

## Horrors 841

### Chapter 841: The Old Headmaster's Past

Chen Ge pitied Yin Bai, but if she refused to talk, there was nothing Chen Ge could do. "I'm a new student who just transferred here. I don't know the school that well. I hope you won't be offended if I've said something unkind."

The girl was in an unstable state. Forcing questions on her might cause her mental state to collapse. Chen Ge remembered her bed number; he planned to return as he pulled the curtain back. The thick white curtain closed, segregating the bed from the outside world. Chen Ge walked to the next bed, but before he took a step, he felt a sudden tug on the corner of his shirt. Turning back to look, a pale hand had reached out from under the white curtain to pull on his shirt.

"Run away, do not attend school here, you'll go mad." Yin Bai's voice was low, and Chen Ge had to focus to listen.

"I feel like the atmosphere here is not bad. Everyone wants to be my friend." Chen Ge did not think that the girl would harm him. He was just afraid that she would refuse to communicate. As long as she was willing, everything could be discussed.

"Go back to your old school, please." There was pleading in her voice. She did not give a specific reason, but Chen Ge could hear from her tone that she was really concerned about him and did not want him to be hurt. In the world behind the door, there was such a kind girl; Chen Ge thought that this was rather surreal.

"I can't return." Chen Ge paused, and his brain came up with the explanation in zero point something seconds. "I was bullied at my old school. I have no idea what I did wrong, but those people bullied me every day like it was something fun for them. My parents found the discipline teacher to talk about this, but after they did that, the bullying only got worse. In the end, no one in class was willing to be my friend. I couldn't stay there any longer, so I transferred here."

"You were bullied at your old school, so you transferred here?" The white curtain was pulled back a gap to reveal Yin Bai's palm-sized face. The terror in her eyes had dissipated somewhat, and in its place was shock and worry. "I don't know how to tell you this, but if you do not wish to get hurt again, I advise you to move to another school."

Perhaps this was sympathy between fellow bully victims. Chen Ge felt closer to Yin Bai.

"Why? This is my first day here. Half an hour ago, I just introduced myself to my new classmates. It feels wrong to leave now." Chen Ge was fishing for the truth. He needed more information to provide real help to change this school.

"This school is like a dark whirlpool; you have to leave before you're sucked in. Once you're trapped, you can't escape. You'll be pulled into the depths of hell. Either you're crushed, or you'll join the monsters' ranks." The girl sat in bed. She refused to gain contact with outside world. It appeared to be her limit to reach her hand outside the curtain.

“Is it that scary here?” The world was a stark contrast to the school created by the painter. At that moment, Chen Ge believed that he had gained some understanding of Chang Wenyu and the painter. One accepted beauty and hope and tore away humanity; the other chose to escape to a place where they would no longer be hurt. Their methods to gain the school’s approval were interesting. It could not be said that they were wrong, but they never really tackled the root of the problem.

“You will be assimilated. If you don’t want to be bullied, in the end, the only way is to turn into a monster.” Yin Bai probably had not conversed with others for a long time. Seeing the kindness in Chen Ge and how he was a new student, she chose to talk to him.

“There are only two choices? Then you...” Chen Ge put down his bags and sat next to the bed. The bed was like the girl’s closed inner world. Chen Ge slowly entered it with a bit of kindness. “Can you tell me your story?”

The girl did not answer, but she did not chase Chen Ge away or act agitated. She probably hoped deep inside that someone would be by her side, but for various reasons, she had lost the courage to communicate with others. Her world was enveloped by evil intent. Once she took a step, she would fall into the trap filled with venomous snakes and knives.

Looking at the girl closely, Chen Ge noticed that she was quite cute and had a sickly beauty about her. She would arouse other’s intention to destroy. The slender arms, white neck, bloodless skin and face. The child hugged her knees, and black hair covered her eyes like she was spacing out. The bed was soft, and Chen Ge noticed that there was a deep impression on the girl’s pillow like there was something hidden inside it.

Moving his eyes about, Chen Ge found a picture frame by her pillow. It was a family photo. A slightly large old man was pushing a wheelchair. A young woman in the chair was holding a bouquet of flowers weakly. There were needle marks on the backs of her hands. There were two cute girls next to the wheelchair. They wore pretty dresses and leaned on their mother from each side. The two girls were Yin Hong and Yin Bai, but the real person that captured Chen Ge’s attention in the picture was the old man who was pushing the wheelchair.

The man had salt and pepper hair, and he looked just like someone from Chen Ge’s memory.

*His face and the way he laughs look ninety percent similar to the old headmaster from Mu Yang High School! Chen Ge had seen the old headmaster’s picture in his office when he had it taken with the rest of the students. A rotund, smiling old man sat in the middle. But the age doesn’t match! Why would the old headmaster be with these two girls?*

With a dry cough, Chen Ge softly asked, “Yin Bai, is the old man in the picture your grandfather?”

“Yes.” Yin Bai nodded. “He’s my only family. He occasionally comes to see me.”

“He comes to see you? Your only family?” Yin Bai’s answer contained a whole lot of information, and various thoughts filled up Chen Ge’s mind.

If the old man was really Mu Yang High School’s old headmaster, and Yin Bai said he occasionally came to visit her, it meant that the old headmaster knew about the route to enter and leave the School of the Afterlife!

Furthermore, Yin Bai and Yin Hong were both in the picture, but Yin Bai said that the old man was her only family. This meant that from Yin Bai's perspective, Yin Hong was not family. Something bad must have happened between the girls.

"Yin Bai, can you tell me more about your grandfather?" Chen Ge nudged toward her.

Yin Bai who sat in bed lifted her head and said after a long pause, "My grandfather is infertile. He has no biological children, but he has many children."

### **Chapter 842: I Will Be That Light**

"My mother was one of the children adopted by him." Yin Bai's eyes were very pretty and clear. "My mother was an abandoned baby, and she was weak from a young age. Her condition only got better when she was adopted by my grandfather. She was brought up by him and stayed by his side until she was twenty and met my father. They had a simple wedding, and soon, I arrived.

"After she gave birth to me, my mother's physical condition deteriorated, and my father's attitude toward her also slowly changed. Then father's company closed, and he was left with plenty of debt. He was chased by moneylenders and had to leave me and my mother so that he could avoid them. He always told us that the lenders would not trouble a woman and a newborn and only dared to sneak home every few days at midnight. This continued for a few months until father stopped communicating with us and never returned home.

"Caring for a child while being threatened through the closed door, the home being splashed with paint, mother finally collapsed. The doctor called grandfather, and it was only then that he knew how bad the situation was. It was not common at the hospital for the older generation to take care of the younger generation. Mother got worse. Her last wish was to see father one last time. It was not for love, but she wanted to give him a slap and ask him a question. Her wish became her dying wish. The day that she died, it appeared like grandfather grew older before my eyes. Then I started living with grandfather, going to school, studying."

As she lowered her head, Yin Bai said, "It was not my intention to cause trouble for him. I didn't mean it."

From Yin Bai's story, the old headmaster of Mu Yang High School was a kind person. Evil and desire were not seen in him at all; this strengthened Chen Ge's need to meet the man.

"Your grandfather is a good person. Do you know where he is now? I wish to meet him." If he knew how to leave the School of the Afterlife, then Chen Ge would have nothing to lose.

Yin Bai shook her head. "He lives outside the school, but he always shows up when I'm at the edge of my rope, and whenever I see him, I'll feel much better."

"Understood." Chen Ge did not press. Chaos was coming to the school; the old headmaster would come to protect his granddaughter, so all he needed to do was wait. "You'd better get a good rest. I won't disturb you anymore."

Closing the curtain, Chen Ge was thinking about the old headmaster. The latter had avoided him several times already, but that should stop soon. Leaving Yin Bai's bed, Chen Ge suddenly realized something. When the girl was talking about her past, there was no mention of Yin Hong at all. It was as if this person did not exist in her life.

*Yin Hong is in the family portrait, so why did the child purposely leave her out? What happened to this pair of sisters?*

Chen Ge felt like what had happened to Yin Bai probably had something to do with Yin Hong.

*Once the old headmaster is found, everything will be solved. I'll forget about it for now.*

Remembering Yin Bai's bed, Chen Ge even thought about taking Yin Bai with him so that he could guard her personally. But considering that the doctor might not approve of that, he gave up that thought. He continued to do his round. When Chen Ge passed the last bed, a heavy stench of medicine came from inside. Pulling open the white curtain, Chen Ge looked at the bed; there was a normal looking boy lying in it. All his limbs were bandaged, and his eyes were hollow as he stared at the ceiling. Even when the curtain was pulled back, he did not react. The child seemed to be isolated from the outside world; he was a veritable zombie.

"Yan Fei?" Chen Ge was unsettled, seeing the boy in this state. The child was like a normal person; he was a caricature of the public. "I know that you're not feeling well, and I'm not here to tell you to get over it. I'm just here to tell you that I've helped you get revenge. I taught the bullies a lesson. After school, I will teach them a much deeper lesson."

He used different method to converse with different people. To get close to Yan Fei, this was the tactic employed by Chen Ge. When he said that, Yan Fei still showed no reaction. It was as if the boy was no longer interested in anything. Chen Ge tried to say something else, but no matter what, Yan Fei did not respond. His body did not even budge. Unable to communicate, the mission given by Chang Wenyu was harder than he had thought.

Standing next to the bed, Chen Ge was about to reach his hand through the bed to check what the real problem with Yan Fei's body was when the door not faraway was opened. The doctor had come out. With limited time, Chen Ge pulled his hand back and looked at Yan Fei with some regret.

"Darkness is there. Even if you ignore it, it will not disappear. If you do not wish to be consumed by darkness, turn yourself into light, and shine on all the darkness. I know that you can hear me, and I know that you once resisted. Now I am taking your former seat. I will help you complete the things that you are unable to do. An eye for an eye—after I've punished those that need it, I will return."

Yan Fei's situation was more serious than Chen Ge had expected. He had completely isolated himself. He refused to speak to communicate. Perhaps only with a knife on his neck would he realize that he was still alive.

"You are not wrong, and I'll prove it to you." Chen Ge wanted to change this school, and for that, he needed to change the students' perspective first. When encountering school bullying, silence was not going to solve anything. Only by stepping forward could one protect oneself and others. If all the students could do that, school bullying would be stopped before it had a chance to grow.

Chen Ge did not think that all the students would be like him. He merely wished to set an example. A man who dared stand up to violence at school. Walking out from the nurse's office, Chen Ge returned to class. The teacher glanced at him but said nothing. When the school bell rang to signify that school was over, the teacher was the first to leave like he had something important to do.

After the teacher left, the few students from the last row rushed out. They pointed at Chen Ge like they were planning something.

Out of kindness, Lee Bing took a big risk to pass a note to Chen Ge. "Do not go home alone today. Tell your parents to come fetch you."

"If my parents really come here, they will level this place, but unfortunately, I haven't seen them for a long time." Chen Ge sat at his table and slowly put the textbooks away.

"I'm not kidding you. There are too many of them! You have broken the game rule, so they will all gang up on you!" Lee Bing was nervous; he could have seen Chen Ge's bad ending.

"Don't worry, I might have more people with me." Chen Ge put the last textbook into his bag and strode out from the classroom.

### **Chapter 843: Changing Smile**

Chen Ge was there to create trouble, so the more chaotic the School of the Afterlife, the happier he would be.

*I have my student ID in the left pocket and teacher's ID in my right. With all the preparation done, I'm ready to rearrange the structure at this school.*

Pressing the start button on the recorder, Chen Ge held his two bags and reached the end of the corridor. As if worried about him, Lee Bing followed Chen Ge after he left. He hesitated, like he wanted to tell Chen Ge something but was afraid of being seen by the bullies. Chen Ge strode down the corridor. He did not know his way about and was just wandering about. The number of students in the corridor decreased; the remaining ones appeared to know him. They averted their eyes from him and pointed behind him like they were planning something.

*Why haven't they made their move? I've already reached some real secluded parts of the school.*

Chen Ge tried his best to cooperate with the bullies. The darker the corridor, the better it was. To lure the bullies to attack him, he was controlling his expression to make himself appear to be confident on the outside but actually shaking like a leaf inside. At that moment, the bullies were perhaps enjoying the thrill of the hunt, playing the game of cat and mouse.

*The few buildings at the school seem to be connected. The office and the teacher's dormitory are the eastern part of the school, and in contrast, the western part is the part with the least amount of management. It is filled with empty labs and storerooms. It's rarely visited by teachers and students.*

Chen Ge looked more agitated, and he wandered around the school like a headless chicken. Finally, he 'accidentally' entered the most 'secluded' storage area in the School of the Afterlife. When he walked

into the corridor of the western side of the school, Lee Bing left. In the end, he did not have the courage to tell Chen Ge. There was no one else in the corridor. The thin blood fog surrounded Chen Ge.

*It's time for them to make their move, right? I've already voluntarily walked to such an isolated place.*

Listening to the static from the recorder, Chen Ge looked out the window. Blood fog enveloped the whole world. Through the fog, one could catch a blurry glimpse of a blood red sun. The thing appeared to be entirely made up of negative emotion.

*I've not seen this thing in other places behind the door before.*

The sun blinked in and out of the fog. This scene loosened Chen Ge's memory, and it reminded him of something that had happened a long time ago. When he was doing the tunnel nightmare mission, Chen Ge had once entered a hallucination and seen the self that was killed many years ago inside the tunnel. He had been unable to shake loose, and it was Zhang Ya who had reached out to save him. When he saw the death illusion, Zhang Ya's appearance had been like a blood red sun.

*It's too similar. It's just like how I saw Zhang Ya when I was lost. Could the sun here be represented by a Specter as well?*

Sudden footsteps interrupted Chen Ge's thought. He turned back to look and realized that the doors that were on the two sides of the corridor were all opened, and the fog around him thickened. The footsteps came closer, and the air became more suffocating. There was the sound of metal hitting the ground.

"It's understandable that the new student did not know the rules, but openly breaking the rules and not respecting us, that needs some serious education." One of the room doors was pushed open, and a muscular man walked out. Three students followed behind him. They were all students from Chen Ge's class, and they sat on the back row.

"Just four of you?" Chen Ge was not satisfied. He had made such a large ruckus, but only four had taken the bait.

"Don't worry, we're all students here, so we won't punish you too much." The leading and largest student blocked the corridor with a smile. He scanned Chen Ge up and down like he was studying him.

"You dare touch me at the school?" Chen Ge warned the man darkly, but the students did not seem to mind.

"You'd better turn back to look you. There are no cameras here. Normally, no one comes here. Even if they do, they will not tell on us." The few students had probably done this more than once already, and they were fearless.

"Turn back?" Chen Ge turned behind him, and the storeroom door that was not far away was pushed open. A stench drifted out from it.

*This smell is very familiar. I smelled it in the painter's reconstructed school before. It's released by those inverted monsters.*

The stench thickened, and the students from Chen Ge's class moved backward to block the only exit on the other side. If Chen Ge wished to escape, he could only run deeper into the corridor.

“You can only blame yourself for having run into our territory. Even the teachers don’t dare come here often.” A middle-aged man walked out from the storeroom. He was wearing a bloody shirt, and his face appeared to have been seared by a fire brand as a scary-looking scar was left there. “Brother Ba, this is the kid. He hit my friend on his first day of school.”

“How did he hit him?” The middle-aged man dragged out a new wooden chair from the storeroom. He did not even pay any attention to Chen Ge.

“He used a chair to hit my friend’s head.”

“That’s quite ruthless.” The middle-aged man held his chin. “Let me think about this. Even though he doesn’t follow the rules, after all, he’s new here. How about this? Come over here and take this chair. Then, hit him back like how he hit your friend. Each of you will get to hit him once. If he dares resist, I will call my people. Go ahead.”

“We’ll do it? That’s not that good, right?”

“Stop wasting time.” While the middle-aged man was communicating with the students, Chen Ge was observing him. The man was not a student there; he was probably a wandering spirit who had been dragged into the school when the school was expanding, and listening to his words, there appeared to be more people like him.

*Consuming the students at the school might earn the school’s ire, but these outsiders should not be under the school’s protection. If my workers consume them, the school might even appreciate my effort to clean this place out.*

The way Chen Ge looked at the middle-aged man changed. He prepared to teach a lesson to all the bullies until they surrendered, but now the plan had changed.

“What is all this noise? If they don’t dare to, we’ll do it. How troublesome is that?” More people walked out from inside the storeroom. They were dressed differently from the students. Each of them had a scar on their bodies and had retained the look during their death. The fight would soon be over. Brother Ba dragged the chair to walk toward Chen Ge. He looked at Chen Ge’s legs, which were shivering, and the scar on his face contorted. “Now you know how to be afraid?”

“No, I’m just curious. Why would all of you listen to those students’ orders? Is it because one of them has something on you, and you are forced to cooperate with them?” Chen Ge had a few guesses in mind.

#### **Chapter 844: The Counterattack**

It was clear that the middle-aged man did not intend to answer Chen Ge. From his perspective, Chen Ge was just a new student who did not know his place. “You sure have plenty to say!”

Raising the chair to aim at Chen Ge’s shoulder, the middle-aged man did not want to leave any obvious wound on Chen Ge. They were experienced in beating people up without leaving conspicuous wounds.

Bang!

The chair landed on the wall. Chen Ge had avoided it.

“You dare to resist?” The scar on the man’s face started to twist, and his partners walked toward him.

“Before I came here, I told the teachers. They will be here soon.”

No one believed Chen Ge. His body was shaking, and his eyes were darting about. All those details told them that he was afraid and lying.

“Can you even hear yourself? Who would believe that?” The middle-aged man grabbed another chair and threw it at Chen Ge. Chen Ge wiggled backward, saw the opening, and ran deeper into the storeroom. The deeper he went, the more deserted it was. No one expected Chen Ge to run that way, so they were stunned briefly. When they realized what had happened, Chen Ge was already several meters away.

“Looks like the boy is so scared that he can’t even tell the direction.” The middle-aged man shared a look with others that came out from the storeroom; there were blood vessels in their eyes.

“Go after him! Don’t let him get away!” The students from Chen Ge’s class did not quite get it. They still wished to teach Chen Ge a lesson. The spirits from outside the school did not make their move immediately. They seemed to wish for Chen Ge to run further.

“Don’t worry, he’s not going to escape.” An old man at the edge of the crowd licked his lips and swallowed the saliva. He pointed his finger at the rest. “I want a piece. The rest of you can share.”

“Old fart, half a piece is enough to choke you.” The middle-aged man tossed the wooden chair before the students. “You people guard this exit. The deeper part of the corridor is very dangerous. We also don’t know how many outsiders are hiding there.”

Seeing Chen Ge almost disappearing from their eyes, the spirits from outside the school finally started to give chase. They purposely maintained a distance from Chen Ge, wishing for him to run deeper. This would make their next move more convenient, and that was exactly what Chen Ge was hoping for. Both parties formed a strange union, one was running, the other chasing. They fled through two corridors, and it was Chen Ge who finally stopped. He acted like he was winded and turned to hide inside an old toilet at the end of the corridor.

*The door to the School of the Afterlife was pushed open in a toilet, and now I’ve been forced to hide inside the toilet again. Is this a coincidence, or has everything been ‘planned’?*

The door pusher was injured inside the last cubicle, so Chen Ge also hid inside the last cubicle. The corridor was permeated with blood fog. There was no one in the abandoned school; only his own heartbeat and breathing were his company.

Creak...

The door was pushed open, and footsteps echoed in his ears. The other parties’ shoes sounded like they were stepping on blood—there was a squishy sound to it.

*Did that child experience this before?*

History repeated itself, but this time, the victim was Chen Ge.

“Are you here?” A scratchy male voice came from the toilet entrance. The spirits were toying with Chen Ge.

Creak...

The door of the first cubicle was slowly pushed open, and the footsteps neared. Chen Ge took a deep breath as the images that he had seen on the top floor of the education block in the toilet appeared in his mind. He was experiencing the same thing that was experienced by the child before he died. Fear, anxiety, increased heartbeat. He held his mouth with his hands to make sure that he made no noise. His back against the wall, his strength was gradually slipping as he curled at the corner of the dirty toilet. The slender body kept shivering. His brain was filled with the fear of what they would do to him after he was captured. Many negative emotions tortured his brain and soul. How would one expect a young child to stand up to all that?

Being in their shoes, Chen Ge felt like he had gained a better understanding of those children. The way an adult looked at the world was different from a child. The fear in a child’s eyes was different from that of an adult. Rubbing his chilled palms together, Chen Ge stopped his wandering mind.

“Are you in here?” The door of the second cubicle was pushed open. They sounded very strange, like a soul that would not leave, a shadow that was stubborn.

“I saw you. I know you’re hiding here.” The door of the third cubicle creaked open, and the blood fog thickened. The toilet became more suffocating. The light stench of blood instigated everyone. Their eyes were filled with blood, and many feral faces squeezed into the toilet.

“We are coming to get you.”

Blood leaked out from their wounds. The middle-aged man held the rope that he had found in the storeroom. His finger scratched the door of the cubicle. He knocked on it lightly with a graceful touch—he was enjoying this.

“He’s not inside the fourth cubicle. Looks like he’s in the last one.” The nail scratched on the wooden door, creating a spine-tingling sound. The footsteps stopped before the last cubicle.

“Are you in here?” The door wiggled, and the anxious heart jumped. The bullies were ready; the ending had been decided. “It’s locked? I know you’re in there. Come out! Come out!”

The door was shivering under the heavy, regular knocks. Just how helpless the child would have been... he would have had to face those people alone and suffer the consequence.

“Come out, come out wherever you are!”

The sound outside grew louder. The sound of footsteps, screaming, and knocking were mixed into a cacophony that could push one over the edge.

Bang!

The old lock could not suffer so much banging, and the cubicle door was finally pushed open. The middle-aged man who stood at the front held the rope and squeezed in before the door fully opened.

“Pull him out! Pull him out!” the people behind shouted, but there was no reply from the middle-aged man like he had disappeared.

Creak...

The door whose lock was broken slowly open. The sound of dripping echoed in everyone’s ears. Fresh blood leaked out from under the door. The heavy stench of blood rushed at them. There were many people squeezed inside the small cubicle.

“You all wish to bully, but I intend to kill; our goals were different from the beginning.” Chen Ge closed the comic and leaned against the wall. His palm was toying with a stain that looked like a wilted heart.

“After consuming all of you, Bai Qiulin should be able to evolve into a Red Specter...”

### **Chapter 845: Blood Sky**

The victims ran away in a hurry before hiding inside the last cubicle of the toilet. The bullies closed in on them step by step, inching toward their prey with smiles on their faces, pulling the rope around the victims’ neck tighter and tighter. This image appeared in the mind of the old man who guarded outside the toilet, but as he anxiously turned to look inside the toilet, he realized that everything was different from his expectation.

A bloody man with just one hand held the leader by his neck as he slammed the leader against the wall. Various blood vessels curled around the leader’s legs. He tried to struggle to escape, his hands leaving scratches on the white wall, but no matter how hard he struggled, he was unable to break free. The horrible stench permeated the toilet. An impossibly large fat man squeezed out from the cubicle. He was more passionate than the other workers, the stench that drifted out from the bullies excited him greatly. More and more shadows walked out from inside the cubicle, and that stunned the old man. He was frozen where he was. Before he realized what had happened, five pale fingers gripped his neck. His breathing was stunted. He wished to see who his aggressor was, but this simplest wish failed to turn into reality.

“Is it painful?” Before dispersing, this was the only question that the old man heard. In less than thirty seconds, silence returned to the toilet. Chen Ge walked out from the cubicle and scanned his employees. Bai Qiulin had consumed Xiong Qing’s heart, and after such a feast, he was one step away from becoming a Red Specter. By now, he had mastered some of Xiong Qing’s unique skill. The Red Specter created by the ghost stories society had only had half his body; the other half had been constructed completely from negative emotions and blood vessels. During the fight earlier, Chen Ge had noticed that Bai Qiulin also used blood vessel to weave his broken arm. Bai Qiulin was slowly growing stronger, but he was not the one who had the biggest change. That would be the boy with the stench whom he had brought from Western Jiujiang Private Academy.

This boy who had stayed with his father’s cadaver for a long time had gotten used to the odorous stench. He had no name, everyone hated him, and the stench was his nickname. To Chen Ge’s surprise, in the School of the Afterlife, this Specter that was not even a Half Red Specter found a way to make himself stronger. He sucked away the stench from the wandering spirit, to make himself larger and scarier.

“What is the stench around these spirits? How come I smelled the same stench in the painter’s reconstructed school?”

Chen Ge did not think much of the stench initially, but the boy’s reaction caused Chen Ge to pay it more attention.

“If there’s a chance, perhaps I should take him to the trash collection center between the schools. The recyclable might come in handy.”

After his workers had cleaned up the toilet and washed away the evidence, Chen Ge pulled all the workers back into the comic and walked out from the toilet.

“Initially, I thought that my Haunted House was close to becoming a four-star scenario, but reality proves that I was wrong.” Chen Ge walked to the window by the corridor. It felt as if the red sun was looking at him. “The School of the Afterlife is filled with many lingering spirits and contains thirteen scary Specters who have the qualification to become door pushers. There’s an unknown number of Red Specters, but the safest speculation puts the number at thirteen at the very least. That, combined with the consciousness of the school itself, made this four-star scenario to be very scary.

“Thankfully, the school is not hostile against me and hasn’t tried to come after me. But even if I am able to leave the school alive, what about the ghost fetus’ scenario? That whole entire four-star scenario is specifically made to kill me!”

A four-star scenario was completely different from a three-star scenario. Chen Ge felt like even if he did not try to go and accept that mission, the mission would find him.

“What will be will be. All I can do now is grow stronger in this school and then wait for the ghost fetus’ arrival.”

Walking amid Red Specters and ghosts to increase his strength in the face of death, only Chen Ge dared do something like that, but he had no choice. He had been pushing himself forward. When he turned around, he realized that there was already no way back. Standing at the entrance, Chen Ge did not deactivate the recorder but carried his two bags and headed deeper into the storeroom.

“Since I’m already here, I can’t waste my time. Furthermore, the school is a place to learn, but the atmosphere has been ruined by these people. That’s atrocious.”

Chen Ge did not understand why the school would allow these spirits to exist. Perhaps it did not think that it was worth the effort to deal with them. “If it’s too inconvenient for you, I’ll help you do it.”

He had no idea what the benefit was from gaining the school’s approval, but that was one of the steps of his plan. Walking into the storerooms, Chen Ge sent out all his employees, but the spirits seemed to have sensed that something had gone wrong, and they had all disappeared.

“Something’s not right.”

The blood in the air thickened, and the blood fog outside the window rolled anxiously. The sun that was shining on the school seemed to be expanding like it was descending upon the place.

“It should be because of me. Looks like the painter and Chang Wenyu are officially at it. I can’t stay here any longer. I need to gather all the students who have the potential to be the door-pushers around me. That is the only way I might survive.”

Chen Ge’s real trump card was Zhang Ya. Perhaps Chang Wenyu saw that and pulled Chen Ge into the School of the Afterlife, but she had no idea how strong Zhang Ya really was. Summoning his employees back, Chen Ge retraced his steps. He needed to get Yin Bai and Yan Fei to side with him before the chaos arrived.

“The old headmaster of Mu Yang High School is worried about Yin Bai’s safety and will probably take her to somewhere safe before the anarchy starts. That will be my chance.” With that in mind, Chen Ge ran faster. He walked out the corridor, and the students from his class were still blocking the way.

“You are still alive?” The few students looked at Chen Ge strangely.

“Almost forgot about you.” Chen Ge flipped through the comic and had Ol’ Bai capture the students. Chen Ge planned to do unto them as they had planned to do unto him earlier.

“Slow down, I need to keep some evidence.” Chen Ge took out Lin Sisi’s phone. “This phone was used to capture the bullied’s painful memories, but from now on, it’s going to record something else.”

A group of people bullying one person, be it verbal abuse or physical abuse, that was bullying, but in contrast, a person chasing after a group of people, that was not bullying. At least from Chen Ge’s perspective, he was helping the school clean up the streets.

### **Chapter 846: Third Path**

Chen Ge saved the video of how he punished the bullies on Lin Sisi’s phone; he was not afraid of leaving behind evidence. He wished for everyone to know that there was someone at this school who dared to stand up to school bullying. For that, the video had to be convincing. Chen Ge chose a good angle for the shoot. He did not include his own employees in the video, only himself and the bullies. Those who did not know the truth might think Chen Ge dealt with the numerous bullies alone just from viewing the video. After the video was completed, all the bullies crumpled to the ground. The way they looked at Chen Ge was filled with terror.

“This time, you have all been taught a lesson, right?” Chen Ge stopped interacting with the bullies. He put down the bags and lay down on the ground to cover his body with the dust. Then he tore parts of his shirt and pants out before finally daubing his body with blood. “One has to look heroic.”

The employees had already gotten used to his way of thinking. They pitied the bullies for having encountered their boss. Summoning the employees back, Chen Ge moved with one hand on the wall. He needed to return to the nurse’s office. Before he got that far, as he was turning a corner, Chen Ge bumped into someone who was rushing his way.

*The bullies’ helper?* No matter who the person was, after Chen Ge was bumped into, he staggered backward to introduce some distance between them.

“Chen Ge!” It was a round face that entered Chen Ge’s eyes. The person had an unassuming look with a little baby fat. His eyes were wide with worry.

“Lee Bing?” The boy was Chen Ge’s deskmate. When Chen Ge was bullied earlier, he had maintained his silence to prevent himself from being target. Even if he communicated with Chen Ge, it was through paper notes. “Why are you here?”

“I...” Seeing how ruffled Chen Ge was, with the torn clothes, the dusty outfit, and the blood on his body, he panicked. “I’m sorry! I’m sorry!”

“Why are you apologizing? I have no time to talk. If you’re not one of the bullies, then move away.” The blood sun that was covering the school was changing, Chen Ge was in a hurry to get to the nurse’s office.

“I’m here to help you! I’ve already told the teachers!” Lee Bing said with determination. The change in his attitude was out of Chen Ge’s expectations. “That is the only way I can help you. Please stop angering them, they are familiar with ruffians outside of school. There are many of them, and the students with good results are also on their side. If you continue to do this, you’ll only hurt yourself.”

“I’m thankful that you’re willing to stand forth to help me, but in certain matters, I will not compromise.” Chen Ge leaned against the wall weakly. “I am a rational person. What’s wrong is wrong, and what’s right is right. If it’s wrong and I have to say that it’s right because of social pressure, I can’t do something like that.”

“That’s what I’m asking you to do! I’m just trying to teach you how to survive at this school!” Lee Bing advised. Chen Ge understood that his intentions were kind.

“I know you mean well, but there has to be someone who dares to stand up to the bullies.” Chen Ge wiped the blood off his collar, and his tone was harsh. “Facing against the group of bullies and helping the bullied, everyone knows that is hard to do. Why should we sacrifice ourselves for others? But have you considered this? Just because everyone thinks like that, that is why those bullies dare to push so far into their madness!”

Chen Ge’s voice was rising. “I have faith that human nature is kind, and most people mean well. If the majority of people are kind, then why should we be bullied by those who are in the minority?”

Lee Bing’s lips fell open; he did not know what to say.

“Let me tell you the answer—kindness is easily mistaken as weakness. No one dares speak, no one dares stand up, so those b\*stards trample over everyone.” Chen Ge grabbed Lee Bing’s hand and pressed it against his heart. The spot was wet with the blood of the gangsters. “Kind people like us make up the majority. People just doesn’t dare speak up. Thus, we need a person to lead by example.”

Lee Bing finally understood Chen Ge’s intention. “So, you purposely provoked the bullies in class?”

“No matter the time or place, bullying is wrong. They do not realize their mistake, and I will use my own method to remind them.” Chen Ge reached out to grab Lee Bing’s shoulders. “I cannot fall. I have to prove to everyone that the bullies are not impervious; there is no need for us to be afraid of them! Everyone can stand up on their own, criticize them bravely, and look down on their mistakes! If

everyone had a consciousness like that, before the bullying even has a chance to occur, it would be stopped!”

To be honest, Lee Bing had stopped listening a while back. He merely felt that Chen Ge was right, and the emotions caused his blood to boil.

“There are only four bullies in total. This time, you came forth to help me. If the other students were like you, just imagine how many would be on our side? Wouldn’t our number be greater than the bullies?”

Lee Bing nodded. Although he probably still would not dare come out to help Chen Ge before the bullies, at least his perspective had started to change.

“Come with me. We’re going somewhere.” Chen Ge wanted to take Lee Bing to the nurse’s office. A plan was forming in his mind.

“Where are we going? The teachers will be here soon, and those who tried to bully you...”

Before Lee Bing finished, Chen Ge passed him Lin Sisi’s phone. “This time, I won. If, one day, I fall down, I hope you will learn not to bow down to them.”

After finishing the video and looking at the dust and blood on Chen Ge’s clothes, Lee Bing’s conviction was shaken. His despair was shattered, and hope bloomed in his heart. The two raced toward the nurse’s office. There were no students in the corridors, but there were staff occasionally bustling about.

“Come in with me.” Chen Ge led Lee Bing into the nurse’s room. They headed right for Yan Fei’s bed. “In this bed lies Yan Fei.”

Lee Bing felt guilty toward Yan Fei. He hesitated a long time before he pulled the white curtain aside. Seeing Yan Fei in bed, Lee Bing apologized several times. What caught Chen Ge’s attention was that Yan Fei, who would not respond to him, moved his fingers after seeing Lee Bing, and his eyes slowly wandered to fall on Lee Bing.

*They were once good friends.*

Chen Ge did not waste time on platitudes. He took out Lin Sisi’s phone, opened the video, and showed it to Lee Bing.

“They will not be able to bully you again.” Chen Ge repeated what he had told Lee Bing. He hoped that Yan Fei would understand what he had done because this was the path that he had chosen, a path different from the painter and Chang Wenyu.

### **Chapter 847: Yin Bai, Yin Hong [2 in 1]**

To Yan Fei, Chen Ge was just an unknown stranger whom he did not know, but it was a different case with Lee Bing; they had once been deskmates and friends. Yan Fei might not believe certain words that Chen Ge said, but it would take on a greater credibility when they came out of Lee Bing’s lips. Chen Ge knew that it would be immensely difficult to break down Yan Fei’s mental defenses, so he had focused his attack on Yan Fei’s close friend first. Lee Bing told Yan Fei many things, and Yan Fei’s eyes gradually

took on a new shade. His heart and conviction had begun to shake, but Chen Ge had still not gained his full confidence.

*This School of the Afterlife has already begun its change. I will transform this school right from its foundation.*

Chen Ge took Yan Fei's hand and pulled up his sleeves. The child resisted on instinct; he did not wish for his secret to be openly witnessed by others. The sleeves were hiding a bandage, and the bandage was hiding a slew of wounds.

"The wounds on your body will heal with medicine and rest, but the wounds that are torn on your heart will stay forever. I know you are using physical pain to try to numb the psychological pain, but that is no solution to any problem.

"Why are you using your own pain to punish yourself? Even if you die from the process, those who bullied you will not shed a single tear on your behalf. They will stand by your grave and continue to mock you while looking at your black and white photo."

Folding back the shirt sleeves, Chen Ge held Yan Fei's palm. Human warmth that he had not felt for a long time travelled from Chen Ge to Yan Fei.

"I know you still might not believe me, but I will use actions to prove myself." Chen Ge stood at the side of the bed. "A giant change is coming to this school. It is far too dangerous for you to stay here alone, so why don't you come with me and Lee Bing? We will protect you."

"That's right, Yan Fei. This time, I won't run away. I will stand by your side." Lee Bing cooperated fully. He persuaded Yan Fei alongside Chen Ge, and Yan Fei's attitude began to shift.

"You, me, and Lee Bing, we have many friends. None of us are willing to suffer the pain silently anymore. I will find them and have them join us!" Chen Ge had rescued some students in the world inside the mirror and in this blood red world. Even though they had separated from Chen Ge, Chen Ge still treated them as partners and friends.

"There are other people on our side?" Lee Bing and Yan Fei turned to Chen Ge simultaneously.

"Yes, we are not alone." Chen Ge slowly picked up Yan Fei. "Kind people are like light, and those who have kindness in their heart attract each other. Just wait and see, I will not disappoint you."

It was about time for the school to adapt and change. Even though it had provided a home for these homeless children, the home was cold and unfeeling; it was not a suitable environment for them. "It is time for the owner of the home to change."

Chen Ge had Lee Bing look after Yan Fei for the time being. He had not decided to leave the nurse's office just yet. He walked to Yin Bai's bedside. This child knew the old headmaster from Mu Yang High School, so Chen Ge would not leave her there. Peeling back the white curtain, Yin Bai sat at the edge of the bed with widened eyes. She had been eavesdropping on Chen Ge and the boy's conversation.

"I... have not been listening to you guys..." She was like a child who was caught with her hand in the cookie jar when her parents were not home. Her expression was cute with guilt. This formed a great contrast to the pain and despair that was predominant in the world behind the door.

“Yin Bai, there is something that I have to tell you.” Chen Ge used his coup de grace. He took out the comic from his backpack. “I know your grandfather; he is one of the people that I respect in the world.”

“You know my grandpa?” This time, it was Yin Bai’s turn to be shocked. Her small lips opened and closed, and her eyes were swirling with surprise.

“Yes, I do not wish to lie to you anymore. The old man once operated a private children’s home and provided a sanctuary to many orphans. Then with the aid of the local government, he turned that organization into a school, and the school is named Mu Yang High School. I have personally been to that school before.” These words that came out of Chen Ge’s lips continued to shock the girl.

“Grandpa indeed operated a children’s home before, but he was not involved in a school. Are you sure you’ve got the right person?” Chen Ge’s words had successfully attracted Yin Bai’s curiosity.

“I am not mistaken. Since you know your grandfather has operated a children’s home before so you should recognize them.” Chen Ge knew his persuasion would be successful. He walked out from the sickroom. He flipped through the comic and summoned out several students from Mu Yang High School. In a few breaths’ time, when Chen Ge returned to the room, there were several students trailing behind him. Their faces were carved with smiles and curiosity. Even though they only had their lingering spirits left, they looked like they were very blissful and happy. For these homeless orphans, achieving societal success was not part of their wish. They were a family, and their wish was simple—it was to stay together as a family. That was bliss enough.

“Yin Bai, I have been looking for you for a long time now.” Chen Ge’s tone was regretful. He stepped to the side. Only then did the students from Mu Yang High School finally see Yin Bai in bed, who was as thin as a stick. Her bones were practically protruding through her skin. The students were stumped; it was as if they could not believe their own eyes.

“You guys...” Tears instantly fell from Yin Bai’s eyes, and her voice was shaking. “Long time no see.”

Chen Ge did not interrupt the reunion. He carried the backpack, walked out, and guarded the door. He found a corner that was rather isolated and took out a ballpoint pen that was covered in tape from his backpack. He dangled it above a piece of white paper and asked, “Pen Spirit, can you tell me the story between that girl and your headmaster? You guys should be old friends, right?”

The pen stopped above the paper for a long time before it started to move. “Thank you.”

That was out of Chen Ge’s expectations; the Pen Spirit, who had a rather unapproachable personality and hard to please attitude, this time, put herself down to thank Chen Ge.

“Please don’t act like that. I might think that you’re possessed by another spirit.”

The Pen Spirit did not mind the mocking from Chen Ge, and she continued to write on the paper. “A charity home and a private school are two wildly different concepts. Even though the old headmaster always had this idea in mind, it was incredibly hard to put into action. That was until the incident that happened to Lee Xueyin, then his intention to create a school for the orphans that he housed was made firm.”

“Her name is Lee Xueyin? Isn’t her name Yin Bai?”

“I am not mistaken; she is Lee Xueyin. She is the child of the first child adopted by the old headmaster.”

“Wait, that is a bit confusing. Can you please be more specific?” Chen Ge held the pen and stared with extreme focus at the white paper.

“Lee Xueyin’s mother was the first child taken in by the old headmaster. Because of her physical deformity, she was unable to do any work, and the old headmaster took care of her until the day she got married. Seeing the girl that he treated as his own walk down the aisle was incredibly touching for the old headmaster. He believed that his daughter had finally found happiness in life and could live a normal life, but who would have thought those horrible incidents would happen later? Lee Xueyin’s mother’s condition deteriorated. Her cold-blooded father made the decision to abandon the mother and daughter who were becoming more of a burden. In the end, it was the old headmaster who sent Lee Xueyin’s mother away on her final journey at the hospital.”

Chen Ge nodded. “I know about all that. You only need to tell me what happened to Yin Bai later.”

“Lee Xueyin’s mother’s passing brought about a huge impact to the old headmaster. He was swallowed by guilt. He felt like it was his fault for failing to pick a good man for his daughter, and it was his own hands that pushed his daughter into the fire pit. The old headmaster adopted Lee Xueyin. He turned the heavy guilt that pressed down on him into love, and he put all his affection and attention into caring for Lee Xueyin.

“Xueyin was a precocious child. She got excellent results at school. To ensure that she would have a bright future, the old headmaster sent her to the best school in the state, but something that no one could have expected happened.

“Halfway through the first semester, the news that Xueyin had left the world came. It was only when it was all too late that the old headmaster knew that Xueyin had been subjected to horrible bullying at her school. The people from her class envied Xueyin because she always scored the best in class. Their envy slowly turned into hatred. In their mind, she was merely an adopted child; she had no father and no mother. During the parent-teacher conference, it was the staff from the children’s home who came to attend on her parent’s behalf.

“The old headmaster cherished Xueyin dearly, so he had no idea that this kind of thing would even happen. The man who had been living for half a century collapsed just like that. He pointed at those students who had on masks of innocence, yelling at them that they were murderers!

“This incident caused a lasting impact on the old headmaster. He adopted all these children because he wanted to give them happiness, not watch them walk step by step into a dark abyss.

“Death is irreversible. To ensure that the same thing would not happen to the rest of his children, to make sure that this kind of tragedy did not reoccur, he stopped at nothing to turn the children’s home into Mu Yang High School.”

The pen in his grasp was still moving. Chen Ge really did not expect there to be such a detailed backstory to Mu Yang High School.

“When Mu Yang High School was completed, the old headmaster’s hair was already all white. He was still so kind and generous, but it was as if a part of his soul was gone. He was not as talkative as before, and the smile on his face became smaller and smaller.

“If my memory serves me right, it was around that time that he often started to go out at night by himself.”

“Wait a minute.” When Chen Ge saw the last sentence that the Pen Spirit wrote, he felt that something was off. “The old headmaster often went out at night on his own?”

“If I’m not mistaken, he took the last bus to Western Jiujiang. The old headmaster was very busy in the day, and his only free time opened up at night.”

“Do you know why he would travel so far to Western Jiujiang?”

“I feel like it was because he had to go and meet up with someone, but one time, I saw the ticket for our Haunted House on his office table.” Even though the Pen Spirit did not admit it directly, she treated herself as part of the Haunted House, and that was quite evident from her choice of words.

“The old headmaster came to Western Jiujiang’s New Century Park’s Haunted House at midnight?” Chen Ge’s eyes widened. He was reminded of something else at that moment. When he entered Mu Yang High School the second time, he had seen a donation record inside the old headmaster’s office, and it had contained both the names of Doctor Gao and his own parents!

“The old headmaster knew my parents!” Chen Ge’s eyes narrowed. He felt like it could have been his parents who acted as the old headmaster’s guide, and that was the reason the old headmaster was able to reach Yin Bai in the School of the Afterlife!

“I get it now; I understand everything now.” Chen Ge took a deep breath. “The old headmaster knew how dangerous the School of the Afterlife was, and he was still worried about the students at Mu Yang High School, so he did not come to the decision to enter the school to rescue Yin Bai. Then, when I came to the school, he knew about my parents’ personality, and he had confidence in me. On the surface, it looked like I had taken the students away from him, but in actuality, he wished for me to find a permanent home for them.”

After getting that all cleared up, Chen Ge did not get angry from being lied to. If anything, his admiration of the old headmaster only increased. Even after death, he still cared so greatly about these kids. After obtaining the black phone, Chen Ge had seen the other world. He had seen the deepest darkness and actual hope, like the old headmaster of Mu Yang High School and Doctor Wei, who donated his body to Jiujiang Medical University for the advancement of medical science.

“With nothing to lose, the old headmaster has entered the School of the Afterlife to try to figure out a way to save Yin Bai. He should be in this school at the moment.” After knowing that the old headmaster was familiar with his parents, Chen Ge’s desperation to find the old headmaster increased. If he could meet him in person, many mysteries about himself would be resolved.

“The old headmaster passed the care of the students from Mu Yang High School to me. Looks like he is determined to even die. But why? We’re all family. I wish he would have come to discuss things with me first.”

Chen Ge had understood the whole story. He was about to put the pen away when he saw suddenly reminded of something. "Pen Spirit, does Lee Xueyin have any siblings? Other than Yin Bai, there is a girl called Yin Hong at this school. She looks almost identical to Yin Bai, but her personality is completely different. She appears to be more cunning and careful with her words."

"Lee Xueyin does not have any siblings; her only family is the old headmaster," the Pen Spirit answered honestly on the white paper.

What the Pen Spirit wrote was similar to the story told by Yin Bai. Chen Ge nodded. "Looks like something else happened to Lee Xueyin after she entered the School of the Afterlife. Yin Bai, Yin Hong, Lee Xueyin... Looks like I will have to bring her around with me."

Chen Ge no longer cared about how complicated this scenario was. With the aid of his own employees, he was confident that he would be able to overcome any trouble. Putting the ballpoint pen away, Chen Ge walked back into the sickroom. Once he did, Lee Bing rushed over to join him. "Chen Ge, are these all people like us? We already have so many friends?"

"Yes, they are all our friends. You should try to communicate with him. In the future, there will be plenty that you need to learn from them." Chen Ge patted Lee Bing on his shoulder lightly. The child appeared very harmless; he could be considered a unique presence among all the specters and lingering spirits. Many of classmates did not like him, but Chen Ge thought that he was quite a lovable fellow.

"Okay!" Lee Bing did not understand the hidden meaning in Chen Ge's words. He only felt thankful. He did not expect there were so many people like him at the school. Walking past Lee Bing, Chen Ge came to Yin Bai's bedside. "Now do you believe me?"

"Yes." Yin Bai recognized her former friends. She had forgotten many things. Her memory was stopped at the time when she was still at school. For her, this was like many friends coming to visit her at the hospital. She had forgotten about her own death and did not know that her friends were also all dead.

"Please leave for now. I have something that I wish to talk to Yin Bai about in private." Chen Ge looked at the students from Mu Yang High School. They were merely lingering spirits who refused to leave the school after they died. They were not even Specters. In a real fight, they could perish so easily. Chen Ge was trying to protect them. Following the students out of the room, as the door closed, he summoned all the students back into the comic. When he met the old headmaster, he hoped that these students could put in a good word or two for him.

The sickroom became quiet again. When Chen Ge returned, he noticed that Yin Bai was getting off the bed. She was winded and looked frail, but she tried to get to Chen Ge as if she had treated Chen Ge as part of her family as well.

Chapter 848: Doctor's Secret

"Are you sure you're fine?" Chen Ge hurried to support Yin Bai. The child took an involuntarily step back, but Chen Ge still managed to grab her arm. She did not struggle and stayed by Chen Ge's side like a quiet kitten.

“Before your grandfather arrives, I will take good care of you.” Chen Ge ruffled the girl’s black hair. “I will show you the world outside. You were unable to experience bliss before death, but at least you’ll need to experience the warmth of the world after death.”

The girl did not quite understand what Chen Ge meant. She merely nodded obediently and shyly asked, “What... is your name? Are you one of grandpa’s children?”

“You can consider me a person whom your grandfather came to for help. I will protect you from further harm.” Chen Ge picked up his bags. As he prepared to leave, he turned to look at the furthest room. There were four rooms in total in the School of the Afterlife’s nurse’s office; Yin Bai and Yan Fei were in the third room. There was another room further inside.

“Yin Bai and Yan Fei should be considered serious cases, but they still do not have the qualification to use the innermost room?” Chen Ge was curious, so he squatted before Yin Bai. “Do you know what kind of students stay in the last sickroom?”

“Only students or staff with serious injuries or those who have gone mad will be sent in there.” Yin Bai’s eyes were darting about when she said that, like she was afraid of the fourth room. When she spoke, her body naturally leaned away from the room. “Many people have entered that room before, but I rarely see people walk out of it. Perhaps there’s another exit.”

“There’s only one exit to this place.” Chen Ge guarded Yin Bai behind him. He activated the recorder and slunk over to the entrance of the fourth room. The member of staff responsible for the nurse’s office was a Red Specter; Chen Ge had met him before. The white coat that he was wearing was just a disguise. He gripped the doorknob and turned it slowly. Chen Ge realized that the door was not locked, so he pushed it open slightly. Blood leaked out from the gap. When the door was fully open, Chen Ge narrowed his eyes and used his body to block the rest of the students. The fourth room was not for patients. There were no beds or medical equipment, only many cracked mirrors. Blood-drenched white coats hung on each of the mirrors. They were of different sizes, but they should belong to one person. Chen Ge covered his mouth and carefully entered the fourth room. A sticky warm feeling crawled on every inch of his skin. Walking into the room was like wading into an ocean of blood. The bloody stench overwhelmed and suffocated him.

“Why would there be a room like this in the nurse’s office? I saw these mirrors in the school reconstructed by the painter.” Chen Ge stopped before the mirror closest to him. He pulled off the white coat. The surface of the mirror was blood red and filled the cracks. “This is similar to the mirror I saw in the eastern campus’ staff dormitory’s maintenance room.”

His finger caressed the surface, and it almost cut Chen Ge. “Even though I’m standing before the mirror, I can’t see my reflection only a slate of redness...”

He was about to move to the next mirror when a voice suddenly echoed in his ears.

“Save me... Please don’t go... Save me...” Stopping in his tracks, Chen Ge turned around and realized that the voice was coming from the mirror.

Narrowing his eyes, Chen Ge looked at the cracked mirror. “Is someone trapped inside the mirror?”

“Save me... It’s dark in here. I can’t see anything. Don’t close the window. Help me... please?” The voice became clear like there was someone standing on the other side of the mirror.

“How can I help you?” Chen Ge took one step back. He knew very well that feelings like pity and empathy were lacking in this world cultivated by despair. Being kind to others would often bring tragedy.

“There is a piece that’s misplaced on the top left corner of the mirror. If you find it and replace it as I say, you’ll be able to see me.”

“Is it that simple?” Chen Ge nudged forward. Just as he was about to reach the mirror, he suddenly stopped. “I can help you, but what will I get in return?”

“What do you want? As long as I have it, I will give it to you!”

“How about this? I’ll ask you a few questions first. If your answers are satisfactory, I’ll help you.” Chen Ge pointed at those white coats. “How much do you know about the doctor here? The man looks quite scary.”

“I am the real doctor. The monster trapped me inside this mirror!” Blood squeezed out from the cracks. The man reacted harshly, and his emotions were fraying. “He is not an employee of our school; he’s an outsider!”

“An outsider?”

“Save me, quick! He’s coming back! I need to tell the headmaster everything that happened here!” More blood appeared on the surface, and each crack were shuddering.

“You said he’s an outsider. What evidence do you have?”

“He comes from a hospital with the name ‘Xin’. I do not know whether he’s a doctor or patient, but I know he’s mad! He’s experimenting with something here; all the teachers have been tricked by him!” The information revealed by the mirror attracted Chen Ge’s attention. He happened to know one hospital with the name ‘Xin’. It was the four-star mission mentioned by the black phone—the Cursed Hospital.

This is getting more interesting.

Chen Ge remembered many details. When he was doing the Trial Mission in Li Wan City. Clues related to the Cursed Hospital had appeared as well. The female patients wearing the patient’s garb had ridden the bus to Li Wan City. The private hospital in Li Wan City had been hiding the patients who had escaped from the Cursed Hospital. Chen Ge remembered the details very clearly. The source of the problem was a little boy, and the boy’s garb had the name ‘Xin’ on it. In the end, the boy had been taken by the red high heels.

The hospital has appeared everywhere. What is its purpose?

When Chen Ge was considering this, the man in the mirror kept pleading.

“I will temporarily trust you,” Chen Ge said. “The doctor is an outsider in disguise, but why would he place so many mirrors here? What is the meaning of a mirror in the School of the Afterlife?”

“Each mirror represents a living person. Save me, let me out! There’s no time! He’ll be back soon! After you let me out, I will tell you everything!” The voice became more desperate, but it did not affect Chen Ge at all. If the doctor returned, then he would take him down. Actually, when he saw the doctor, Chen Ge had already formulated some plans for him. If not for the doctor’s quick escape, things might have been different now.

“I can save you. I hope you aren’t lying to me.” Chen Ge’s eyes zeroed in on the mirror—his gaze was frighteningly calm. Walking to the mirror, Chen Ge looked at the top left corner. “Which cracked piece?”

“Just at the top left side, come closer so you can see better.” The voice in the mirror urged Chen Ge.

“There are many pieces. Which one are you talking about?”

“The small one, come closer.”

“Okay.” Chen Ge took another big step forward until his body was almost stuck to the surface. “Is this it?”

“Yes, that’s it. Right there!” The voice suddenly grew. A scarred hand reached out from inside the mirror to grab at Chen Ge. “You are the missing piece. Get in here! Replace me...”

The monster was halfway through when he noticed that something was wrong. He tried to yank Chen Ge into the mirror, but Chen Ge refused to budge. The scary thing was that he was unable to pull his arm back!

“Don’t worry, I’m going to save you using another method.” Chen Ge stepped back. “Xu Yin, pull him out.”

The monster in the mirror only then realized that his hand was grabbing another’s person’s arm. The person was wearing a red shirt, standing close to Chen Ge.

“Wait! If I can’t find a scapegoat, I will...” He did not get the chance to finish; Xu Yin pulled him directly out from the mirror. The cracks on the mirror were like knives. When the monster was pulled out, the cracks severed his body. He was lacerated, and blood dyed the mirror redder.

Xu Yin held onto the monster’s five remaining fingers, but Chen Ge did notice that the monster inside the mirror was wearing a white coat, so at least one thing was not a lie—he was indeed the real doctor.

“I did not wish to harm you, but you harmed yourself. It was not my intention to do things like this, but thankfully...”

Chen Ge looked around.

“...there are plenty of other mirrors here.”

### **Chapter 849: Non-Smilers**

The fourth room of the nurse’s office was more like a prison where various types of people were imprisoned. Those imprisoned there were all adults; there were no students. “Looks like the fake doctor

knows the rules of the school well. He does not go after the students, probably to avoid angering the school's consciousness."

Chen Ge looked at the mirrors, and each of them was trapping a monster. They were fully assimilated by the negative emotions, and they were not possible candidates for friends. He walked through the room, where pools of blood were left on the ground, before finally stopping before the last mirror at the corner of the room.

"This mirror looks different."

The other mirrors were covered with doctor's coats, but this mirror was covered with a patient's garb. It was tattered and bloody, and there was a 'Xin' sewn around the chest area.

"This outfit doesn't come from the School of the Afterlife; it should have been taken by the Red Specter from the cursed hospital!"

Even though Chen Ge had not been to that hospital, he had met its residents more than once already.

"Looks like the doctor is a patient from that hospital in disguise, but the question is, how did the monster from that four-star mission arrive here?"

Chen Ge could not figure it out. He noticed that the monsters at the cursed hospital, be it Red Specters or Lingering Spirits, seemed to be trying their best to escape.

"Only a Greater Red Specter could cause a normal Red Specter to run. The doctor looks like he's much more powerful than a normal Red Specter, so what has really happened at that hospital? Did even a Red Specter have to escape to another four-star scenario to survive?"

There were many questions, but Chen Ge did not mind it. As long as he could find and detain the doctor, most of the questions could be answered.

"Boss, don't get too close to that mirror. It gives me a bad feeling." It was Bai Qiulin who spoke. His eyes were filled with blood, and a dangerous aura wreathed him.

"Can you see the person trapped inside the mirror?" Chen Ge was very careful. Knowing there was danger, he retreated. This was the world behind the door; he could not afford to be too careful. Bai Qiulin, who had his hand in his pocket, stood to the left of the mirror, and Xu Yin, who had his head lowered, stood at the right; the two of them guarded Chen Ge.

"I cannot see it, but I can sense his malice. This person is very powerful." Bai Qiulin glanced at Xu Yin, but the latter did not reply. After a signal from Chen Ge, without saying a word, the bloody palm pressed on the surface of the mirror.

**BANG!**

The mirror that was already cracked became more splintered like it could not hold the pressure.

"If you refuse to come out, we'll ruin the mirror, and you'll be trapped in there forever. For us, we're losing a not-so-important mirror, but you'll lose your last hope. You should know which choice to make. Other than that, don't think about resisting. There are five Red Specters in this room. I'm not threatening you; I'm trying to help you."

After spending so much time with Chen Ge, Bai Qiulin had learned how to deal with other people from Chen Ge. Chen Ge's sole reflection appeared in the blood mirror. Gradually, the reflection started to shift until the face turned into that of a stranger. This looked very curious. The reflection still had Chen Ge's body, but the face was different.

"You're also outsiders, right?" The man in the mirror had a low voice, and a pool of evil hid in his eyes. But strangely enough, he had a ready smile for the world as if that was the only expression he knew. "Since you have shown up here, it means that the madman has already been killed—he would never allow a living person to enter this room."

The man in the mirror seemed to recognize Chen Ge because his eyes kept falling onto Chen Ge.

"If you wish to capture me as your scapegoat, I advise you to change your mind. The last Specter who planned to do that is still in my shadow, too afraid to face me." Chen Ge took a step back to maintain a safe distance from the mirror.

"I don't know why you'd think that. Actually, I mean none of you any harm. You've killed the madman, and that has helped me with my revenge. I should be thanking you—why would I harm you?" The man's smile widened further, turning his face uglier.

"You look like a clever person, so I won't talk circles around you. Tell me everything about the doctor and this room, or I'll destroy the mirror."

"Don't worry, I will tell you everything. Only after you understand my value will I be able to live." No matter what he said, the man would have a smile on his face. He only knew how to smile, and this made Chen Ge uncomfortable as it reminded him of someone. When he took the bus to Li Wan City, there had been a passenger who only ever smiled. During the last mission in Li Wan City, the passenger had even helped Chen Ge, but that was for the man's self-preservation as well. After the mission in Li Wan City ended, the strange man had disappeared. At the time, Chen Ge did not think much of it. So, he was surprised that he had encountered someone similar at the School of the Afterlife. They were always smiling like it was a disease that they could not control.

"Let's talk about the Red Specter masquerading as the doctor first. How did he get to this school?" Chen Ge was not sure whether the man would lie to him or not, so he decided to ask some unimportant questions first.

"He was a patient that escaped from a certain hospital. I can't tell which specific hospital it was because once you mention the name, you will be cursed." The man's first answer provided an important name for Chen Ge. Be it the black phone or other people, none named the hospital directly, like the name was a curse.

"The cursed hospital?" Chen Ge's eyes narrowed. After he said that, the brows of the man in the mirror lifted, and the blood in his eyes amplified like his emotions were getting out of control.

"Yes, some do call it that."

"Why would the fake doctor escape from there?"

"I don't know. I'm not from there. I was a teacher at this school..."

“You’re lying.” Before the man finished, Chen Ge cut him off. He looked around before grabbing a chair to walk toward the mirror. “Who are you?”

Seeing the threat that was imminent, the man’s eyes darkened, but his smile brightened. “Fine, actually, I’m like you. I came from outside. You can call me... or people like me, the non-smilers.”

The man would pause with each word like he was saying something important.

### **Chapter 850: Begging, Persistence, and the Sky [2 in 1]**

The cracked pieces of the mirror fell from the surface, creating a silvery, tingling sound as they hit the ground. Behind the red mirror, the face of the smiling man was twisted. His smile was growing bigger the closer he was to death. It was as if the closer he was to death, the more he was unable to control his urge to laugh and smile.

“We are called non-smilers because father once said that we do not deserve the ability to smile.” The man in the mirror seemed to have remembered something, and his lips curled open. Even through the mirror, one could hear this spine-chilling laugh like the words mentioned by his father were the most humorous joke in the world.

“Father?”

“He was a doctor at the hospital. He was not a good father, but he was the best doctor I have met in the world.” There was a trace of pain in the man’s crazed eyes. Other than that, there was also a trace of terror and passion. “Other doctors only care about treatment, but while he saves people, he has been busy killing them. He believes that both angels and demons are hidden inside the human heart, and for that, he has personally constructed a heaven and a hell.”

“Is the cursed hospital the hell?”

“No, that is the heaven, but it is a heaven that everyone wishes to escape from!” The man in the mirror had exposed his true personality. He looked at Chen Ge and laughed happily. He seemed to enjoy having this conversation with Chen Ge.

“Since it is a heaven, why would people want to escape?” Chen Ge had a simple conclusion regarding the man inside the mirror—a mad man.

“That was my father’s heaven, not our heaven.” The man pressed his face against the mirror. The cracked surface printed on his face like it was cutting his face into pieces, and it looked startlingly scary.

“If the heaven is already so scary, what does the hell built by your father look like?”

“No one has seen the hell. Do you think the people who have entered the hell could stand here and talk to you?” The man’s eyes were as wide as saucers. His mouth was opened to the maximum of a human’s musculature limit. If his smile grew any bigger, it would have torn his face in half. “Hey, why are you so interested in that hospital? You already know some information about the hospital. When I said I was a teacher at this school, you realized immediately that I was lying. Is that because you have encountered other non-smilers before? You have seen my family? Or is it because you have also received an invitation from that school?”

The middle-aged man in the mirror was the epitome of evil, but he was also very clever. From a few details, he deduced a lot of information. Chen Ge normally would not waste time facing this kind of clever person. He silently gave a sign to Xu Yin so that he could find a chance to kill the man. Whether this man was enemy or friend, after he was killed, he would be turned into feed for the Haunted House. This was the lesson that Chen Ge had learned from his many interactions with Doctor Gao.

“Never mind. It doesn’t matter whether it’s because you have seen my family or you have received the invitation from that hospital. Once you are connected to that hospital, you are unable to escape. He will continue to appear beside you in various forms. Until one day, when you peel open your eyes, you will suddenly realize you are lying on top of a cold slab of operating table and starting a cursed game that is uniquely yours.” The man’s tone did not sound like he was threatening Chen Ge; he was merely stating an inevitable truth.

“I don’t need you to worry about me.” Chen Ge stared at the mirror. “You just mentioned that you have other family?”

“What? Can’t you see it? Like you, I was once a living person. However, the things that accompanied you are friendship and family, but the things that accompanied us are pain and hatred. We spent our days in the eerie, despairing hospital, watching the spread of death and disease until they one day decided to crawl all over us.”

Pa!

The man slapped his palm heavily on the surface on the mirror. His body was pressed hard against the many splintery gaps. “Father does not appreciate it when we cry, so we can only smile and laugh. When we are not feeling well, we need to smile; when we are sick, we need to laugh; the greater the pain in our heart, the harder we need to laugh! But no matter how hard we smile, he still does not like us. He said we have a horrible-looking smile, and he said that our smiles are not sincere!”

The man’s laughter came from inside the mirror. His face was leaning close to the surface, knocking against it repeatedly. “But look, look at me! I am laughing so happily. Can’t you see that I am laughing so happily?”

Blood slid down the wounds. The man’s face was cut by the sharp edges. He touched the blood on the corner of his lips. “We are smiling at every single moment, but we are called the non-smilers. Isn’t that the most hilarious thing you have heard?”

“Perhaps I have a high laughing point, or maybe we are in a different mental space, but I can’t see how is that funny. If you tell me more information about the hospital and the school, I can consider helping you.” Chen Ge had interacted with many mad people before. He was not a doctor and was unable to cure these people. The only thing he could do was filter through these people’s words, maintain his own determination, and prevent himself from being assimilated by the madness.

Actually, it was pretty hard to persuade Chen Ge away from his conviction. He had seen a completely different world before. In a deep conversation, it would be hard to tell who was being convinced. Chen Ge could trade ideas with certain people, but this man was definitely not one of them.

“Looks like my guess was correct. You have seen my family before! Who could it be? My poorest big brother? The youngest, dumbest little brother? Or my big sister who still has her complete body? Or

could it be my other sister? No, wait, that's impossible. If she has seen you, she would have fallen in love with you and would stop at nothing to kill you."

"Can you please shut up for a moment?" Chen Ge realized that when the man shed his disguise and exposed his true self, the true self was a very chatty person. "From now on, I will do the questioning, and you only need to answer."

"Okay, I will tell you everything that I know. You have met my family before. I believe it won't be some kind of happy memory. I..." The man leaned closer to the surface until his body was almost forcing its way through. Blood flowed on the surface on the mirror, but the man did not appear to be in any pain. Madness and illness were not adequate terms to describe this man anymore.

However, once the man did this, Chen Ge noticed something else. This man who called himself a non-smiler was dressed fully in red. He was a bona fide Red Specter!

Chen Ge thought back to the non-smiler from Li Wan City. He realized that this whole family of mad people appeared to be Red Specters.

"What is your relationship with the patient that's escaped from the cursed hospital? Why did he end up trapping you inside the mirror?" Chen Ge got straight to the point, but internally, he was thinking about something else. *This Red Specter appears to be in his weakest moment. After killing and consuming him, perhaps there will be a new Half Red Specter amid my rank of employees.*

"We were in a cooperative relationship. With my power alone, I was unable to escape from the hospital, so I needed a helper."

"How did you end up being trapped by him behind the mirror?"

"After escaping from the hospital, our goal was achieved. Both of us wanted to kill the other, so that was normal."

"That's normal?" Chen Ge still had a hard time placing himself in the shoes of a mad person. "And then what? You were apprehended by him and got sent inside a mirror?"

"Neither of us could really harm the other. The plan we had was to hide behind another door after we escaped from the hospital, but to our surprise, there was a very scary presence behind this door. It is on the same level as the hospital." The man in the mirror pointed at the top of his head. "Have you seen the eye outside the window?"

"The eye outside the window?" Chen Ge frowned. "You mean the blood red sun that has been shining on the entire School of the Afterlife?"

"Yes, it is the real owner here. The few fights between me and my partner attracted its attention, so we wished to find a back-up plan for ourselves." The man seemed to have read Chen Ge's mind already. "We wished to find a path that we could use to enter and leave the school. We put aside our differences and went into another cooperation. We noticed one peculiarity about this place—you could not find a normal mirror in the entirety of this school."

"You noticed that as well?"

“The owner of the school appears to have difficulty facing its reflection. It hates itself, and it has given up on itself. It refuses to see itself.” The man’s words caused Chen Ge’s eyes to grow large. He had realized something important.

“Go on.”

“So, we started to look for mirrors. Then we came to a startling discovery. In this school, every single mirror is made from a memory. The mirrors are hiding someone who hates themselves. Looking at our previous selves is not dissimilar to thinking about the past. We have looked through many mirrors, but an accident happened during our search. This mirror that I am in is different from other mirrors. I found myself trapped in here after entering it.” The smile on the man’s face sent chills down Chen Ge’s spine. “After my partner noticed the strangeness, he did not follow me in here. That was truly sad. I should have acted more authentically back then to trick him.”

“Even in that situation, you wished to entrap your friend? You are truly a sick person that has no cure.” Chen Ge studied the mirror with a new eye. He also slowly discovered the difference between this mirror and the other mirrors. The blood on the surface was all inside the mirror, and there was a layer of dust that could not be rubbed away on the surface. The edge of the mirror had signs of being charred.

*This has been burned before. Whose memory could this mirror be carrying? The painter’s or the first ‘door-pusher’ that entered the School of the Afterlife?*

Chen Ge’s original plan was to kill the man inside the mirror, but now, he started to have second thoughts. If he wanted to kill the man, he would need to destroy the mirror or enter the mirror directly. Destroying the mirror meant destroying a valuable clue, and he might be trapped inside the mirror if he entered it. Chen Ge realized that the non-smiler in the mirror had altered the situation in a significant way without even realizing it. If he was not telling the truth and had created all these details to lie to himself, then this man was madder than Chen Ge thought.

*It would be less worrying if such a clever and mad person was made into nutrients,* Chen Ge thought, but the expression on his face did not change. “Other than the mirrors, what else did you find out?”

For the time being, Chen Ge did not plan to enter the mirror. He wanted to obtain as much information as he could.

“This school is far more dangerous than we predicted. Do not be fooled by the appearance. Other than that, I have seen many interesting things inside the mirror, but I am unable to tell you now because I am still inside the mirror. If I said those things, I might be eaten by the things inside the mirror.” The man could not have been franker. He possessed a lot of information, but he would only tell Chen Ge after he was rescued from inside the mirror.

“I know what to do now. Ol’ Bai, carry this mirror with you. We will leave the nurse’s office first.” Chen Ge wanted to wait for Zhang Ya to wake up before he continued dealing with the non-smilers. The best solution was to ignore him for now. “Find some abandoned clothes or something to wrap around the mirror; I do not wish to see the man’s face.”

Chen Ge was the first to walk out from the room. When Yin Bai and Lee Bing saw them, they were relieved and quickly hurried over. But once they saw Bai Qiulin and Xu Yin, who were following behind Chen Ge, they stopped where they were.

*I need to find the patient that disguised himself as the doctor. Only by capturing him can I confirm the statements given by the non-smiler.*

Chen Ge was concerned about the hospital. The non-smiler was right. He did not receive any mission related to the hospital from the black phone, but the things related to the hospital had already started to show up intermittently around him. He did not know how this would continue to progress, and that unsettled him somewhat.

*I should focus on what is in front of me for now. When that day arrives that I have nowhere to turn, if worst comes to worst, I will lead the ghost fetus to the cursed hospital, and we will all perish together.*

That was a good idea, but Chen Ge knew that the chance of that succeeding would be infinitesimally small.

*For now, the only good news is that I still have time. Clearing this School of the Afterlife's mission will be the key.*

Chen Ge glanced at Yin Bai and Yan Fei. The two children were weak and needed other people's support to help them walk. The fact that they were the people who were qualified to be the 'door-pushers' was probably very hard to believe.

"Zhu Long, Wang Yicheng, and the rest regained their power slowly after their memories were awakened. Does this mean I need to help Yan Fei and Yin Bai remember their past? But hasn't Yin Bai already remembered many things on her own? She has even met her old friends from Mu Yang High School... No wait! There is no mention of Yin Hong at all in her memory! The key to her missing memory lies with Yin Hong. Only by finding that girl will Yin Bai's memory be complete!"

To Chen Ge, Yin Bai was different from the other candidates due to the layer of relationship between the old headmaster of Mu Yang High School. He treated Yin Bai as someone that he could depend on.

"I seem to remember Yin Hong's class was not that far from the nurse's office." Chen Ge returned to the spot where he had run into Yin Hong. "The old headmaster has come to the school many times, so he should know about the presence of Yin Hong. Does that mean, in his heart, he treats Yin Hong as one of his family as well?"

Quickening his steps, Chen Ge was about to push open the door to Yin Hong's classroom when an announcement was suddenly broadcast in the corridor. "Emergency, emergency! All the students, please stay in your classrooms and do not wander about aimlessly! Emergency emergency..."

The broadcast was repeating the same thing. The tone was very serious like something harrowing had happened at the School of the Afterlife.

"The more dangerous the situation, the simpler and more succinct the emergency broadcast. Have the painter and Chang Wenyu started to move?" Chen Ge quickly walked to the window. He realized that the blood fog had thickened greatly, and there was something banging itself against the school madly in the fog.