that she was describing was.

“Open on their own? Why would the drawers open on their own?” Shinozaki turned around to look at Xia Xiao.

“Perhaps there were things hidden inside the furniture, or maybe there are entities that human can’t see that will go through the furniture.”

“Entities that are invisible?” Shinozaki’s face paled slightly, but he tried his best to maintain his calmness. “In any case, that is a wonderful idea to put in my comic. Not bad, we’ve been here for only several minutes, but we have come across two wonderful ideas already.”

“Sir, I think we should leave. This place gives me the creeps.” Xia Xiao looked around nervously, and she realized that the DVD player in the living room, which had previously been off, had been switched on.

“Isn’t that a good thing? The creepier, the better! I want those people who say I only know how to draw one kind of comic to see that a real artist is able to master any genre!” Shinozaki had a bad temper, and there was some truth behind that criticism because he only had those few comics in the same genre to show. The more that he thought about it, the more angered he became.

“When we entered this place, was the DVD player on?” Xia Xiao did not pay attention to what Shinozaki said. She studied the player curiously, and while she was watching the machine, the signal light of the television in the living room came on as well.

“Quick, look!” Xia Xiao gasped in shock. “Sir! We seem to have triggered something!”

“Don’t panic.” Shinozaki signaled for Xia Xiao to calm down. The two of them walked slowly to the television.

“Someone was probably remote-controlling it. I encountered this at a Japanese Haunted House. This is not good. That scary Haunted House boss is coming to get us soon!” Shinozaki inspected the television. Perhaps he had touched some button because the television screen suddenly lit up.

The cold light fell on the two’s faces, and they turned to the television screen in unison. The video quality of the old television was not that good, but the two managed to immediately identify that the video on the television was showing the living room that they were in.

Everything was the same; it felt like someone had placed a camera on top of the television to record everything that happened in the living room.

“A surveillance video? But why would someone install a video inside their own home?” Shinozaki and Xiao Xia stared at the screen, too afraid to even move a muscle. Ten seconds had passed, and the two realized that the television screen was still showing the same image. The video appeared still because nothing had changed.

“Since the surveillance is taken of their own home, it seems that something strange must have happened here, and the homeowner wanted to find out the truth.” Shinozaki pulled open the drawer at the bottom of the television cabinet. There was a collection of discs without labels inside. They seemed to have been recorded by the home owner himself. “The clue to escape might be hidden among these discs.”

Shinozaki focused on searching for clues inside the drawer while Xiao Xia kept her eyes on the television screen. She had this feeling that something was moving in the supposedly still image.

“Is that a bug?” Xiao Xia walked a few steps forward and leaned her face as close to the screen as possible. She studied the door of the bathroom in the video. The door had been left half open, and right next to the doorframe, a few strands of black hair could be seen.

“That looks like hair.” When the television was first switched on, there had been nothing near the bathroom, so the few strands of hair were a new addition. Xiao Xia’s mind was filled with confusion. She was about to get Shinozaki to take a look when the strands of hair in the video started to wiggle on their own.

“The hairs are moving?” The quality of the video was so bad that she had to lean close to take an affirmative look. However, just as she leaned toward the screen, a woman’s face poked out from inside the bathroom!

“Ah!” Xiao Xia screamed, and she was scared until she bounced back and collapsed on the sofa. “Ghost! Sir! In the television! She’s inside the television!”

The room was not that big, and it was so quiet. Once Xiao Xia’s scream shattered the quietness, even Shinozaki was given quite a scare. He put the discs that he was holding down and lifted his head to look at the screen. Inside the television, a woman’s face could be seen reaching out from inside the bathroom.

It was quite a pretty face, and the thing that caused Shinozaki fear was that no matter how far he had moved away from the screen, it felt like the face was still staring right at him!

“It’s fine, don’t be so easily scared. This is merely a common trick in Haunted Houses.” However, Shinozaki’s rambling belied the fear he was feeling. He wanted to switch the television off, but he failed to find the power button.

“Sir, I think we should go now, and we will return once we have more people with us.” Xiao Xia’s face was pale from the scare. Just that once, and it was enough to take the fight out of her. She felt like the energy had left her body, and she could barely get her legs to move. “This is too scary. Sir, you can stay to finish the tour on your own if you prefer, but I will surrender now.”

As she tried to stand up, Xiao Xia held the armrest for support, but as she turned around, she saw it. Just about three meters away from her, a woman’s face was reaching out from inside the bathroom, a perfect replica of the image that she had seen in the video!

“I think I’m suffering from hallucinations from all these scares.” Xiao Xia turned to look at the television. The video was still frozen at the image where the female human was poking out from the toilet. “Yes, this is what it showed on the television.”

She turned her head around, and a woman materialized before her. She had a pretty face and a body that was covered in cuts. A copious amount of blood bled from the open wounds.

Her face was contorted in fear. As Xiao Xia lost her consciousness and tipped backward, she used her last vestige of strength to scream, “Ghost! There’s a ghost!”

Shinozaki was still researching why the woman’s eyes in the videos were able to follow his every movement. He believed that the boss had replicated the technique used by Da Vinci when he painted Mona Lisa. But before he settled on a reason, he heard the scream from Xiao Xia. When he turned around, he was also petrified by fear.

They had checked the room several times already—it was definitely empty. However, now, a woman covered with blood and open wounds had appeared before them!

This was not a mere scare but a direct shock to the heart!

The warning from Xiao Xia meant that Shinozaki was somewhat prepared. Even though he was shaking like a leaf, he did not lose control over his body just yet. The woman blocked the door out of the living room, and Shinozaki grabbed Xiao Xia and raced into the bedroom.

**BANG!**

The door slammed shut. Shinozaki’s heart was racing madly, and he started to consider the possibility of calling the police.

“What do I do? What do I do now?” Shinozaki was so scared that he had forgotten that he was inside a Haunted House. Thankfully, the realization came to him moments later. “Right, I am inside a Haunted House!”

He leaned against the door and started to yell out the door loudly. “We surrender! We don’t want to continue this tour anymore! Please leave! Please go and leave us alone!”

There was no response from outside the door; there was no sound of footsteps either. Shinozaki supported Xiao Xia, and neither one of them dared to open the door.

“How about... we just stay in here until the boss comes to get us?”

After experiencing that, Shinozaki was not going to put up a front anymore. This Haunted House had a comprehensive understanding of the human psyche. Other Haunted Houses would relax their visitors first and arrange the scares at places where the visitors least expected it. But this Haunted House was different. They would scare the visitors head-on until their souls left their bodies. After their guard was completely destroyed, the next scare would come at them from a different angle, continuously scaring them with endless horror.

“In the future, I will definitely invite those other comic artists who look down on me to come here.” There was no noise coming from outside the door, and Shinozaki did not know what to do next. “The woman has blocked the door to prevent us from leaving. There has to be a reason it is designed like this. Could it be that there is a clue to leave this place hidden inside this bedroom?”

Leaving the guard post at the door to Xiao Xia, Shinozaki started to explore the room. He noticed something strange immediately. The table inside the bedroom had a few unique pens placed on it.

“Graphite pen, ballpoint pen, and marker pen?” Shinozaki recognized them easily. “The graphite pen is used for the outline of a character, the ballpoint pen is for the details like patterns on the shirt and eyelashes, while the marker pen is for the bigger shading. These are all necessary pens for drawing comics! Could it be that the owner of this house is a comic artist?”

A visit at the Haunted House might have led him to get to know a new colleague, that was something that Shinozaki did not expect. He walked to the table and flipped through the manuscript on the table.

Initially, he was just flipping through it out of curiosity, but he was soon drawn into it.

“I’ve never seen this kind of art style before. One glance at it, and it’ll send chill down your spine. It has to be a genius who drew this comic! Is he going to spearhead a new movement in the comic industry?”

### **Chapter 695: Congratulations, My Friend**

Both of Shinozaki’s eyes were glowing like he had stumbled upon a treasure. “This work has broken beyond the limitations of the current industry, and it possesses its own unique style. Isn’t this what I’ve been striving for?”

He studied the manuscripts on the table, but just flipping through them caused his body to shake. These were simple characters, but they seemed to come alive with the artist’s hand. He seemed to be able to draw out the complications of the human heart with his pen. There was no gory scene and no disgusting monsters; he merely drew the image of human beings in his eyes, and it caused Shinozaki’s spine to tingle with apprehension.

“This is a complete inversion of the current style; it feels like the artist has taken the perspective of a ghost to analyze the situation of man.” Shinozaki had been in the business for more than a decade, and he was a recognized voice of seniority. In recent years, he had been trying to change his style. He had visited many other famed artists, but none of them had made as big an impact on him as the art before him.

“I need to find the artist! I have to meet the comic artist that is staying inside this Haunted House!”

Shinozaki was true professional. He realized the value of the manuscript with just a glance. He wished to learn, and it would be wrong to say that the thought of claiming this manuscript as his own did not cross his mind. However, he quickly banished the evil thought. A comic artist who purposely resided inside a Haunted House to do his work should be respected; this was a true artist.

Fear and excitement filled his heart, and even Shinozaki did not know what kind of situation he was in. He looked through the whole manuscript and provided his professional opinion, and he certainly had a very high opinion of it.

“Unfortunately, there are only a few manuscripts here. I wish to know what happens next.” Shinozaki was already a fan. He mumbled to himself. When he finished, the lowest drawer of the table slid open a tad. The color of this drawer was different from the table that it was attached to. In fact, upon closer examination, Shinozaki realized that it had a different shape from the other drawers. It felt like it was forcibly stuffed there.

“What a strange drawer.” It felt like something was guiding his hand as Shinozaki reached out to pull the drawer open. Inside was a whole stack of manuscripts and a homemade comic.

“There’re so much! How long has he worked inside this place?” Shinozaki sat down on the floor, and the more he read, the more baffled he became. “Each of the panel is of the highest quality. Just how self-critical does one have to be to achieve a standard like this? But how come I’ve not heard of such a master in the industry before? When did the artist join the industry?”

He sped through the manuscripts. He desperately wished to take all the manuscripts with him so that he could study them slowly at home.

“Sir, it’s quiet outside now. Shall we go out to take a look?” Xiao Xia, who was recovering, noticed how out of it Shinozaki was when she woke up.

“Let’s wait, there’s no need to rush. When the time’s up, the boss will come get us. What’s that idiom again? Yes, lie in wait!”

Shinozaki scanned through the pages quickly. He wanted to find out how many stories were written in the manuscripts. “When we leave this place, I need to contact the boss! If I cannot meet the artist in person, I will pay as much as he demands to obtain all of these manuscripts!”

Without knowing it, Shinozaki had reached the end of the drawer, and he picked up the last page. The paper was yellowed, a sign that it was something old. However, the drawing on it was fresh, like the page had just been drawn!

“How did he manage to do this?” Shinozaki looked at the page dumbly. He was the character being painted on that page!

A realistic character coupled with a strange style and the perspective chosen by the artist was curious. It felt like he was hiding inside the drawer while drawing the page. Shinozaki glanced subconsciously at the drawer that he had pulled open, and there was a pale face inside looking at him with eyes shining with anticipation.

“So, this is how...” His eyes rolled upward, and Shinozaki collapsed to the ground.

Not knowing what had really happened, Xiao Xia left the post by the door and rushed to Shinozaki. “Sir, wake up! What happened to you?”

When there were two, at least they had each other’s support. Now that she had been left alone, that stubborn horror grew exponentially in her heart. On the verge of collapse, Xiao Xia did not know what to do. She took out her phone to call the emergency number. However, when she unlocked the screen, her phone was grabbed by another hand.

She turned and saw that the room door was half open, and there were three people standing behind her!

The man on the left had a blanched face, the man on the right had his chest dyed red, and one of his hands had the wrist chopped off. Xiao Xia had seen the woman in the middle before—she was the ghost that had escaped from the bathroom earlier!

“Don’t be afraid, we are...” The middle-aged man with the pale face started to speak, and Xiao Xia collapsed to the ground next to Shinozaki. For visitors who were visiting Chen Ge’s Haunted House for the first time, a 3.5-star scenario was too difficult.

“I didn’t plan to scare her.” Ol’ Zhou looked at Duan Yue and Bai Qiulin awkwardly. The other two were feeling quite helpless as well.

“Actually, this is not our fault. This is Danian’s fault for showing himself, and that caused the man to faint.” Bai Qiulin helped placed Xiao Xia and Shinozaki in a comfortable position, and the ease that he showed proved that he was used to doing this.

“I agree with you. The main responsibility falls on Danian.” Duan Yue nodded.

Hearing the three’s conversation, Yan Danian crawled out from the drawer. He wanted to defend himself, but he did not know what to say. In the end, he crawled down in the corner and mumbled, “It was so hard to find an artist that approves of my work, and I just had to scare him until he fainted.”

Seeing how self-deprecating Yan Danian was acting, Bai Qiulin, Ol’ Zhou, and Duan Yue shared a laugh. The three of them walked to Yan Danian’s side and helped the saddened comic artist up off the ground.

“Danian, congratulations. You have finally found the professional approval that you seek.” Ol’ Zhou pulled Ya Danian into a light hug, and he sighed with sincerity.

“I knew that my years of helping you check your manuscript wouldn’t go to waste. I know you will reach success eventually.” Duan Yue nudged Yan Danian’s shoulders.

“But the most important thing is, do not forget about us when you’re rich and famous!” Bai Qiulin, who normally was so reticent and aloof, had a face full of smiles at that moment.

The four of them had shared the same room, and they had walked the last leg of their life essentially together. They did not curse the world or become corrupted by hatred after death; instead, they chose to help and support each other.

Yan Danian was not much of a speaker. He did not know how to express his feelings, and he could only nod in constant succession.

“There’s no need for words, we understand.”

“Danian, you’d better get back to your drawing. Leave these two to us.”

“We need to get them to the underground morgue soon. If we’re late, we might cause them trouble.”

After Ya Danian returned to the comic, and the three shared a look.

“Danian doesn’t need the protection of us three anymore.”

“That’s right, I wonder if the three of us will disappear once Danian’s wish is fulfilled. After all, we’d have no reason to stay anymore.” Ol’ Zhou discussed the issue with Bai Qiulin.

“Why worry about that now? Come and help me!” Duan Yue dragged Shinozaki out of the room. “I overheard the girl say that this man is a famous hentai artist. He seems to be a well-respected figure in that genre. Do either of you know what hentai is?”

#### **Chapter 696: Do You Think I Will Believe You?**

“No idea, it’s my first time hearing that term as well.” Bai Qiulin turned to Ol’ Zhou. “Ol’ Zhou, you are the most knowledgeable among us, do you know what hentai is?”

Ol’ Zhou shook his head and held his chin while he contemplated. “Perhaps it’s a new comic genre. When there’s a chance, we can ask the boss about it.”

“That’s not a bad idea. When Boss Chen finds out that Danian’s work has been approved by a master, he will be overjoyed.” Duan Yue dragged Shinozaki out of the room. Ol’ Zhou and Bai Qiulin carried Xiao Xia, and the group soon departed from the residential area. A few minutes after they left, the sound of footsteps echoed down the corridor.

“Jinyuan? Wei Jinyuan?” A sharp voice came from the door. The door was pushed open, and Lee Changyin peered into the living room. “The tape on the door has been torn off, so they must have been here.”

Lee Changyin had been exploring the adjacent building. After he reached the third-floor basement, he had realized that all the buildings were connected, forming a giant underground maze.

What they had seen earlier was merely the tip of the iceberg; the real horror was buried underground. A normal Haunted House tour would grant entry to five people at most, and the exploration would be limited to twenty minutes. A tour like Chen Ge’s, which allowed ten people and had a time limit of forty minutes, was extremely rare.

Lee Changyin did not understand it until he saw the underground scenario. This place was so big that it would have been fine if twenty visitors entered at the same time.

When Wei Jinyuan screamed for mercy, Lee Changyin had ventured deep underground. When he heard the scream, he had hurried toward the sound, but unfortunately, he had been one step too late.

Walking down the corridors that looked like perfect replicas of one another, he feared that he might get lost. In the end, he had decided to retrace his steps, to investigate the reason behind Wei Jinyuan's 'accident'.

"This room is empty as well. I've been here for twenty minutes already, and I have not encountered anything. Is this place even completed yet?"

The scenario was big, so naturally, it required a large number of actors to fill up the space. Lee Changyin had thought that he was unlucky because he had not run into any actors.

"I can't even find someone to ask." Lee Changyin walked down the corridor with a drawn face. "I can't keep wandering like this. Looks like I'll have to go search for the actors myself."

Since he was born, the man had rarely felt fear. When he was young, his parents had taken him to visit a doctor, and after an examination, the doctor had discovered that his brain was different from normal.

The side of the frontal lobe was very active, but the limbic cortex and prefrontal lobe were underdeveloped. Even though he had the appearance of a normal person, his way of thinking and worldview were different from most.

He tried his best to mimic a normal person, but whenever his attention slipped, his true self would emerge. He had attempted many different jobs in the past, but he was always fired due to a myriad of reasons. That was until he joined Xin Hai Nightmare Academy.

Hiding inside the dark and eerie Haunted House, he could finally shed the disguise and assume his real identity.

Scratching his neck, Lee Changyin walked out from the residential area. He scanned his surroundings expressionlessly. "The boss gave us four clues, but I have lost contact with the other visitors, so how can I find the clues? What exactly happened to them when I was off exploring on my own?"

"Wei Jinyuan isn't a coward, and he's spent his days working at a Haunted House. It is extremely abnormal to have him scared like that. Could the rumors about this Haunted House be real?"

Lee Changyin frowned, and in his focus, he did not notice the bush by the residential area swaying.

Nor did he notice the man wearing a trench coat holding a pair of scissors trailing him.

...

The signboard hanging above the hotel entrance lit up and showed the name of the hotel. Cold drafts picked up constantly on the quiet street. The lights flickered, stretching Zhang Jingjiu's shadow longer than it should be.

"How does one act like a hotel owner?"

He wore the costume that Chen Ge had pulled out from the Specter's changing room. He sat by the wooden table, held his chin, and tried to think.

“Since I’ve decided to work here, I should try my best to impress. Scissors is naturally talented, or I should say, he has been training for a long time for this job. To achieve his level of professionalism, I have a lot more to learn.”

Zhang Jingjiu glanced left and right. After ensuring that there were no visitors around, he sneakily took out his phone and went online to search for guides to become a qualified actor. He was absorbed in his study when footsteps came from the street. A man and a woman were running down the junction with panicked expressions.

“There’s a light! Follow the boss’ orders! We need to go to the light!” The man was somewhat calm. He dragged his female partner as they rushed to the hotel entrance. They were running like they were participants in a one-hundred-meter sprint. They collapsed to the ground once they reached the entrance.

“Stop, I can’t run anymore.” The girl waved her hands about. The man had reached his limit as well. He coughed and sucked in the air hungrily as his heart skipped.

“I have some visitors!” Zhang Jingjiu arranged his outfit. This was his first time greeting visitors inside the Haunted House, so he was a bit nervous. Putting away his phone, he walked to the door and greeted them. “Do you... need help?”

Zhang Jingjiu was not supposed to say that, but he felt so sorry for the two visitors, and he could not help himself from wanting to extend a hand.

Hearing the strange voice coming from behind them, the man jumped up from the ground and staggered back several steps before he stopped. Seeing the man’s reaction like a mouse running into a cat, Zhang Jingjiu shook his head with a smile. Just how much despair had the man been through to make him react in such a manner due to a simple greeting.

“Don’t get any closer! He’s an employee here!” The young man acted like he was in a war. The woman next to him quickly stood up as well and sidled next to the man.

“I am an employee here, but I am different from others.” Zhang Jingjiu did not know how to explain himself. “Why don’t you come in to rest first? There are water bottles inside the hotel.”

“Do you think I will believe an obvious trap like that?” The man retreated some more until his back was almost pressed against the wall of the ‘dog house’ across the street.

“Can you not understand simple English? I am a new employee. The boss didn’t assign me any tasks to scare the visitors. The sub-scenario that I’m responsible for is a pitstop for the visitors to rest in.” Zhang Jingjiu waved his hand at them. “Boss is worried that you visitors might not stand the pressure in such a tense setting, so he purposely came up with a place for you to rest.”

Zhang Jingjiu was not lying; he just did not know the true purpose of the hotel that he had been tasked with supervising.

In reality, Li Wan Hotel was a very special place. In the real Li Wan City, the hotel was both the most dangerous place and the safest place.

It was the same inside Chen Ge's Haunted House. When the owner was Zhang Jingjiu, it would be the safest place in the small town, but when the role was taken over by Chen Ge, the hotel would take on a different atmosphere.

## **Chapter 697: Wind Chime**

Zhang Jingjiu was the most kind-hearted and innocent actor at the Haunted House. Actually, it did cross his mind to scare the visitors like his colleagues. He thought back to his memory of the real hotel boss and the crazy little games that he had come up with.

However, this was his first day at work, and he was still not mentally prepared. When he saw the sorry state that the visitors were in, he could not bring himself to harm them anymore.

"Come in, this will be your shelter." Zhang Jingjiu thought that since he was unable to scare the visitors, he had to at least let them feel his sincerity. That was the most basic requirement for someone in the service business.

The woman hesitated, but the man was already preparing to leave.

"Don't go over there!" With each of Zhang Jingjiu's words, the male student took one step backward.

"I really don't have an ulterior motive. I just thought that you might need a place to rest." Zhang Jingjiu sincerely wanted to do them a favor. Why was it so difficult?

"Wang Dan, shall we trust him?" the girl whispered into the man's ear.

"Haven't learned from the lesson before? All the employees are either wolves in sheep's clothing or demons wearing human skin! How can you be naïve enough to think to trust any of them?" The male student dragged his tired body to run into the 'dog house' opposite from the hotel.

When the girl noticed her partner retreating, she made to follow.

Seeing the two visitors voluntarily enter the 'dog house', the smile on Zhang Jingjiu's face was hard to describe. He did not know whether to laugh or cry. "I'm a wolf in sheep skin or demon wearing human skin, huh? Looks like I have seriously lowered the overall professionalism of the workers here."

...

"Wang Dan, I really cannot run anymore, let's rest for a moment." Wang Dan's girlfriend leaned against the wall to rest. As breaths came more evenly, she realized for the first time how tiring a Haunted House visit could be.

"Now is still not the time to rest; this house gives me the creeps." Wang Dan's instincts were now incredibly sharp after many visits to Chen Ge's Haunted House. He scanned the yard before his eyes landed on the wooden doghouse.

"We didn't come across any pet-related objects at the other places, so there must be some scares hidden here." Wang Dan felt like there was a ball of fire burning in his chest, but he did not dare slow down. There was nowhere in the scenario that was safe. Stopping would only mean being captured.

He slowed his breathing, leaned against the wall, and looked outside.

The hotel opposite was still bright with lights, but the worker did not wander away from his earlier spot; he was probably still waiting for them to return. The streets were dark, and he swore that he could see shadows flitting through it. For a moment, he believed that he saw someone waving at them from across the street.

The hotel was not safe, the streets were not safe, and now they had reached the limit of their physique; they could not run anymore.

“How about we just surrender?” Wang Dan’s girlfriend suggested. Tears were rolling in her eyes, and her make-up was already ruined.

“I’ve visited this place many times, but not once have I managed to walk out on my own two feet. The time for the tour is almost up, so it’ll be too much of a waste if we give up now.” Considering how tired his girlfriend was, Wang Dan decided to temporarily hide inside that building. “We hid inside many empty buildings earlier, and nothing happened. Hopefully, it is merely my imagination that this place is different from others.”

Closing the gate of the yard, Wang Dan and his girlfriend entered the ‘dog house’. The door creaked open, and the wind chime that hung above the door tingled, as if informing the owner that he had a guest.

“It’s quite artistic to hang a wind chime above the entrance.” Wang Dan looked inside the room. The place had Japanese-style décor. A corridor in the middle split the space in two. Half-opened doors led to rooms on either side. The floor was laid with tiles, and several slippers were placed at the entrance.

“Wang Dan, do you smell that? It smells like air-freshener.” Wang Dan’s girlfriend pulled on his shirt as she shuffled carefully forward. “Other Haunted Houses purposely create horrible smells to accentuate the horror, but this place invested in so many air fresheners, as if afraid that the stench might disgust the visitors.”

“Wait a minute!” Wang Dan suddenly stopped. He whipped his head around to look at his girlfriend.

“What did you just say?”

“This house smells heavily of air fresheners...”

“I told you there is a problem with this place! We need to retreat; we’re going somewhere else to hide.” Wang Dan had just stepped into the room. They had not even moved onto the corridor, and he was already prepared to leave.

“What’s the problem with air fresheners?” Wang Dan’s girlfriend still had not grasped the connection.

“This smell is absent at other houses, it’s only limited to this place, and the smell is very intense. It can only mean that the person intended to use the scent to cover up the original smell in this place!” Cold sweat was sliding down Wang Dan’s forehead. “Last month, during an open lecture by forensic officer Liu, for one of the cases, after the suspect dismembered the body, he hid the body parts in different rooms of his house, and he would smuggle a small part out every day. Afraid that the smell might betray his secret, he purchased a large number of air fresheners to cover up the decay. When the law

enforcement discovered the body parts, Doctor Liu discovered the traces of air freshener left on the body parts, and that was how they traced the case back to the killer.”

Wang Dan did not imagine the knowledge that he had learned in class would ever be applied during a Haunted House visit. If he was studying for another course, it would have been fine, but he was studying forensic science.

“You mean the smell of the air fresheners is to cover up the smell of a dead body?” Wang Dan’s girlfriend started to panic as well. Then again, who would be calm when they came across a murder case while in the middle of a Haunted House visit?

“It is not necessarily to cover up the smell of decay; it could easily be another smell.” Wang Dan was no longer the reckless and explosive teen. The experience inside Chen Ge’s Haunted House had made him a stand-up young man.

Pulling the door open, the wind chime jingled sharply once more. Initially, Wang Dan did not think much of it, but just as the silvery tingle faded away, a very weak male voice said, “Save me, bring me with you.”

Standing at the door, Wang Dan turned back to look. There was no one in the dark corridor.

“Did you hear the voice of a man calling for help?” Wang Dan turned to ask his girlfriend, and she shook her head.

“Is it because I’m too nervous that I’ve started to hear things?” He pulled the door closed.

When the door touched the wind chime, the man’s voice reappeared. “Please do not leave me here! Save me!”

This time, Wang Dan was certain of the voice that he heard. He lifted his head and tried to see where the sound came from.

“The wind chime?” The man’s voice seemed to come from inside the wind chime. Wang Dan opened the door again, and he reached out to grab the wind chime. He shook it lightly, and on the inside wall of the wind chime, a man’s face started to surface.

### **Chapter 698: I’m Not Going to Be Led Astray**

Weak, frightened, cowardly, and the pitiable, the man who hid inside the wind chime was like a small animal who had been tortured by his owner. Wang Dan could not explain the emotions that surged through him. When he saw the face in the wind chime, his first reaction was not fear but pity for the man.

“Things shouldn’t be that simple.” Wang Dan held the wind chime in his hands, and after a moment’s contemplation, his eyes slowly widened. “Is it trying to take advantage of our sense of pity? Damn, I almost fell for it!”

He reached his finger into the wind chime and poked the man’s face. His fingertip phased through the face. “I knew it, this is just a projection.”

“Save me! Do not abandon me! Please bring me with you! I beg you! I beg you!” The man’s pleas entered Wang Dan’s ears. Wang Dan shook the wind chime and studied it closely. “I cannot tell at all where the voice came from. This wind chime is surprisingly high tech.”

“Stop shaking! Stop shaking! You’re going to alert the big dog!”

“Big dog?” The sound of footsteps came from the stairs that led to the basement. A different stench permeated the air. Even the profuse number of air fresheners was unable to cover up this smell.

“Run! Bring me with you! The dog is coming!” The man’s face paled drastically, and he was so scared that his face was unrecognizable. Wang Dan had not been that scared in the beginning, but influenced by the man in the wind chime, his heart started to shake.

“Of all the buildings here, this is the only building with a doghouse, so this place should be related to a dog. Could there really be an angry dog kept here?” Animals were different from human actors. They could not be easily controlled when they went on a rampage. Wang Dan believed that even Chen Ge would not have reared a large dog inside the Haunted House. “The dog probably means something else.”

Before Wang Dan understood the meaning, the stench hit his nose. The shadow of a man appeared at the end of the corridor. He was medium-sized, and his face was shrouded in shadows. The smell seemed to originate from him.

“Run! Run for your life!” the man screamed.

“That’s the dog?” Lights streamed into the room from the open window. Wang Dan got a close look of the man’s face. He looked similar to the man in the wind chime. “Even the appearance is similar; this has to be a trap. One to build up the atmosphere and the other waiting for the opportunity to strike. They cooperate from both ends, pushing the visitors into a desperate situation!”

Wang Dan tried to analyze the scenario. He felt like he had understood the common ploy used by Chen Ge’s Haunted House.

“What are you talking about? I just want to leave! I need to leave this place!”

“This man before us is probably not alive; it’s more like to be some kind of mannequin. In other words, the real horror is not that ‘dog’; its presence is merely to create some kind of pressure. If I really follow the order of the man inside the wind chime, I’m afraid we will only slowly walk into the boss’ trap!”

Wang Dan’s explanation baffled the man inside the wind chime. He had placed his hope in the visitor, but the man seemed to have completely altered the meaning of his words.

“I...”

“I am not the person that I once was. I shan’t be so easily tricked. This time, I shall walk out on my own two feet!” Without wasting time to hesitate, Wang Dan yanked the wind chime down from the wall and turned to run.

When he moved, the mannequin in the corridor fell to the ground with his limbs. Like a hungry dog, it charged at Wang Dan!

If he did not leave the room earlier but chose to explore deeper into it, it would have been over already. Wang Dan and his girlfriend rushed ahead while the half-dog half-man mannequin chased after them. It weaved through the darkness and lurched out from the house. The monster did not seem to be limited by the scenario; it could move through the entire small town freely!

“It’s coming after us!” The fearful male voice entered Wang Dan’s ear.

“It can move out from its sub-scenario?” Wang Dan was surprised. He and his girlfriend were exhausted; they could barely run any longer. Seeing as the distance behind them had closed, Wang Dan and his girlfriend found a random building and crawled into it.

BANG!

The door was slammed into heavily. The half-dog half-man monster seemed hellbent on capturing them.

“Wang Dan, what should we do now?” Wang Dan looked at the monster going berserk outside the door, and he was afraid, but he did not let it show on his face. He forced himself to appear calm as he said, “It is as I thought—the wind chime and the mannequin are working together! The only reason it is chasing after us is because of the wind chime’s command!”

“I’m commanding it?”

Wang Dan did not give the wind chime the chance to explain itself. He raised the wind chime and tossed it in the direction opposite from the way he was running!

“Wait! Wait a minute!” In the air, the wind chime screamed for mercy, but no one cared about him anymore. The monster’s eyes were trailing the wind chime, and it did not show any interest in Wang Dan at all.

It ran in the direction opposite from Wang Dan. It bit the wind chime in its jaw. To prevent the wind chime from escaping again, the monster did not replace the wind chime but hung it around his neck.

Seeing that the monster had stopped chasing them, Wang Dan was quite excited. For the first time, he had managed to use his intelligence and bravery to obtain a victory in Chen Ge’s Haunted House.

“Boss Chen’s Haunted House is beatable. With courage and attention to detail, there is a chance to clear it.” Wang Dan suddenly gained a lot of self-confidence. He glanced at the time, thinking that perhaps this visit might be his personal breakthrough.

“The monster finally left.” Wang Dan’s girlfriend had her hand on her chest. “How about we surrender now? If we stay any longer, who knows what else will happen?”

“No way, there’s only ten or so minutes left. We need to survive until the end!” Wang Dan and his girlfriend conversed in the living room, but the door to the bedroom creaked open on its own. The sound of a music box drifted out, and a girl’s mumbling could be heard lacing through the music.

“Mother and Father have entered the basement. After Father came out, he locked the door. He carried a black bag with him. He touched my head and said, ‘Disobedient children will be taken away by the ghosts.’

“I lay in bed, thinking back to what mother said.

“Before going to bed, I need to pull up the cover; before going to bed, I have to close the window; before going to bed, I need to check the armoire; before going to bed, remember to check the space under the bed... if I’m sleeping alone.

“Father left home carrying the bag, leaving me behind.

“I looked under the cover, out the window, inside the armoire, under the bed, but I cannot find mother.”

The strange melody coupled with the girl’s innocent voice created an eerie feeling. This new sound appeared so suddenly that both Wang Dan and his girlfriend closed their mouths instantly as they turned to look at the bedroom in unison.

The music box was still playing, and a new female voice appeared.

“Red eyes are watching you. You can’t see me, but I can see you.

“I move with your gaze. I hide under the bed, inside the armoire, behind the window, before crawling under your covers.

“I lay down behind you and above you, but you still cannot see my red eyes.”

#### **Chapter 699: Me and My Last Determination**

Both the girl and the woman’s voice sounded quite normal, but after combining them with the strange environment and curious lyrics, everything took on a different meaning.

“The first part was sung by the girl. She was looking for her mother, and the latter part was probably sung by the mother. They were in the same room, but the daughter cannot see her mother, and the mother cannot reach out to touch her daughter; this can only mean that one of them must have died and transformed into a ghost.” Wang Dan’s analysis was sharp and to the point. His girlfriend was already shaking.

“This room is not safe either; we should leave.”

“No.” Wang Dan did not choose to leave like before but shook his head determinedly. “Before the voice of the woman and the girl came, did you hear the sound of a music box?”

“Music box?” Wang Dan’s girlfriend was confused. “I think I did, but what does that have to do with us leaving?”

“Of the clues provided by Boss Chen, one of them is about a music box that can play on its own. There is a clue hidden in this room!” Wang Dan’s eyes were shining with determination like a saintly duty had fallen on his shoulders. “Boss Chen gave us four clues, and even though ten of us came in to visit, none of the clues have been found. In fact, all of us have lost contact with one another.

“Of course, a large part of it is because they asked for it themselves, but think about it, we are a group entity. If we choose to give up due to the weakness of our teammates, then in the end, it will be us who are looked down upon!”

Wang Dan released his girlfriend's grasp on his arm, and he took one step toward the bedroom.

"Don't go over there! So what if we're looked down? It's not like that hasn't happened before. We should stop while we still can." Wang Dan's girlfriend tried to persuade him.

"The clue is just beyond this door. Will you choose to be a coward for life or be a hero for a few minutes?" Wang Dan glanced at his phone. "We have less than ten minutes left. I need to do something that I haven't done before."

Gritting his teeth, he pushed open the bedroom door and quickly scanned his surroundings. The windows were closed, and there seemed to be a group of shadows hidden behind the thick curtain. The drawer of the make-up table was left half-open, and the chair was toppled on the ground. The mattress on the single bed was dangling off the edge, blocking one's view of the space under the bed. The bedsheets were rumpled on the mattress, but the shape looked like someone was hiding underneath them.

All the furniture mentioned in the song was present in the bedroom. It lent an air of authenticity to the lyrics.

"The sound seems to come from the armoire." The environment inside the bedroom was strange. Wang Dan's pupils darted about as he slowly moved to the armoire. Holding the edge of the furniture, he was about to yank the door open when a light knock came from behind him.

"Who is it?" His heart almost jumped out of his throat. He turned around and saw that it was only his girlfriend who had moved to the bedroom door. She had accidentally knocked into the door.

"Wang Dan, let's go. Something's not right about this place," Wang Dan's girlfriend urged nervously. She actually was not that attached to Wang Dan; she simply did not have the guts to leave on her own.

"Don't worry, we'll be done soon." Wang Dan took a deep breath to steady his heart, and he pulled the armoire open. A light scent of mildew wafted out. Wang Dan soon discovered the music box sitting on the second layer of the armoire. It looked like an antique, hand-crafted, and should cost quite a bit.

"This looks quite pretty." Wang Dan picked up the music box. "This is one of the clues provided by Boss Chen, but where is the hint to escape?"

The singing of the woman and the girl continued. Wang Dan slowly got used to them, to the extent that he did not realize that the singing was gradually getting closer to him.

"Am I supposed to break it open?" When the song finished playing, the figurines on the box stopped dancing. The box closed on its own to reveal a piece of paper stuck to the back of the lid.

"Found it!" Wang Dan picked up the note excitedly.

"Of the dungeon behind the armoire, the fridge in the corner of the kitchen, and the morgue at the end of the hospital, one of them leads to the exit. One leads to a new life; the other two lead to death. Why not leave everything to fate? (Please replace this note when you've done reading it, or else no one can tell what kind of punishment will befall you)."

Wang Dan was thrilled to have found the clue, but after he read the note, he frowned again. "This is all about luck. If the choice is correct, then everything's fine, but if the choice is wrong, then it's really over."

Wang Dan was familiar with Boss Chen; the correct choice might not really lead to the exit, but the wrong choice would definitely land them in despair.

"Giving up now means wasting all our effort so far. I'll go for it no matter what!" Wang Dan cheered for himself. He replaced the paper note in the music box. However, when his finger touched the lid, the music box that had stopped playing started to turn again.

The lid was forced open, and two figurines twirled on their stage. But strangely enough, there was a new paper note stuck between the two figurines.

"There's a second clue?" Wang Dan reached out to take the paper, but as his arm reached into the armoire, a chill surged through his fingertips.

"What is..." His hand was grabbed by another pale hand. He glanced into the armoire and saw a little girl curled up in the depths of the armoire.

"Disobedient children will be taken away by the ghosts!" The girl's singing suddenly sped up, and she crawled out from the armoire.

"Where did she come from?" Wang Dan flung his hand back and tried to retreat when his body bumped into something. He turned back and made contact with a pair of searing red eyes.

"I move with your gaze. I hide under the bed, inside the armoire, behind the window, before crawling under your covers. I lay down behind you and above you, and now you have finally seen my red eyes!"

The woman's face that was almost completely decayed leaned close to Wang Dan. Wang Dan was so startled that he almost fainted. He bit on his tongue and forced himself to stay awake.

"Get away!" Wang Dan did not dare keep his eyes open. He waved his arms around behind and charged toward where he believed the exit would be. When the woman first showed up, Wang Dan's girlfriend had already started retreating. The couple ran out of the haunted room one after the other.

Perhaps Wang Dan's swinging punches provoked the ghosts because the pair of mother and daughter flew out of the room to chase after them. Without stopping to take a breath, Wang Dan and his girlfriend sprinted down the street for the third time!

"Where are we going now?" Wang Dan's girlfriend screamed into the street.

Wang Dan's tongue was pulsing with pain, and he rambled through his words. "I saw the clue! There are three possible spots for the exit! Follow me!"

Both mentally and physically, he was at his limits, but he was so close to the exit that Wang Dan could taste it. His brain worked on overtime. "An armoire is too common and too hard to find! We haven't even seen a fridge or a kitchen before! So, we can only go to the last option—the morgue at the end of the hospital!"

Retracing their steps, Wang Dan led his girlfriend back to Li Wan Private Hospital.

“A one in three chance! I don’t believe I’ll be that unlucky! I will clear the scenario this time!”

### **Chapter 700: Next Stop Is Not Heaven**

Returning to where it all started, Wang Dan decided to use his last determination to prove everything. “This time, I will succeed!”

He dragged his girlfriend back the way that they had come. Using every ounce of energy that they had left, they ran like their lives depended on it. Zhang Jingjiu sat at the entrance of the hotel, reading an article on his phone on how to be a good actor when he heard the rushing of footsteps. Slowly lifting his head up, he saw Wang Dan and his girlfriend run past him, looking much more haggard than before.

“Looks like they are really enjoying themselves. Screaming and sprinting are the best ways to vent your internal pressure, and perhaps that is the purpose behind a Haunted House’s existence.” Zhang Jingjiu came to his own conclusion. He understood that his job was not as simple as it appeared—it had a second layer of meaning.

Wang Dan and his girlfriend raced back to Li Wan Private Hospital. They charged into the building like this was the last chance that they had. The sickrooms were left half-open, and the patients holding the records discovered these two familiar individuals. They were surprised by Wang Dan’s courage, but with that surprise, more and more patients walked out from the sickrooms.

As they scared the visitors, the ghosts were able to harvest the negative emotions that they needed, but more importantly, it was just fun to scare people.

“Do not turn back! Hesitate, and you will perish!” Racing down the stairs, Wang Dan and his girlfriend dashed to the third-floor basement.

“This should be where the clue meant when it said the end of the hospital.” Wang Dan held his girlfriend as they lurched through the corridors. When they passed a room whose door was painted red, they sensed the footsteps trailing behind them disappear all of a sudden. A hoard of patients had been originally on their tail, but why would they suddenly give up?

“What happened?” Wang Dan was too familiar with the actors. Once a visitor had earned their ire, they would not stop until that visitor had fainted. This was his second time entering the hospital. They would not allow him to leave so easily this time.

“The workers wouldn’t be so charitable. The only reason they stopped chasing after us can only mean that there is something even scarier ahead of us!” Wang Dan knew that perfectly well, but there was only one way forward. The few rooms in the depths of the hospital seemed to be a taboo. It was so quiet that even the background music inside the Haunted House had disappeared.

“Wang Dan...”

“Hush.” Wang Dan was unable to find the door to the morgue; he could feel that something was wrong. When he turned around, he realized that the door to the red room that he had passed earlier had opened on its own.

“Is someone in there?” Wang Dan’s brain was running low on oxygen because he had been running non-stop. He was so lightheaded that he was seeing double.

All the doors so far were white, and only this door was painted red, as if warning the actors and visitors from getting too close. The air around them thinned. Wang Dan desperately wished to find the morgue; he knew that he did not have much time left.

He pushed the many doors open, but he could not find the morgue. A light scent of blood trailed through the air. Wang Dan heard a second sound appearing behind him, the sound of a pair of heels!

The heels stepped on the ground, but every step felt like a stomp on his heart. His body was shivering, and his clothes were wet with sweat. Wang Dan’s girlfriend fared even worse. Her legs were completely useless, and she leaned on Wang Dan, depending on him to drag her forward.

“Just what is hiding inside that room? Even when we were chased by the group of patients earlier, I wasn’t this afraid! My body is shivering involuntarily, and every cell in my body is urging me to run.” The sound of heels came closer. The suffocating pressure closed in, causing Wang Dan and his girlfriend to break under pressure. The two of them finally chose a room to hide inside temporarily.

“This way!” Wang Dan dragged his girlfriend into the sickroom. They held their hands over their mouths, afraid that they might make an accidental peep to attract the thing’s attention. The heels clicked on the ground before stopping right outside their door.

She was just outside!

Wang Dan and his girlfriend’s eyes were filled with terror. They were trapped!

Their hearts pounded. Wang Dan gripped the doorknob tightly and pressed his whole weight against the door. No matter what, he was not going to open the door!

The doorknob was turned by the person outside, but since Wang Dan held the doorknob so tightly and blocked the door with his body, the person was unable to push the door open. After a while, the person outside seemed to have lost their patience. The clicks of high heels echoed down the corridor. The person seemed to have wandered away.

“We’re saved.” Wang Dan was so covered in sweat that it appeared like he had just taken a bath. “We can leave...”

Before he finished, the sound of heels clicking began again. It went through each sickroom before stopping outside Wang Dan’s sickroom for the second time. Wang Dan and his girlfriend’s hearts were held in suspension. No one knew what would happen next; all they could do was wait.

Ten seconds, thirty seconds, one minute...

Two minutes passed, and there was no still sound from outside. After the heels stopped outside their door, there was not a peep again.

“Has the person already left, or is she waiting outside still?” Wang Dan leaned on the ground and peeped through the gap.

A heavy scent of blood hit his nostrils. He saw a pair of bloody red high heels standing outside the door!

The front of the heels were facing the door, and droplets of blood were sliding down the side of the heels. Wang Dan saw a drop of blood trickle down the shoe before landing on the ground.

“That is not a dye! It’s real blood!” Wang Dan had studied forensic science. His eyes widened with disbelief. “These high heels are dyed red using real blood!”

His pupils focused on the high heels, and another drop of blood was sliding. Just as the droplet was about to touch the ground, Wang Dan felt a chill on the back of his neck like the drop of blood did not land on the ground but on the back of his neck.

“It’s leaking?” He turned his head up subconsciously and saw the upper half of a woman’s body reaching into the room through the window in the door. She had been watching them!

The bandage unfurled to reveal a mess of flesh and blood. Curses and resentment held up the body, and the woman in red reached out to grab Wang Dan. The latter’s mind was blank, and his eyes were filled with the woman’s face. Wang Dan’s hand that held the door slowly weakened as his body careened backward.

All the good memories of his life flashed through his mind, and in that instant, Wang Dan swore that he saw a kingdom of paradise.

...

Zhang Jingjiu saw Wang Dan and his girlfriend running away. After sighing, he went back to studying acting. He said some awkward lines at the table that was empty. He was so focused that he did not notice a slender figure hiding at the left side of the entrance.

“There’s a rumor saying that the reason this place is so popular is because all the actors are real ghosts. Today, I think I shall test out that rumor.” Lee Changyin lowered his head, and a dangerous glow escaped from his eyes.