

Horrors 831

Chapter 831: Encounter

The School of the Afterlife had changed; those hiding in the dark had surfaced as if sensing that their chance had arrived.

“Mr. Bai, do you mind if I ask you a question? The woman who left her presence on you, has she told you anything?” Zhou Tu’s face was the color of chalk. He needed to rest with every sentence.

“I do not even know Chang Wenyu; I have no idea how she left her presence on me.” Chen Ge did not wish to continue this conversation and rushed toward the library.

“So, you wish to keep it a secret?” Zhang Ju carried Zhou Tu, whose body was disappearing. He probably would not hold on until they reached the library.

“I can’t control how you think...” Chen Ge ignored him and continued on his way. After taking several steps, he suddenly frowned. He really did not know Chang Wenyu. He was not trying to hide anything from the others, but Zhou Tu made it sound like Chen Ge had a secret to hide. Zhou Tu had been revealing information to Chen Ge. This was his first question, and the question was related to Chang Wenyu. This might have appeared normal to others, and Chen Ge did not mind it that much initially, but the more he thought about it, the stranger he felt.

Coincidence on top of coincidence, forming an accident. Looking at the whole process, it might appear like there’s no problem, but something feels off, Chen Ge thought to himself. There are still many secrets surrounding Zhou Tu, but based on his condition, it doesn’t look like he has the time to touch on those things.

The painter was entity who had harmed Zhou Tu, so if he hated the painter that much, he would try his best to tell them everything about the painter and not waste time asking questions. Perhaps this was really just a coincidence, but Chen Ge could not shake his mind off it. The library was close to the lab. Chen Ge’s group arrived there without any incidents. They followed the trail and reached the entrance.

“I’ve been to this place before; the door is always locked. We’ll need to jump through the window or use the side door if we wish to gain entry. Damn it, I am reminded of that bad memory again.” Zhang Ju had a bad impression of Chang Wenyu. After all, it was Chang Wenyu who had betrayed him and shattered his only hope. With Zhang Ju leading the way, the group easily cracked open the side door and entered the library. The library on the eastern campus looked dated. The building felt more like a decoration. Students and staff rarely visited this place.

“It feels like a lot of time has passed, but nothing has changed here. It feels just like yesterday when she gouged my left eye out.” Zhang Ju walked in front. By now, his jacket was already completely red. “I’ve walked down this path with her before. Technically speaking, she was my first love, and this is where we had our dates.”

With a bitter smile on his face, Zhang Ju’s fingers caressed the bookshelves that they passed. “Why would one pick a library at midnight to have their dates? I should have known it then. She never did like me; she was merely using me.”

“That might not be a hundred percent true. The date’s location doesn’t necessarily mean anything.” Chen Ge walked beside Zhang Ju at the front. “I’ve been in your shoes before. I’ve dated at an abandoned school, a mental asylum, and an underground morgue. Until now, she still loves me deeply.”

“Is your date also Chang Wenyu?” There was a question in Zhou Tu’s eyes. His eyes moved between Chen Ge and Zhang Ju. “Other than her, I can’t imagine anyone else going to places like that to have their dates.”

Everything was going fine, but with this observation from Zhou Tu, Zhang Ju stopped moving. He looked Chen Ge up and down and then shook his head. “That’s impossible. That woman doesn’t have the power and capability to love. She’s a monster.”

Annoyed, Zhang Ju walked ahead on his own. The library at midnight was very quiet, and the only sound was their heartbeats and footsteps. The whole building was sealed. The doors and windows were barred, but there was no strange smell, which was different from the other places that they had visited.

“By walking past this shelf, climbing to the top, and stepping on the fence next to it, we can reach the second floor without using the stairs.” Zhang Ju remembered what had happened that night so clearly. Not one detail escaped his mind—everything was forever seared in his brain.

Zhu Long felt like Zhang Ju was in a bad mood, and he asked in a polite tone, “Why can’t we use the stairs?”

“I asked her the same question. She said that a steel door was installed on the staircase, and the door is blocked with trash; there is no way we can get up the stairs that way.” Zhang Ju was the first to climb up the racks. “I never doubted her words, so I didn’t go up the stairwell. Shall we go and check it this time?”

“Let’s find the mirror first.” Chen Ge did not want to attract unnecessary attention. The group followed Zhang Ju’s instructions and reached the second floor of the library. They only took several steps when they heard footsteps coming from the end of the second-floor corridor.

“That’s familiar. I also heard footsteps when I came last time. Back then, Chang Wenyu told me a ghost story about the spirit in the library, and it gave me quite a scare. Now that I think about it, the footsteps should belong to the librarian.” Zhang Ju signaled for the others to stay behind him. “Stick close and don’t fall off. Follow my orders and try to avoid conflict with the other party.”

“What should we do? The sound is getting close!”

“See the door to the second reading room?” Zhang Ju pointed at a door not far away. “From now on, close your eyes and walk that way. No matter what you touch or hear, do not open your eyes until we’re through the door.”

“Will that work? How’s that different from lying to ourselves?”

“Just listen to him. The librarian is a member of the art club members. He will paint everyone who sees him into his painting.” Zhou Tu was the first to close his eyes, and the rest followed suit. The last to close his eyes was Chen Ge. He listened to the approaching footsteps, signaled to his shadow, and then closed his eyes.

The footsteps came closer and closer. Chen Ge's group searched their way along the wall with their hands. It felt like they would run into someone anytime soon. The footsteps got closer. The person did not seem to notice Zhang Ju and Zhou Tu, keeping up his speed, but when he passed Chen Ge, the sound of footsteps suddenly disappeared.

Has it stopped next to me? Chen Ge did not open his eyes. He kept his hands on the wall and moved forward. Several seconds later, the footsteps continued toward the end of the corridor. Opening the door of the second reading room, Chen Ge sucked in a deep breath.

"I experienced all we've experienced earlier that night; this is such a *déjà vu* feeling." Zhang Ju closed the door after everyone got into the reading room. "If there's nothing wrong, the mirror should be hidden behind the last row of bookshelf."

The truth was about to be revealed, but before Chen Ge could approach, a familiar figure walked out from the last row of shelves.

"I knew you'd find your way here eventually." The figure was holding a large, tattered backpack. His head was lowered, and he was stooped like a hunchback.

Chapter 832: Cooperation

The sudden appearance of the man turned the situation tense. Chen Ge's group stood where they were, and no one dared take another step.

"You are more willing to trust the ghosts behind the door than the living human from outside the door?" The figure slowly lifted his head to reveal a pair of curious eyes. His right eye was no different from that of a normal person, but his left eye was red like an eye ball soaked in a can of red paint.

"Chang Gu." Chen Ge's lips moved to utter the name of the person whom he had never expected to show up there.

"I know you have many questions now, but I do not have the time to explain them to you. You only need to understand that I am on your side." Chang Gu raised the backpack that he was holding. "I believe this is yours."

Chang Gu was holding the backpack that Chen Ge had taken with him from the haunted house. The zipper had been opened, but everything was inside where it should be.

"Why would you have my backpack?" Chen Ge took one step forward.

"Don't go over there!" Zhang Ju stopped Chen Ge. "He is not part of my memory; things have changed."

Chang Gu heard Zhang Ju's voice as well, and his lips curled into a smile. "You sure are popular. You can make friends no matter where you go."

Stepping aside to let them pass, Chang Gu glanced outside the reading room, and he spoke faster. "It was my sister who gave me your backpack. She told me you would come here eventually."

"Chang Wenyu?"

“Yes, she will help you escape the school, but the premise is that you have to promise to work with her.” Chang Gu put down the backpack. “That is why you have shown up here, is it not?”

“It was Chang Wenyu who dragged me inside the door? Did the two of you work together to con me?” Chen Ge’s habit was to see things from the worst perspective. He thought back to how he had been dragged into the door at the hospital. The arm that reached out from behind the door had been slender and soft. Indeed, it had looked like the hand of a girl.

“I’ve only just found out many things as well, so technically, I didn’t con you. At least, I didn’t mean to.” Chang Gu looked much better than before, at least one decade younger.

“Tell me, how does she expect me to work together with her?” Chen Ge felt like there was no one that he could trust in the school; everyone was out for themselves.

“There’s no need to use such an unwilling tone. She is trying to save you. This school is far more complicated than you thought. Without her, you will never wake up.” Chang Gu walked toward Chen Ge. “We are friends who share the same goal, friends who know each other.”

Zhang Ju and Zhu Long guarded Chen Ge while studying Chang Gu.

“What do you want me to do?” Chen Ge did not like twists and turns, especially when they were in such a dangerous place.

“The painter is about to become the new door-pusher, and when that happens, all the souls behind the door will be trapped here forever, living in this paradise created by the painter.” Chang Gu did not stop moving; he was very close to Chen Ge.

“Isn’t that a good thing? Giving homeless souls a home to help them forget their pain and despair, to create a blood red paradise.” Chen Ge had noticed the many changes to Chang Gu; he could not sense any life in the man.

“I know a test when I hear one. Actually, you know deep down that there is no paradise in this world. This is all the painter’s daydream. My sister wishes to stop him, but she is not powerful enough to do it alone, so she needs your help.” Chang Gu glanced at the two Half Red Specters beside Chen Ge. His blood red left eye was like a heart, and it kept throbbing in its socket. “There are thirteen Specters who are qualified to become the door-pusher in this school. The painter is the strongest, and my sister is second. Of the remaining eleven, some have sworn obedience to the painter, and others have had their memories removed and turned into puppets.”

“There is too big a power gap. Even with my help, we probably can’t stop the painter.” Chen Ge was not lying to Chang Gu; he was telling the truth. His biggest strength, Zhang Ya, was still hibernating.

“We do not need you to go against the painter directly; you only need to go and awaken all the Specters that the painter has sealed.”

“How do I do that?” Chen Ge sighed in relief when he heard that he did not need to face the painter directly.

“You have already been doing that.” Chang Gu pointed at the club members. “These three are all on the list.”

“Of the four Specters around me, three of them have the qualifications to become the door-pusher?” Chen Ge did not think he would be so lucky. Then again, those few had been ostracized in the western campus where only good memories should remain; that was something abnormal.

Chen Ge was about to ask who did not have the power to become the door-pusher when Chang Gu spoke again. “My sister will try her best to distract the painter, and during that time, you have to try your best to find as many Specters sealed up by the painter as you can and wake them.”

“Okay, no problem.” It was not like Chen Ge had a choice but to give his promise for now. Neither the painter nor Chang Wenyu was someone he wanted to anger. Furthermore, awakening the Specters and gathering power was what he had been doing.

“I knew you’d say yes.” Chang Gu looked at Chen Ge with satisfaction. “Lastly, my sister has a few words she wanted me to tell you.”

“Chang Wenyu has something to tell me?” Chen Ge had not met Chang Wenyu before; he had no idea why the girl would value him thusly.

“Yes, she hopes you can also gain the school’s approval and obtain the qualification to become the door-pusher.” Chang Gu’s left eye throbbed as he studied Chen Ge’s reaction.

“I do not wish to get trapped behind a door forever.” Chen Ge rejected it outright.

“You only need to get the qualification.” Chang Gu’s expression softened. “Gaining the school’s approval will aid your escape.”

“How am I supposed to do that?” Chen Ge had heard the answer from Zhou Tu already, but he wished to get more confirmation.

“This door is different from others. The scenario behind the door is split by the painter in two—one normal, the other bloody. I believe you’ve noticed it already, just like the western and eastern campuses. Western campus transports all the despair and negative memories to the eastern campus to maintain the cleanliness on the western campus, and then the painter transports the negative emotions gathered in eastern campus to the other blood red scenario. The normal, cleansed part of the world behind the door has been maintained by the painter while the school’s consciousness is hidden inside the blood red scenario.

“It’s hard to explain; it’s easier if you see for yourself, but I hope you’re ready. The gore of this door is much greater than the other scenarios you’ve experienced.”

Chang Gu thought about it and made sure that he had not forgotten anything before taking a step back.

“The entrance is the mirror beside the rack. Try to get the approval as soon as you can. This abandoned school is about to get a lot more anarchic.”

Chapter 833: Entry

Footsteps came from outside the reading room; the librarian was heading their way. Even though Chen Ge still had many questions, there was no time.

“Chang Gu, I hope you’re not lying to me. I can do my best to help your sister, but you need to guarantee that my friends and I can leave this school safely.” Chen Ge stood together with his club members. He was a man of his word. He had promised to lead Zhang Ju and the rest out, and he planned to keep his promise.

“I can give you my promise, but what use is it? Here, anything can happen; even the painter can give you that guarantee.” Chang Gu’s blood red eye was twitching slightly. No one knew what he was really thinking.

“You’ve changed a lot since entering the door. Looks like I’ll have to reassess our relationship,” Chen Ge said calmly. He was always like that, hard to read. It was unclear whether he was bluffing or not.

“We’re still friends. We both came from outside the door. We know about each other. I will not harm you.” Chang Gu lifted the backpack. “See, I even brought your things for you.”

“We are friends, but I’ve gained some new friends here. We’re all friends, so I hope you won’t put me in a difficult position.” There was one thing that Chen Ge did not tell Chang Gu. He had promised to be someone else’s friend in the toilet on the top floor of the education block. Chen Ge had accepted the invitation, thinking that there was no harm in having more friend, but now that he thought about it, that person was most likely the painter. Many people wanted to make use of Chen Ge, but if they knew him better, they would regret that decision.

“Okay, we’ll do it your way.” Chen Ge led the members to Chang Gu. “Now, can you give me back my stuff?”

“No problem, but you have to wait until you’re inside the mirror before you open the backpack.” Chang Gu did not hand the backpack to Chen Ge but followed him to the last row of the shelves. They worked together to push the shelf aside, and that revealed the mirror hidden under a black cloth.

“There isn’t much use left to this mirror, so you’d better move fast. Get the school’s approval before the painter realizes what you’re doing.” Chang Gu pulled the cloth back and handed the backpack to Chen Ge. “Stand before the mirror and place your hand on it. Look into the mirror with your heart, and you’ll see what’s on the other side.”

Accepting the backpack, Chen Ge did not place his hand on the mirror directly but took a step back.

“What are you doing?” Chang Gu frowned.

“Don’t worry, this is my first time here. I have no experience, so I wish to see other people do it first.” Chen Ge resisted the urge to open the backpack and tossed a look to Zhang Ju. “This should have been a part of your memory.”

Zhang Ju nodded and handed Zhou Tu over to Zhu Long before standing in front of the mirror.

“Honestly, I don’t mind living in the painter’s paradise, but if that means I have to trade in my freedom, then I think not.”

The scarred arm landed on the surface of the mirror, and Zhang Ju lifted his head to look at his own reflection in the mirror. Chen Ge had noticed this a long time ago. In the world behind the door, there were few mirrors. It was as if mirrors possessed a special meaning in this blood red world. He stood at

the back of the group and patiently observed. If not for the others, he would even have thought about using a pen and paper to record the whole process.

Blood slid down the arm and fell on the mirror. Blood vessels crawled on the surface. It was hard to tell whether they were moving inside or outside the mirror. More blood vessels appeared. In the blink of an eye, the scene inside the mirror shifted. It was still the library, but the library in the mirror turned blood red. Blood flowed, and every book looked like it was written in blood.

"I didn't expect to one day return. This time, I hope I've made the right choice," Zhang Ju mumbled to himself outside the mirror, but his reflection had not moved. He was like a puppet without a soul, with his head lowered and eyes closed.

"Be careful. Don't wander about when you're inside. Wait for us. We'll move together. That should make things easier." Chen Ge tried to say something else, but Zhang Ju was not looking so stable. He did not seem to hear Chen Ge. The head that was scorched slowly turned. Zhang Ju's remaining right eye was red as blood. He stared at Chang Gu as the wounds opened all over his body. Blood vessels crawled on his body. "Your left eye is very beautiful. I... wish to eat it."

Zhang Ju appeared to be under some kind of influence. His expression turned ugly, and the strange thing was, the expression of his reflection started to change, transforming to match the one outside the mirror. When the two became one, the hand that was pressed on the mirror was pulled forward, and the young man was dragged into the mirror.

"He was dragged by himself into the mirror?" Before Chen Ge realized it, there was only a pool of blood left behind the mirror. Zhang Ju had disappeared like he had never been there in the first place.

"The mirror reflects your appearance, but it can't reflect your soul. On one side of the mirror, it's your shell, and the other side is your desire. When you look inside the mirror, you'll see your ugliest and sometimes your most dangerous self." After Zhang Ju left, Chang Gu's tone lightened. "Mirrors inside the School of the Afterlife are different from those in real life. The painter moved everything beautiful inside the mirror, and all the ugly, desperate, and scary things have been left outside the mirror. So, when you stand before the mirror, you'll see a different version of yourself."

While Chang Gu spoke, Zhou Tu passed through the mirror. He was so fast that none of the members, not even Chang Gu or Chen Ge, noticed it.

"Mr. Bai, I know you have many things that you haven't told us." Zhu Long felt like he had many things to say, but considering that there were outsiders there, he did not voice those thoughts. "I rarely place my trust in others, so I hope you won't disappoint us."

His palm on the mirror, Zhu Long looked at his reflection. The tall body was reconstructed, and the reflection in the mirror could not be called a person, more like a rag doll sewn together by a demented child.

The blood traces before the mirror thickened. After all the members had departed, Chen Ge stood before the mirror with two bags.

Chapter 834: I've Arrived

“After gaining the school’s approval, you will also gain the qualification to become the door pusher, but I know that you just want to leave and won’t do something so irrational.” Now that only Chang Gu and Chen Ge were left in the reading room, Chang Gu stopped talking in riddles and warned Chen Ge directly.

His eyes staring at the mirror silently, Chen Ge said without turning around, “Chang Gu, what kind of person do you think I am?”

After what happened in Li Wan City, Chen Ge knew that he had lost a part of his memory, so like Zhang Ju and the rest, he would sometimes get trapped in a sense of loss.

“The mirror behind the door reflects your real self, and you will see a different version of yourself.” Chang Gu was not interested in Chen Ge’s life story; he was merely completing the mission given to him by Chang Wenyu.

“Is that so?” Chen Ge placed his palm on the mirror, and the chill travelled to his brain. He could not help but be reminded of his first nightmare mission when he had just acquired the black phone. The mission had required him to stand before a mirror at midnight and look at his own reflection.

A mirror was the start of everything, and now I’ve found myself standing before one again. I wonder, what will I see this time?

Closing his eyes, just like when he did his first nightmare mission, Chen Ge started to count his heartbeat. Several seconds later, Chen Ge’s palm was pulled, and his eyes flew open. His reflection stood dumbly next to the bookshelf. Loneliness and despair were clear on his pale face, and his body was shaking. His eyes were not focused, and they were empty. The reflection was like a mannequin in his haunted house.

This is the other me?

Someone gripped his fingers, and Chen Ge could feel the power coming from the other side of the mirror. He saw the shadow of his reflection changing. Black hair flowed down Chen Ge’s reflection like a river. His shadow slowly stood up and guarded him from behind.

Zhang Ya?

The shadow’s face slowly clarified. When he placed all of his focus on the shadow, the black hair in the mirror suddenly lashed toward his arm and pulled him into the mirror. Chen Ge disappeared, and the reading room returned to silence.

“Something doesn’t seem right.” Chang Gu did not leave immediately. His expression was one of surprise. “When he stood before the mirror, why did his reflection appear so unrealistic?”

Rushing to stand before the mirror, Chang Gu looked at his own reflection. The Chang Gu in the mirror was not a person but an ugly monster.

“The other side of the mirror is the blood red world. This mirror can show the ugliness inside everyone’s heart, but when that man stood before the mirror, the mirror showed the man himself! Doesn’t he possess any sins inside his heart, or is his evil hidden so deep within his heart that it can’t be reflected by the mirror at all?”

Chang Gu could not figure out the answer. He looked at his ugly reflection with confusion. His fingers reached toward the mirror and stopped before it.

“Everyone has a monster in their heart, an ugly, ruthless creature that cannot bear living under the sun...”

...

The thick stench of blood rushed into his nostrils, and a sticky feeling stuck to his skin. His eyelids fluttered as Chen Ge sucked in a deep breath. It felt as if he had just broken through the surface of water. Peeling open his eyes, the world that Chen Ge saw was one of red.

“This is the world behind the door. It feels suffocating, filled with anxiety and despair.” Chen Ge stood where he was and carefully surveyed his surroundings. He was standing before a cracked mirror, and around him were bloody bookshelves, tables, and chairs.

“This is the second reading room. Now I’ve really entered the world behind the door.” Chen Ge hurried to hide by a corner. His footsteps were light and did not make any noise. “Zhang Ju and Zhu Long came here earlier than I did. Where are they?”

To prevent everyone from getting lost, before entering the mirror, Chen Ge had even told them specifically to wait after going through the mirror.

“Have some accidents happened?”

Squatting down, Chen Ge used his Yin Yang Vision to look around. He did not see any signs of a fight or any footprints.

“Have Zhang Ju and the rest left, or was something guarding the other side of the mirror and they had to escape once they arrived?” Chen Ge was very careful. Before exploring a new environment, he had to ensure that he was safe.

Putting down Lin Sisi’s backpack, Chen Ge pulled open the zipper of his own backpack. He could not wait to reunite with his own workers.

“Recorder, doll, comic... everything is here...” Chen Ge rummaged through the backpack, and his face slowly darkened. There was one thing in there that should not have been there and another that should have been there that was missing.

“The black phone is not here!” He looked through the backpack but still could not find the black phone. However, he found something new inside the layer where he normally kept important stuff. It was a bloody student ID. It had his name and his picture, but strangely enough, the picture was one of him when he was a child. Staring at the picture, Chen Ge was reminded of the shadow in Li Wan City and the ghost fetus behind it. “Was it Chang Wenyu who gave me this id? How does she know what I looked like when I was small?”

Putting the ID away, Chen Ge took out the recorder and pressed the start button. The sound of static was laced with screams and an undercurrent of a man’s whispering. His lips curled upward. This scary sound was one hundred times more melodious than the most beautiful tune in the world.

“Xu Yin.” Blood dripped, and the pale arms reached out from underneath the blood red shirt. Chen Ge did not turn around and placed the recorder back into the backpack.

“Even though I didn’t wish for Chang Wenyu to become the new door-pusher, she did help me escape that conundrum. I’ll have to repay her favor somehow. However, with what kind of method is still undecided.” Chen Ge had never wanted to help Chang Wenyu become the new door pusher from the beginning. No matter who controlled this four-star scenario, it would not be good for him. He wished the place would maintain its chaotic nature until Zhang Ya became a Greater Red Specter, and then he would select a suitable door pusher from his employees.

“That is the perfect solution. This way, the painter won’t need to fight with Chang Wenyu. Everyone can still be friends.”

With his employees at his side, Chen Ge felt much better. He looked at the bloody surroundings and felt quite at home.

“Chang Wenyu is distracting the painter. The two scariest existences here are busy with each other, and no one has time to pay attention to me.” Chen Ge revealed a sincere smile. “Chang Gu said that this place is about to turn upside down and told me to be careful. To see it from another perspective, since this place is going to get chaotic anyway, why don’t I give it a push and get the chaos to come earlier?”

Looking at the information on the ID one last time, Chen Ge memorized his class and student number. He shoved the ID inside his pocket and placed it next to Mr. Bai’s documentation. He held one bag in each hand. Listening to the static from the recorder, he strode confidently out of the reading room.

Chapter 835: Sorry, I Didn’t Mean to

Footsteps echoed inside the quiet library. The broken door was pushed open, and a man walked out. “There is no one in the library at all. Do the students behind the door not like to read?”

Carrying two bags, Chen Ge stood in the corridor outside the library. The reunion that he had anticipated did not happen; there was no one at the library. Thus, he could not get some information even if he wanted to. “Where have they all disappeared to?”

Walking down the corridor, Chen Ge sauntered about aimlessly. The campus behind the door appeared to be a completely enclosed building, and it was isolated from the rest of the world. All the windows were barred with wooden planks, and Chen Ge walked for a long time, but he still could not find the way out.

“Hey! Which class are you from?” A stern voice came from behind Chen Ge. He turned to look and realized that one of the doors that he had passed earlier had been opened, and a rotund, middle-aged man stood at the door.

“Not a Red Specter...” Chen Ge glanced at the sign of the door where the man stood, which read “Discipline Head’s Office”.

"It's time for class. Do not loiter in the corridors." The man noticed that Chen Ge did not show him any respect at all, so he instantly firmed up his attitude. "Which class are you from? Let me take a look at your student ID?"

"Student ID?" Chen Ge reached his hand into his pocket but kept his eyes on the man before him. There was a dangerous glow well hidden in his gaze. When he first saw the man, Chen Ge had used his Yin Yang Vision to scan the man. He had no idea about the man's identity, but he knew that he was not a Red Specter.

"A new student from the first year?" The man took the student ID to take a look, and his tone turned sterner. "Truancy when you've just started school? A student like you needs to be harshly educated!"

He walked out from the office and reached out to grab Chen Ge's arm.

"What do you want to do?" Chen Ge subconsciously avoided him. This was the world behind the door; he would not allow anyone to grab him just like that.

"Take you back to your class, and I'll warn the teacher that allowed you to traipse around like this during class!" The man was mad. His eyes were bulging, like if Chen Ge did not follow his words, there would be serious consequences.

"Fine, I'll follow you back to the class." Chen Ge still remembered the mission handed to him by Chang Gu; he could make use of this chance to find those students. Chen Ge stopped moving as if waiting for the man to lead the way. Seeing how flippant Chen Ge was acting, the man's already lacking hair was standing on end from anger.

"Students these days are getting worse and worse." The man shoved the ID back to Chen Ge and led Chen Ge down the corridor. The school was much bigger than Chen Ge thought. They walked for a long time and went down a floor before stopping beside one of the classrooms.

BANG BANG BANG!

The man knocked, and moments later, a thin man wearing black-rimmed glasses walked out. "Mr. Lei? How can I help you?"

"Didn't you notice one student is missing from your own class?" The man grabbed Chen Ge's shoulder. "He is from your class, so take charge of him! If I discover him wandering about again, be prepared to get punished alongside him! Even the teachers are becoming unreliable..."

The man left Chen Ge at the door. He seemed to have something else to attend to and left in a huff.

"Mr. Lei?" The thin teacher was confused. He pushed his glasses up and studied Chen Ge through his thick lens. "Are you a new student?"

"Mr. Lei brought me here. This is my student ID." Chen Ge pointed at the man who had walked away. His expression and his tone gave an impression that he was familiar with Mr. Lei.

"Oh, come in then. There are a few empty seats in my class." The thin teacher nodded and was about to bring Chen Ge into class when he suddenly stopped. "I do not like naughty students. I hope you can get along with everyone and join our big family as fast as you can."

“Okay.”

“One more thing, my name is Lui. You can call me Mr. Lui.”

Pushing open the door, Mr. Lui brought Chen Ge to the podium. The class was very quiet, and it was conducive for studying, but there were many who were really studying. When they saw someone new walk into the room, many students lifted their heads.

“This will only take a minute. We have a new student who will be joining us today. Now, I’ll have him introduce himself.” Mr. Lui signaled for Chen Ge to walk over. Walking up the podium, Chen Ge looked down at the students in class. On the surface, the class looked fine, but he knew that the only beauty behind the door had already been taken away by the painter. The only things left in this world were various negative emotions suppressed in people’s hearts.

“My name is Chen Ge.” After a very short self-introduction, Chen Ge carried his bags and stepped down from the podium.

“Don’t you have anything else to say?” Mr. Lui coughed drily. “Your seat will be on the third last row. The seating in this class is arranged according to results. After midterms, if you have a good score, I’ll rearrange your seat.”

Mr. Lui’s words seemed to possess a different meaning. Chen Ge did not think that it would be that bad sitting at the back of the class. When he attended university, he had always taken the last row. Carrying his bags, Chen Ge walked to the back of the class with the whole class looking at him. Gazes fell upon him; some were gleeful, some were filled with malice, and some were dull. Chen Ge stopped next to his seat.

The student in the seat behind him placed his dirty shoes on Chen Ge’s chair. As the student’s body moved, his chair creaked noisily like it was about to crumble any time soon.

“I’m sorry, I didn’t mean to. I didn’t think we would have a new student joining us.” The boy slowly took his shoes away, leaving two dark-claret shoe prints on Chen Ge’s chair.

“Alright, quickly get to your seat. We’re going to continue the class.” Mr. Lui’s thick glasses seemed to have obscured his vision. It was as if he did not notice the bullying happening before his eyes, and he continued speaking. “Chen Ge, don’t just stand there. Take your seat.”

“Okay.” Chen Ge’s expression did not change. He took out a clean piece of paper from Lin Sisi’s bag and placed it on the table. Just as everyone thought that he was about to swallow everything and wipe the shoe print off, he reached out to grab the back of the chair, raised it up, and threw it right at the boy who sat behind him!

BANG!

The old chair burst into pieces right above the boy’s head. The class was quiet; even Mr. Lui was stunned into silence.

“I’m sorry, I didn’t mean it either.” Picking up the clean piece of paper from the table, Chen Ge wiped the blood from his hands and then grabbed the chair of the boy from the seat behind him and moved it to his desk.

“You, you, you come out here!” Mr. Lui’s hands were shaking. It was unclear whether that was from shock or from fear.

“Okay.” Chen Ge activated the recorder, placed Lin Sisi’s bag on the table, and scanned the whole class again.

Chapter 836: I Feel Like He Was About to Bully Me

The previously-white paper was dropped on the table. On it lingered the blood that Chen Ge had wiped off his hands. It had only taken a few minutes from Chen Ge walking into the classroom to the student collapsing on the ground. No one expected something like this to happen; everything had occurred too quickly. Holding his bags with one hand, Chen Ge did not even glance at the student who had fallen on the back row and walked directly toward Mr. Lui.

“You go and stand outside the classroom!” This was the first time that Mr. Lui had encountered a student like this. He was too brave and too mad. He had completely ignored the presence of the teacher and openly used brute force against others in class.

“Sir, you can punish me however you wish, but you have to understand that it was he who started it. He said that he had no idea where he should put his feet, so I was merely teaching him a lesson.”

Chen Ge had just entered the classroom and had not even found his seat, yet he had already been chased out of the classroom. Holding his bags, Chen Ge opened the classroom door.

When he walked out of the room, he saw the boy on the back row climb up from the ground. Blood leaked out from the top of his head, and it slid down his nose to the corner of his lips. Venom was swirling in the boy’s eyes. His expression was twisted, but as Mr. Lui turned his face toward him, the venom in his eyes disappeared completely, and in its place were a few forced tears and a face of innocence.

Hell, he sure knows how to act. These are a bunch of wise guys. They have two different faces before their victims and the authority figures. On one hand, they are sunny, hardworking, and friendly while on the other side, they vent all their negative emotions and hatred on their victims.

Walking out of the classroom, the gazes of the students in class flashed across his mind.

I’ve memorized the faces of the people who wished for me to make a fool of myself before everyone—these people will most likely fail to get the school’s approval.

The School of the Afterlife’s consciousness was built from the spirit of endless despairing children. The people who had the qualifications to become the door pushers were most likely victims of bullying at the school. Chen Ge wished to complete the mission given to him by Chang Wenyu and strengthen his forces. To do that, he had to find the other remaining door pusher candidates sealed up by the painter.

By helping the victims and using my own method to educate the bullies, perhaps I will gain the school’s approval.

There were many benefits to gaining the school’s approval. Chen Ge knew that he had not experienced these painful things before, so he switched to use another method to try to gain the approval.

The school behind the door is very large, and there are many students here. It is not going to be easy to find the few who are qualified to become the door pusher among all these people.

Standing in the corridor, Chen Ge glanced into the classroom through the window. His gaze scanned the students one by one.

The third row from the back. The student who would sit next to me has dirt on his clothes, and his textbooks look ruffled like they have been messed with by others. This child should be one of the victims.

The seating in class was arranged according to their results. The child was sitting on the third row from the back, so it meant that his results were not that good but also not that bad.

Mr. Lui was continuing his lecture in class. Suddenly, he realized none of his students' attention was on him, but they were looking outside the window. He turned around with confusion and met Chen Ge's gaze from outside the window.

"This is ridiculous!" The more Mr. Lui thought about it, the more angered he became. He strode out of the classroom. "What are you looking at? I had you come here to think about what you've done! Stand there quietly and stop looking around!"

"Sir, I have been thinking, but there is a question that I simply could not solve." Chen Ge looked Mr. Lui in the eye. "Just what kind of mistake could a teacher have made to be sent to a world filled with negative emotions and despair? Is it because he ignored the bullying that is happening before his eyes, or did the teacher himself use certain ways to join in with the bullying?"

"That is not the question that you should be thinking about!"

"Earlier inside the classroom, you also saw what happened. It was he who first placed his shoes on my chair. I wished to rationally reason with him, but my hands slipped. The chair fell from my hands, and it accidentally injured that student. I admit that I have done something wrong, but does that mean that he has done nothing wrong?" Chen Ge spoke very fast. "Actually, this whole thing could have been totally avoided, as long as you said something when you notice the problem. The boy appears to be very obedient when he is facing you, so he should listen to your words quite easily."

Mr. Lui wished to argue, but he was interrupted by Chen Ge.

"But you did not do that. Perhaps you thought it too troublesome, or perhaps you did not think much of it. What the boy did, you perhaps thought, was some kind of joke between students. You already have too many things to think about in your life, so why look for unnecessary trouble for yourself? Perhaps there is even a possibility that there is a grotesque joy that was born in your heart when you saw that I was being bullied."

"Preposterous! What are you talking about?"

"Human nature is a flower blooming inside an abyss. Everyone yearns for sunlight, but who knows what is hidden underneath your roots?" Chen Ge's eyes were whirlpools of darkness, and Mr. Lui found himself unable to look Chen Ge into those dark eyes. The two had more to say, but at that moment, the bell for the end of class came from further down the corridor. It sounded different from a normal bell. It was mixed with many different sounds, and it sounded strange to Chen Ge.

“Young man, you have to check your attitude! Give me a three thousand words essay on why you should not have done what you did before the end of school, or else I will go and get Mr. Lei. Think about your problem.” Mr. Lui returned to the classroom and announced that class was over. He did not pick up the teaching material from the podium and left in a hurry.

“This teacher sure is a bit irresponsible.” Chen Ge carried his bags and returned to the classroom. When the students who took the first row saw him walk in, they very naturally put their textbooks and water bottles away and ran out. They seemed to understand what was supposed to happen next. The classroom appeared to be emptier than before. Chen Ge did not mind it and walked to the side of his seat. He looked at his deskmate and showed a friendly smile. “Hi, my name is Chen Ge. I’m your new deskmate.”

Chen Ge’s deskmate heard Chen Ge’s voice, but he did not dare answer. He kept his eyes on the textbook, and his legs started to shake.

“Da Bing, someone is talking to you. Can’t you hear?” From the last row, a student who had his uniform tied around his waist stood up to shout. Four students were gathered around him, and the five surrounded Chen Ge and his deskmate in the middle. Hearing this boy’s voice, Chen Ge’s deskmate lowered his head even more. His eyes were staring so deep at the textbook, and his hand grabbed the strap of his schoolbag.

“Are you deaf? I’m talking to you!” The student grabbed the textbook from Chen Ge’s deskmate’s hands. The book was torn, and the sound was sharp. Chen Ge’s deskmate still did not say a word. He stood up with his head lowered and prepared to head out of the classroom, but his shirt was dragged back by one of the students.

“Why are you running? Can’t you see that the newcomer wants to be your friend?” The boy called Da Bing stood where he was. He did not dare resist; he did not even dare speak.

“Such a wooden brain. No wonder your parents are divorced and none of them want you.” The leading boy grabbed the deskmate by his neck. “But that’s fine. You will stick with us from now on, and I assure you that we will have a lot of fun together.”

When he finished, the students around him all started to laugh. It was a laugh filled with evil and deep sarcasm.

Da Bing wilted under the collected laughter. His head fell even lower, and he allowed the boy to grab him by the neck. “No, wait, I seem to have forgotten something. Da Bing, just now, your deskmate was asking you something. Now, tell him whether you wish to play with him or with the rest of us.”

These students were waiting for Da Bang to make a fool of himself. Their gazes were like sharp blades falling on Da Bing’s body. His neck being captured, his shirt pulled, his textbook taken away and torn, Da Bing stood by the table, and there was no glow of life in his eyes. His lips slowly opened, and just as he was about to say something, Chen Ge suddenly spoke. “Deskmate, there’s no need for you to make a choice. Actually, after you agree to be my friend, I will be everyone else’s friend, and then we will be friends with the whole class.”

Chen Ge actively stretched out his hand toward Da Bing. There was no one who had spoken like that with Da Bing before, and his subconscious caused him to raise his arm in return.

“You f*cker!” The leader pushed Da Bing back by his neck. Before he could say anything else, there came a loud boom from beside him. Turning to look, they saw Chen Ge kick down the table and pick up the chair that was unharmed. Without any other words or a warning, the heavy chair fell on the head of the leader.

BANG!

One of the wooden legs fell off. Chen Ge was about to summon Xu Yin to clear the scene when a scream came from the entrance.

“Chen Ge!”

Mr. Lui had finally realized that he had forgotten his teaching material, so he had come back to retrieve it. When he walked into the classroom, he was shocked by what he saw. Just half a minute ago, he had warned this man. He had walked out to take a spin, and yet another student had fallen victim to his attack.

“What, what, what are you doing?”

Seeing the teacher’s return, the students who were originally gathered together quickly shifted their expressions and rushed to get the student up from the ground. Chen Ge did not hold back earlier because he knew that if the boy could still stand up, then he would have one more problem to face.

“Sir, he knocked Long Yuan out!”

“I know, I don’t need you to describe what I can see! Get him to the nurse’s office immediately!” Mr. Lui rushed into the classroom and kept his death glare at Chen Ge. “Why did you get into another fight with a classmate? This time, I saw it very clearly; it was you who started the fight! You’d better give me an explanation that I can accept!”

“How shall I put this?” Chen Ge put down the chair that was crumbling in his hands. He tilted his head to point at the fainted student. “I was merely defending myself. I saw from his gaze that he intended to bully me. If you do not believe me, you can ask him about it when he wakes up later.”

“You are a walking tragedy! My perfect class is about to get ruined by you! No, this can’t wait anymore. I have to go and get Mr. Lei now!” Mr. Lui was truly angered this time. “The few of you get him to the nurse’s office now! Chen Ge, you go and stand outside in the corridor!”

“Okay.” Chen Ge’s reply was a simple word. It was calm and easy.

After Mr. Lui left, the student from the last row stood up. He glared at Chen Ge with gritted teeth.

“You’re lucky Mr. Lui came to your aid this time. We will finish this business after school.”

Hearing the threat from the boy, Chen Ge stood where he was in shock. “That’s what I wanted to say. If not for Mr. Lui, you would have ended your life as a ghost.”

Waving his hand, Chen Ge picked up his bags with a warm smile. “I will see you after school, and that’s a promise.”

Chapter 837: No One Is Born a Hero

Being punished twice on his first day of school, Chen Ge's name soon spread throughout the school. He carried his bags and stood at the entrance to the class. The passing students looked at him, and he studied them in return.

The mission given to me by Chang Wenyu is not easy. Every student looks like they have an abnormal side to them.

The class bell rang. Mr. Lui had not returned, but Chen Ge walked into the classroom on his own. He moved the chair of the second student that he knocked out to his seat and sat down comfortably. The new teacher started the class, and of course, Chen Ge was not paying attention. He took out a pen and paper from his bag and started to consider how to search for the children with the qualifications to become the door pushers. He was deep in his thought when a small paper note came from beside him. There were two simple words on it—Thank you.

Seeing this, Chen Ge was surprised. He had thought there was only despair and negative emotions in the blood red world behind the door; the people should not have been able to show appreciation.

“Why are you thanking me? They targeted you because of me, so naturally, I have step forward. That's what I'm supposed to do.” Chen Ge said to his deskmate, Da Bing, but Da Bing did not dare reply. He sat in his rigid posture like Chen Ge was talking to himself. He had no interaction with Chen Ge.

“Are you afraid?” Chen Ge knew about the worry in Da Bing's heart.

After some time, Da Bing passed him another note. “Sorry.”

This time, Chen Ge learned his lesson. He used the pen to write something back on the back of the note. “It's fine. They crossed the line. I can't allow that to happen.”

Passing the note back, after Da Bing read it, he continued to write. “Me too, but I don't dare resist. I have no friends, no one to stand up for me. The teacher only sees our results, and I'm dumb.”

Helplessness was heavy in Da Bing's reply.

“You have a friend now. My name is Chen Ge. What's yours?”

“Lee Bing, but since I have a big and round face, they all call me Da ¹ Bing.”

“Got it, at least that's easy to remember.”

“Chen Ge, I'm sorry. I should have said something, but I was really scared. Do you think I'm too weak?”

“No one is born a hero. Furthermore, a person's personality can always be changed. This is an adaptability to the society and living environment. I know you've been trying your best.” Chen Ge passed the note to Da Bing, and then he took out more paper. “Can you tell me more about your past?”

Chen Ge suspected that Lee Bing was one of the people whom he was looking for, so he started to probe.

“What do you mean?”

“Things about you, and the other people in this class, when did they start bullying you?”

Looking at the content on the paper, Lee Bing hesitated for a long time before picking up his pen. He wrote a long passage and slid it back to Chen Ge.

“My actual situation is different from the rest. My parents love me a lot, so their words don’t hurt me. From how I see it, they are a bunch of demons who like to pour salt on other people’s wounds. They get their joy from other people’s misery, but it’ll pass soon enough. After all, there are teachers here, and they don’t dare do anything too serious to me. Chen Ge, I advise you to stop getting into altercations with them. They have their little gang. The guy that you knocked out earlier, I think, knows gangsters outside of the school.”

The content on the paper made Chen Ge feel uncomfortable. The bullied had lost their will to fight, and they only cared about escaping. Perhaps, in their hearts, they believed that they would one day grow old and leave this place, so a little patience was all they needed. They did not know that the experience would be carved into their bones and become a shadow that they could not wave away. Whenever they thought about it, their heart might deny it, but they would still feel uncomfortable. Seeing the silence from Chen Ge, Lee Bing passed a second note. “Just be patient, and it’ll be over. If you resist, you might end up just like Yan Fei.”

“Who is Yan Fei?”

“He was the student who sat where you are now.”

“Where is he now?”

“After that incident, Yan Fei dropped out.”

“He left the school?”

“No, he’s still in the nurse’s office, but it was his parents who helped him do the dropping out process.” Lee Bing hurriedly passed another note to Chen Ge. “He has already found his escape. Please don’t disturb him.”

Chen Ge put his notes away, his eyes wandering between Lee Bing and his own seat. When he first entered the classroom, his own chair had been stepped on, and it was already crumbling. There were many carvings on the table, and the drawer was sticky like it had been used to house trash. These were things that had happened to Yan Fei. Compared to Yan Fei, Lee Bing had gotten the better deal. Those b*stards’ target was Yan Fei; Lee Bing was just the replacement after Yan Fei fell. Evil deeds would be amplified behind the door, and the ugliness in the human heart would be fully exposed. Just from looking at Yan Fei’s old seat, he could understand what had once befallen the poor man.

“Is he at the nurse’s office because he was injured by those people?” A fire was burning in Chen Ge’s heart. He had no idea why he was getting so angry. The school probably did not do anything, or perhaps it was the bullies who lacked education.

“No.” Lee Bing shook his head. He tore out another piece of paper, wrote on it, and quickly passed it to Chen Ge. “They have been bullying Yan Fei, targeting him, tossing his textbooks away, breaking his chairs, and doodling on his school bags and clothes.”

“Why would they bully Yan Fei?” Chen Ge had a feeling that Yan Fei was the person whom he was looking for, and he wanted to know more about Yan Fei’s past.

“I have no idea. Yan Fei comes from a normal family just like you and me. The only difference is, he has quite a bit of pride; he doesn’t like to have others joke at his expense and likes to be alone. Perhaps those guys found it fun to trample on his pride. That must satisfy some kind of sick satisfaction in their heart.

“Yan Fei used to be a good student. He was above average, but due to what happened, his result became worse and worse.

“His parents were anxious, and the teachers ignored him more and more.

“One day, when someone was trying to grab his textbook, he got into a fight with them. Yan Fei had been holding in it, but he was only one person, and he was soon pressed down on the floor. Because it was in the classroom, the teacher hurried over to pull the bullies away.

“When the teacher asked what had happened, many people were silent. Those who finally spoke were part of the bullies. They said that they were just joking. It was because of Yan Fei’s prideful nature that he couldn’t handle the joke and threw the first punch.”

Chapter 838: Flower of Sin

“You’re not wrong. The teacher had everyone write an essay to reflect on what they’d done. This was nothing new for the bullies, but that was the first time that Yan Fei had done something like that. He was my deskmate, and I saw that he was crying. When we were back the next day, Yan Fei’s clothes were rumpled. I heard he was accosted by the gangsters on the way to school. The bullying only escalated after that. His results became worse and worse. He moved from the second row to the third last row, sitting just in front of his bullies. He had no friends, and no one was willing to help him because they were afraid of being targeted.

“One afternoon, I saw that Yan Fei had bought a pencil sharpener, and that afternoon, he was sharpening some pencils. When the last class of the day was about to end, the student behind him stepped on the back of his chair. They had started to bully Yan Fei again, but this time, Yan Fei reacted calmly. When the bell rang and the teacher left, the group of people surrounded him. They pretended it was an accident as they splashed their water on Yan Fei’s school bag and textbook. They laughed among themselves as they prepared to leave. Then I saw Yan Fei take out the sharpened pencil from his pencil case and barrel toward the person who bullied him.

“The boy’s face was heavily scratched; they needed several people to help pull the crazed Yan Fei back and pin him to the ground. This incident quickly reached the headmaster’s ears. The parents of the bullies came to school to apply pressure. The bullies brought masks with them, showing where they were attacked. They cried to the adults. If they didn’t avoid it swift enough, they would be blind.

“This was serious. Yan Fei’s parents were called into school. The honest father apologized to everyone. He bowed down to the bullies’ parents and begged the school not to expel Yan Fei. With everyone watching, the father slapped Yan Fei. It was a loud slap. When that slap fell on Yan Fei’s face, it

shattered the last shred of his pride. From that day onward, Yan Fei stopped resisting; he became silent like a soulless doll. When the bullying escalated to a point, Yan Fei would choose to escape and run alone to the toilet. No one knew what he did there, but when the bell for class rang, he would return. No one understood the severity of the situation. Then again, no one really cared about Yan Fei before. This passed for some time until Yan Fei was one day bullied after class again. He escaped to the toilet but didn't come out.

"The teacher and students went to find him. When they did, Yan Fei had fainted inside the last cubicle of the toilet with a face like alabaster. Next to him was the blade that he had taken out from the pencil sharpener. They picked Yan Fei up. A student accidentally saw the arm under Yan Fei's long sleeve. He was so shocked that he let out a scream. At that moment, everyone understood why Yan Fei was always wearing long pants and sleeves no matter how hot the weather was."

Regarding Yan Fei's past, Lee Bing had explained everything. Chen Ge had a hard time calming down. This child was just a normal person. Perhaps he might have brushed shoulders with Chen Ge when he was walking down the street. Yet, a child like this had been forced to self-mutilation.

"Self-mutilation is a way to vent pressure. The physical pain helps lower the psychological pain, but this is not a correct method to deal with pressure." Chen Ge's fists tightened. He stood up from his seat.

"Lee Bing, do you know where the nurse's office is?"

"What do you wish to do?"

"I wish to meet Yan Fei. Can you lead the way?" Hearing Yan Fei's story, Chen Ge's desire to meet him increased. He had a feeling that Yan Fei was one of the students that he was looking for. Compared to other students, Yan Fei did not come from a sad background. He was just like any other person, but he was flushed by the torrents of life to its edge.

"No." Lee Bing shook his head. Actually, he had been avoiding Chen Ge, and the conversation was carried out through passing of notes. Even if he had to speak, he kept his head lowered, and his reply was a whisper. He pitied Chen Ge and hated those bullies, but more than that, he was afraid of being seen interacting with Chen Ge. He did not want to be ostracized.

Seeing Lee Bing's reply, Chen Ge calmly nodded. He did not blame Lee Bing but understood his situation. The world behind the door would amplify the desires and various thoughts inside one's heart. Negative emotions would not be tied down by morality. They did not need to hide, and people could express their negative emotions without holding back. The bullies enjoyed controlling others, toying with the little pride that the bullied had left. The bystanders looked about from afar with a detached gaze or perhaps sometimes joined in the fun. In the end, only the bullied were left. They would become inured to the pain and even get used to their given identity. Chen Ge scanned the class; everyone was doing their own thing. The fight at the last row was just a show for them. They enjoyed it as bystanders, and no one dared step forward.

"The occurrence of school bullying is not the responsibility of the school but also the other students in class. During an avalanche, there is not a single snowflake that is innocent. Everyone just wishes that the tragedy will not befall them, and that gives the bullies the chance to act freely. When bullying happens and someone dares to stand up and say something or give the bullied some comfort, things might end

up differently,” Chen Ge said out loud. He had no idea how that would change the school’s consciousness, but he felt like the school could sense what he was doing.

“During an avalanche, there is not one snowflake that is innocent. Habitual silence is a sad thing as well.”

When Chen Ge spoke, Lee Bing’s shoulders shook several times. He seemed to be hesitating as well, but in the end, he did not stand up.

The first door pusher pushed open the door due to school bullying, and the door has been looking for the souls of despaired children since then, creating this sad and scary school.

The painter and Chang Wenyu are both very strong, but they haven’t become the new door pusher, which means that even if they have gained the school’s approval, they have not ticked all the boxes required by the school.

A question rose in Chen Ge’s heart.

If I was a despairing child, what would I hope to see after pushing open the door?

*Red surroundings and the b*stards’ escalated bullying—that’s obviously not something I’d like to see. No one wished to have their wounds repeatedly pulled open.*

Could this bullying be some sort of test? To get the school’s approval, I need to stop all the bullying and stop it from ever happening again?

The deepest despair often buried all hope. After giving it some thought, Chen Ge wrote a note back to Lee Bing. Lee Bing did not take it. Chen Ge did not care. He placed the note on Lee Bing’s table and walked out from class to find the nurse’s office.

After Chen Ge walked away, Lee Bing silently opened the note. It read, “I will change this school completely.”

Chapter 839: School Doctor

Chen Ge had his own idea. Using force to stop force was the simplest answer, but to gain the school’s approval and to get accepted all the despairing children, using brute force alone was not enough.

It might not work, but there’s no harm in trying.

After leaving the classroom, Chen Ge stood at the corridor holding two bags. Two students were hurrying to class, and he was the only one taking his sweet time to take in the scenery.

“Hi, can you tell me where the nurse’s office is?”

The students were very unfriendly. Chen Ge asked several students before finally someone was willing to show him the way.

“You’re the new student from the fourth class, right? When I was passing the teacher’s lounge earlier, I hear the teachers and discipline teacher talking about you. They sounded like they were going to punish

you.” The girl who led the way looked like a high school student. She had a ponytail and dressed casually.

“They wish to punish me?”

“Sounds like it’s because you have been ignoring the school rules and got into fights in class.” When the girl said that, she stole a curious look at Chen Ge. “Is that true?”

“If I say it’s true, will you be afraid?” Chen Ge maintained the smile on his face. The teachers had their own way of dealing with things; he understood that but did not approve.

“I won’t, I think you did a great job. Those people always mix with the gangsters outside school. It’s about time someone came to teach them a lesson!” The girl appeared to have been bullied before. She chatted for a long time before silently walking closer to Chen Ge. “I hope nothing will happen to you.”

“This is the first time we’ve met, right?” Chen Ge felt the girl was acting strangely, like she was attempting to get in his good books. “Do you have something else to tell me?”

A flash of panic crossed her eyes, but she soon returned to normal. “Actually, I don’t have many friends. In my class, they all laugh at me and like to prank me, so I wish to be your friend. If they bully me again, at least I will have someone else to talk to.”

The girl was not good at lying. When she said the later words, her eyes subconsciously wandered to other places; deep inside her eyes were a thick pool of venom. That resentment was unrelated to Chen Ge. She probably wanted to find someone to help her take revenge on those who had once bullied her.

“I’m sorry, but I’m used to being alone.” Chen Ge knew that the girl did not really want him as a friend. She merely wanted to find someone to protect her.

“It’s fine then.” The disappointment was clear in the girl’s eyes, but she still kept her promise and took Chen Ge to the nurse’s office.

“This is it. I’m going back to class.” The girl retraced her steps. After taking few steps, she suddenly turned around to look at Chen Ge. “Forgot to mention, my name is Yin Hong, I’ll talk to you later.”

The girl forced a smile and ran away in a jog.

Even though it’s a fake smile, she can make it look so sweet. This girl would be quite suitable to work on the haunted house’s front desk.

As he opened the door to the nurse’s office, the curtains flickered. Blood red fog surrounded his body, and it was a red blur inside the room; he could not see anything.

“Is anyone in?”

The nurse’s office was quite large and was made up of four connecting rooms. The outermost room was the consultation room; it was the smallest, with two sets of tables and chairs and two shelves for the amenities.

The nurse’s office feels like a private clinic. Just how many students come here every day?

The blood red wall had thin vessels that crawled on it like worms. A large white coat hung in the corner, but no doctor was to be seen. Chen Ge walked to the table. A document was placed on the table, and it recorded some students' sicknesses and the corresponding treatments given by the doctor.

Looking through it, Chen Ge found Yan Fei's name on the third last page. Out of Chen Ge's expectation, the doctor merely gave Yan Fei some medicine to stop the bleeding and did not provide any psychological counselling. Just based on this note alone, one would not notice the issue's severity. Those who did not know the truth might think that Yan Fei had just accidentally scratched himself.

Nothing should be assessed from just the surface. According to the note, every student that came here had nothing serious, but they might have been dropped in despair already.

This document was not thick, but each page had the patient's picture.

To be bullied until they needed a trip to the nurse's office, this was some serious bullying. Perhaps I can find other children from this note.

The School of the Afterlife was unique; it combined various memories, and the number of lingering spirits and Specters were enormous. It was hard to find the few children who had the qualification to become door-pushers, but this document provided a shortcut for Chen Ge.

Since Yan Fei's name is here, the other students with the qualification might have their names here as well.

Walking past the consultation room, Chen Ge entered the second room. There were several beds. Other than the slightly bigger space, it was no different from the previous room.

"Sorry, I'm looking for someone." Chen Ge stood at the door, and his pupils throbbled as a bad feeling rose in his heart. There was no answer, like the sickroom was unoccupied. "This is strange."

Reaching his hands into the pocket, Chen Ge took out a nail and hid it in his palm. He could hear the static coming from the tape, and then he mustered the courage to step into the room. He carefully walked to the third room. There were similarly beds in the room, but unlike the second room, the beds were sequestered from each other by white curtains. Probably to protect each patient's privacy, one could not tell who was occupying the bed from outside.

This place is quite dangerous.

After passing many Trial Missions, Chen Ge's sense of danger was sharpened. He moved with his back to the wall as he nudged his foot forward. Pulling open the curtain that was closest to him, a thick stench drifted out. A black, sticky pool was left in the middle of the white sheets. It looked like blood.

The stench is heavy. This bed was probably recently occupied.

After a brief observation, Chen Ge noticed that the pillow was puffy like it was hiding something. He was about to take the pillow when he felt a chill from behind his neck like something was reminding him to look back. Turning around, Chen Ge saw a doctor in a white coat standing not far away from him. The man was plump, and his coat was bursting at the seams. He was well enveloped by his uniform that contained a coat, mask, and hat. Only his thin neck was exposed.

The body is so large, but the neck is so thin. Is it possible that the doctor is wearing several layers of clothes?

Chen Ge stared at the doctor's collar, and he caught glimpse of redness there.

The uniform is pure white, but the clothes inside are dark red. Just what kind of doctor is this?

Chapter 840: Thin as a Stick

A nurse's office was essential for a school, but this was the first time that Chen Ge had encountered one that was so large. The man who was weirdly dressed should be the doctor here. He covered himself up as much as he could, but Chen Ge could still see the dark red underneath all the layers.

"Red Specter..." No matter the occasion, a Red Specter was a dangerous existence. They were cunning and cruel. Even with his employee's protection, Chen Ge could still be hurt.

"Hello, I'm here to see a student." Chen Ge was very polite.

"Are you sick?"

"I'm here to look for someone. His name is Yan Fei; he's my classmate."

"Are you sick?" The doctor appeared like he only knew that sentence. He kept repeating it, and with each repetition, he took one step closer to Chen Ge.

A thick stench of disinfectant rushed at Chen Ge. The doctor appeared to have doused himself in the stuff to cover up his original body odor. Although he was unable to communicate, Chen Ge did not dare do anything rash. He gripped the nail in his palm and prepared for the worst.

The doctor walked closer and closer when he suddenly stopped before Chen Ge. The pair of dark red eyes scanned Chen Ge up and down. The doctor stared at Chen Ge for a long time. Just as Chen Ge thought that the man was about to make his move, the doctor suddenly said, "You are seriously ill. I see a broken body. Your soul is like a low-quality toy that has been tampered with. It is filled with cracks and will crumble with a single touch."

"Are... you serious?" Chen Ge realized that the doctor did not sound like he was kidding.

"I can see the flower deep inside everyone's heart. Some of them are blooming; others are wilting. You only have a grave in your heart and a seed that has been chewed on and will never germinate." Doctor's eyes seemed to see through everything. Unfortunately, his mask covered most of his face, so Chen Ge could not read his expression.

"Based on that, doesn't it mean that I won't be alive for long?" Chen Ge was unsettled by the doctor's words. This Red Specter was very weird, but then again, all the Red Specters that he had encountered in the School of the Afterlife were strange. Compared to them, the others that he had met like Men Nan, the woman in the well, and the mother in the tunnel could not have been more normal.

"I don't have the medicine to save you, and I am unable to save you." The doctor suddenly turned to the other bed halfway through his sentence. Based on his reaction, the only course of action for Chen Ge

appeared to be waiting for death. Even so, the doctor did not want to have anything to do with that process.

“No, wait! Doctor, I think I can still be saved. At least explain the situation to me!” Chen Ge followed behind the doctor, who took a pen and paper as he paused at each bed. The beds were isolated behind the white curtains, so one could not see through, but the doctor kept writing on the paper. He did not chase Chen Ge away; he merely acted like he was not there.

How come I feel like he's ignoring me? The doctor treated Chen Ge like air, and Chen Ge did not know whether that was a good or a bad thing. *It's rare that I run into a more reasonable Red Specter, but he treats me so coldly. He must have seen something on me that warrant this kind of reaction.*

“Doctor, how about you take a look at me again? What does the seed in my heart look like? You said it has been chewed, what does the print look like? What kind of creature has bitten it?” Chen Ge grumbled in the doctor's ears. Probably because he had interrupted the doctor's work, the latter sped up to enter the fourth room and closed the door behind him.

“Are you the only doctor here?” Standing outside the door, Chen Ge still had many questions.

Quite a temper he has. When there's a chance I should take him to the underground morgue so that Dr. Wei can have a chance to chat with him.

The doctor probably saw that there was no malice in Chen Ge, so he did not harm him. Of course, it was like that the doctor had seen something special in Chen Ge so purposely avoided him. No matter what, Chen Ge could now explore the sickroom freely. As long as he did not cross the line, the doctor probably would not stop him.

“Which bed did I look at earlier?”

Chen Ge pulled the white curtains back, the front few beds were unoccupied. As he was about to pull open the fourth curtain, the curtain moved on its own.

“Yan Fei?” His fingers reached toward the white cloth. Before Chen Ge touched the curtain, a pale hand shot out from inside. There was a needle left in the arm. It was thin, pale, and bloodless like the person was suffering from serious malnourishment.

“Hi.” Chen Ge touched the hand lightly. Just as his palm touched the other hand, he could feel the other person shake. The owner did not seem like they were used to physical contact with others. Using his other hand to pull open the curtain, Chen Ge looked at the bed. A girl as thin as a stick was lying in the clean bed. She looked like a wounded swan. Her one hand was held by Chen Ge while her other hugged her knees as she curled up on one side of the bed. The girl realized that it was not the doctor who held her hand, and she looked scared. She tried to pull back her hand but swiftly gave up as if worried that it might make things worse. The child was not Yan Fei, but Chen Ge did not leave immediately because the other children who could become the door pusher might be there.

“What's your name?”

The girl looked weak, like a beautiful butterfly fluttering in one's palm. As the palm closed, she would be crushed.

“Yin Bai.” The girl spoke so softly that Chen Ge had to lean in to hear her.

“Yin Bai? I met a girl called Yin Hong outside. Is that your elder sister?” Chen Ge realized that the girl was rather afraid of sunlight. He pulled the curtain back so that only a sliver was left open. Hearing the name Yin Hong, the girl’s body shook even harder. Her lips were clamped shut as if worried that she might say something that she should not.

“How are... you doing?”

“No one bullied me. They were just playing with me. I am fine,” the girl suddenly said in an urgent tone. She kept repeating this like a mantra, but she was on the verge of tears.

“There is no one else here; there’s no need to be afraid.” Chen Ge did not know what the girl had experienced, but her state was very unstable. “Take a good rest. If you need any help, just holler.”

Chen Ge let go of her. He looked at the girl, wishing to get more information. The girl did not have any visible wounds, but she was impossibly thin.

Taking out the document from his backpack, after ensuring that the doctor had not returned, Chen Ge looked through it. He found the information on Yin Bai on the page before Yan Fei. The girl suffered from bulimia. The source of the illness was unknown. The suspicion was that she had been forced to consume something disgusting, and that had left a mental scar on her.