

Revival 1131

Chapter 1131 - The Corrosion of the Crowd

The faint sound of sobbing drifted across the deathly still surface of the lake.

The source of the crying was a strange woman standing on the wooden boat. No one knew when the woman appeared or when she started standing there.

It was as if she had been there all along, but no one had noticed her.

"There has never been a situation like this before. So many female corpses in the Ghost Lake, but this one is the most unique," said Cao Yang, staring intently at the white figure.

Leuk San said, "Perhaps this is the truth of the coffin at the bottom of the lake. No one has ever been able to confront the Ghost Lake to this extent. Without seeing the real ghost, they all died. We might be the first ghost tamers to reach this far."

"So, we should feel honored then?" Cao Yang said.

"Perhaps it is unfortunate for this fierce ghost. If it had stayed hidden, we wouldn't have any way to deal with it. But now that it has appeared, dealing with her might completely quell the Ghost Lake incident."

Leuk San said, and he then tried to use premonition.

To foresee the next move of the fierce ghost on the wooden boat.

However, in the next moment, Leuk San's vision went black, and he couldn't see anything.

Under the terrifying supernatural interference, his premonition became ineffective, and there was no way to know what the fierce ghost would do next.

This made his face turn ugly immediately.

"Yang Jian, what do you think of this situation?" Cao Yang asked next.

Yang Jian said, "The first time we encountered the Ghost Lake, we all sank into the lake water without directly confronting the fierce ghost. The second time, it was a matter of numbers, and in the process of confronting the female corpses, an unknown change occurred. This change was inevitable. If the numerical comparison continued indefinitely, it would only lead to mutual destruction."

"Therefore, in the clash of the supernatural, only more terrifying things emerge, and thus the ghostly entity on the boat appeared."

"So, the ghostly entity on the boat is more terrifying than all those female corpses combined?" Cao Yang furrowed his brows.

Yang Jian said, "The deeper you interact with the fierce ghost, the greater the danger and crisis you face. It is inevitable. Previously, you mentioned that the female corpses in the lake merely stepped into the water and couldn't come ashore. However, this ghostly entity broke the previous pattern by not only leaving the lake water but also getting onto a wooden boat."

"It is not constrained by supernatural rules, which reveals something we all know in our hearts."

"How confident are we in solving it if we join forces?" Li Jun said in a deep voice.

"It's hard to say. Right now, we haven't been targeted by that ghostly entity. If we really take action, there are only two scenarios: either we deal with it within seconds, or we are wiped out. There will only be these two extreme situations; a third does not exist. I have this premonition that the latter is more likely."

Yang Jian touched his forehead, and the ghostly eyes started to move uneasily, which was a warning that had happened before.

The appearance of a warning indicates a great danger.

"A team of captains working together but still getting wiped out? That possibility should be small," Ah Hong said, not believing such a thing would occur.

"Before the ghost appeared, everyone had already sunk into the lake, and we were almost wiped out once. Yang Jian's words aren't just scare tactics," Cao Yang said seriously.

Li Jun said, "No matter how difficult, we have to find a way to handle it. Didn't we also win the previous numerical confrontation?"

Yang Jian's expression shifted slightly, but he said nothing more.

In truth, during the first sinking and the second numerical confrontation, we lost. We overcame it because, for some unknown reason, I had stolen the supernatural power of the Ghost Lake and used it to counter the Ghost Lake.

"Leuk San, what are you doing?"

Suddenly, Feng Quan shouted, only to find Leuk San suddenly falling silent with a blank expression, as he took steps forward. After just a few steps, he suddenly stepped into the air, falling directly off the rooftop of a building.

Seeing he was about to fall into the Ghost Lake, Feng Quan unhesitatingly deployed the Ghost Fog.

The Ghost Fog hovered, covering the lake's surface ahead of time, pulling the falling Leuk San back up.

Feng Quan emerged from the thick fog and dropped Leuk San onto the ground.

He wasn't unconscious but had fallen into an unconscious state, slowly standing up and walking forward again.

"There's something wrong with him."

Cao Yang immediately said, "It might be related to the previous curse. He is unconsciously moving closer to the fierce ghost on the boat."

In the next moment.

Leuk San stopped walking, as if carrying an incredibly heavy corpse on his back, unable to move.

With Cao Yang's interference, he gradually regained his senses.

"Leuk San, what's going on with you?" Li Jun asked.

Leuk San looked around, shaking his head, "I just lost focus for a moment, nothing happened."

"Lost focus? You almost fell into the Ghost Lake just now. Do you expect Yang Jian to risk saving you again?"

Li Jun said sternly, "Check your condition. We are still dealing with the supernatural incident; we can't fall apart ourselves first."

"I feel normal..."

Leuk San rubbed his head, but before finishing, one of his hands suddenly dropped.

Several strands of long black hair fell from his head, wet and definitely not from him, as he had short hair and definitely wasn't that long.

Others also saw the wet long hair in his hand.

"The ghost's long hair? It clearly wasn't there before."

Li Jun picked it up and immediately tried to burn it with Ghost Flame.

But within the Ghost Flame, the wet long hair remained, impossible to destroy.

Moreover, as time passed, the black long hair on Leuk San's head gradually increased, as if quickly growing.

His expression grew more bewildered.

"Something's not right."

Yang Jian also felt it at this moment, the Ghost Shadow swaying, and his body was trying to break free from the control of the Ghost Shadow.

It seemed that he wanted to plunge into the Ghost Lake ahead, to immerse himself in it.

Leuk San also realized the severity of the problem. He touched his cheek, not knowing when his face had become exceptionally cold and delicate.

This kind of skin was not his own, but a woman's.

No, to be precise, it was the skin of a female corpse.

"It's supernatural erosion, I'm being eroded," Leuk San quickly assessed his situation.

His mind raced: "What caused my erosion? The lake water, the crying? Or was it the silhouette of that malevolent spirit on the ship, or perhaps the curse encountered earlier..."

Each possibility was plausible.

Moreover, Leuk San found that this erosion was irreversible, and even his papery body couldn't resist it.

"We can't stay here any longer; if we linger, we'll all be in trouble," Cao Yang said at this moment, because he saw water seeping out from under Li Jun's feet.

As if there was still accumulated water inside that human skin.

The Ghost Shadow behind Yang Jian wavered, his body seemed to be being pulled, soon losing control.

"It seems only the three of us are having issues, and others seem fine, surely related to the curse from before." He immediately picked up the Ghost Scissors.

Upon touching the Ghost Scissors, Yang Jian saw the curse.

At this moment.

A chilling female corpse unexpectedly merged with Leuk San, their forms overlapping, gradually becoming more and more aligned.

Previously, that female corpse was merely lying on Leuk San's body.

Yang Jian looked at himself again.

Under his hand, there was also a cold, pale hand, mirroring his actions. When he lifted his hand, the female corpse also raised hers, yet the overlap wasn't as severe as with Leuk San.

"The curse is eroding our bodies, and Leuk San's loss of control before was related to this," Yang Jian understood what was happening.

"But things were fine before," Li Jun said.

Yang Jian replied, "Previously, the malevolent spirit on the boat didn't appear. Now it has, and that's the difference. Without resolving this curse, we're in no position to confront that spirit now; we must retreat temporarily."

After speaking.

He grabbed the cracked spear and prepared to leave.

However, the Ghost Shadow at his feet had already turned, but his body hadn't turned yet.

The shadow and body were out of sync.

Yang Jian's face darkened, he forcibly let the Ghost Shadow control his body to barely prevent the loss of control, but this prevention was temporary, as the curse's erosion on himself would only get worse.

Even in his case, Leuk San and Li Jun would not be much better off.

"Feng Quan, lead everyone out of the Ghost Lake's range first," he dared not use the Ghost Eye anymore.

A lapse at this time would be fatal.

"Okay," Feng Quan nodded.

The Ghost Fog spread, thick fog rapidly appeared, shrouding everyone on the rooftop.

Soon.

After the dense fog dissipated, everyone in it vanished without a trace.

On the calm lake surface, the wooden boat swayed, the ghostly pale woman's silhouette still standing there, a faint sobbing sound drifting through the air, clearly audible.

No one dared to approach the vengeful spirit on the wooden boat.

Even if several captains joined forces, they could only make the true ghost appear, going any closer was beyond their power.

In this state, confronting it head-on would be suicidal, with no chance of victory, even if Yang Jian possessed the Coffin Nail.

The dense fog drifted, temporarily leaving the Ghost Lake's range.

This was a service station on the highway, but at this moment, it was deserted.

The thick fog enveloped for a moment.

Yang Jian, Li Jun, Leuk San, and others emerged from the fog, coming to this place.

As soon as they landed.

Leuk San knelt on the ground and vomited immediately.

Cold, turbid lake water gushed out continuously, his skin becoming increasingly pale, and strands of wet, black hair hung down, making him look like a different person, completely at odds with his previous appearance.

Like a cold female corpse.

Li Jun hadn't gone a few steps forward when his steps faltered, nearly stumbling.

His body swayed as if filled with accumulated water, his skin showing signs of paling too, but he was a human skin, which was also a vengeful spirit, so the influence wasn't as severe.

Yang Jian couldn't tell if it was good or bad at this moment; he hadn't grown wet long hair, nor was there water seeping out, but his body was nonetheless going out of control, continuing to move toward the direction of Ghost Lake.

The Ghost Shadow wrestled with his body for control.

He knew the reason he wasn't being eroded was because he had usurped the supernatural powers of the Ghost Lake, but it was just enough to keep himself from being eroded, not from the supernatural influence.

"How could it be like this?" Feng Quan was also surprised.

In just a short time, several captains were in such a condition, fortunately, they had left in time or else leaving would have been difficult.

Chapter 1132 - The Curse of Three People

"The three of us have been cursed before, but the impact wasn't significant back then. Now the situation has worsened; it feels like our bodies are being eroded. Realizing the severity, I chose to retreat for now. Otherwise, if all three of us suffer mishaps simultaneously in a fight, it would spell disaster."

Yang Jian was still holding the Ghost Scissors in his hand.

He saw the curse.

An icy female corpse almost overlapped with Leuk San, beginning to affect his consciousness and control his actions.

When Leuk San was in a trance, it wasn't him moving; it was that female corpse. His body was like a puppet possessed by a malevolent spirit, being guided to walk.

However, Yang Jian was in the same situation.

The difference was that he was slightly better off than Leuk San. Only his body was out of control; the Ghost Shadow was not.

The Ghost Shadow could forcibly regain control of the body, but this was still a temporary solution.

Li Jun's situation was the best. He was least affected by the curse because he himself was like human skin filled with Ghost Flame. His human consciousness was maintained solely by ghost makeup. There wasn't a single part of him that was truly alive, so he hadn't lost control, only showing slight traces of invasion.

"It's absurd to collapse even before making a move." Li Jun said grimly, clearly displeased.

Things had come to this; they had faced so much danger, yet they fled when confronting what seemed to be the source ghost.

They didn't flee when sinking into the Ghost Lake, nor when surrounded by countless female corpses, but now....

"Perhaps this is the limit of what we can achieve against the Ghost Lake. Just seeing that ghost alone. To go further, either we continue to evolve, or we need to find another way." Cao Yang, unaffected by the curse, said calmly.

"Moreover, if we don't deal with the curse now, there's no way to return to the Ghost Lake. Getting too close might spell drowning death once more."

Ah Hong asked, "Yang Jian, do you have a way to deal with the curse?"

"We can sever the curse with the Ghost Scissors, but it also means risking other ghosts' curses. To completely eliminate the Ghost Lake curse with the scissors, I think we need to endure at least three other ghosts' curses. The Ghost Lake's curse is more potent than anything I've encountered before," Cao Yang said.

He still felt apprehensive.

Because the Ghost Lake curse clung to you like a real malevolent spirit, hard to shake off.

"As for Li Jun's curse, pay it no mind. He's not even truly alive; adding more curses makes no difference to him. His body is dead, so he can't die again," Yang Jian said.

"As for me, I don't need to use the Ghost Scissors; I can deal with it myself."

"Since this body bears the curse, I'll just discard it and switch to a new one. A brand new body won't have this ghostly taint."

As he spoke, Yang Jian acted quickly.

He didn't shy away from it.

The Ghost Shadow separated from the original body, taking with it the blackened Ghost Hand and the Ghost Eye within the body, along with all valuable items and paranormal objects.

Thus.

The lifeless, handless body was stripped away.

The Ghost Shadow stood in place, a blood-imprinted face on the shadow depicting Yang Jian's appearance, as if this was his true self, the familiar body a mere interchangeable shell.

Then.

Everyone witnessed an incredible scene.

A new outline of Yang Jian gradually appeared before their eyes, from blurry to clear, until an exact replica of Yang Jian formed completely.

This person had no pulse, no breath, but a rosy complexion, healthy-looking—a stark contrast to the previous cold, lifeless demeanor.

"Changing reality, creating a new body?" Cao Yang's eyes flickered, understanding what transpired, yet still finding it unbelievable.

Li Jun and Ah Hong also showed surprised expressions.

Before everyone's eyes, the pitch-black Ghost Shadow directly invaded this new body.

Ghost Hand grafted, Ghost Eye parasitized, paranormal power transferred.

And in the next moment.

The new Yang Jian opened his eyes and came to his senses, facing an exact duplicate of himself.

It was the old body, lifeless but still standing, now moving forward with each step leaving wet footprints, quickly succumbing to the Ghost Lake curse without paranormal interference.

"As expected, the method worked; I've shed the curse."

Yang Jian, holding the Ghost Scissors, watched his former body.

The icy female corpse had completely merged with the previous body, moving slowly away towards the Ghost Lake, not clinging to the new body.

This was quite logical.

The new body was crafted by the Ghost Necklace altering reality, a product of another paranormal item, unrelated to the Ghost Lake.

"I see, you maintain a human state through this method, no wonder you appear unaffected by malevolent spirits."

Li Jun realized, staring at Yang Jian, Ghost Flames flickering in his eye sockets, pondering something.

Li Jun pondered, is this Yang Jian really the true Yang Jian?

And when did the real Yang Jian unknowingly die?

Then Li Jun shook his head, dismissing the philosophical musings, not his forte.

"The body is changing," Feng Quan observed the body discarded by Yang Jian.

At that moment, Yang Jian's cursed body, moving steadily forward, also underwent strange changes, first with hair growing longer, reminiscent of Leuk San's, but far more extreme as the growth was too rapid.

Soon enough, Yang Jian's body had a head full of long black hair, moist and dripping.

Then the skin paled, blood hue draining quickly.

Even the clothing faded to a strange pallor.

In mere seconds, the original Yang Jian vanished, replaced by a new female corpse.

His earlier body seemed replaced by the curse.

"So that's it," Cao Yang realized watching the scene unfold.

Feng Quan said, "It seems those cursed by the Ghost Lake gradually turn into new female corpses. With paranormal power, they resist the change, but without it, the rapid erosion is unstoppable."

"Invasion, replacement, such an attack isn't from the Ghost Lake. Has the Ghost Lake stolen this power from another supernatural entity?" Yang Jian was expressionless, casually flicking.

A spear flew, piercing through the body transformed into a female corpse.

The Coffin Nail suppressed it, causing the body to fall, unable to move, while water seeped out continuously.

The body deflated like a punctured balloon, quickly withering, flesh dissolving, clothes rotting, leaving only a putrid pool.

"I understand now, that's why the female corpses can't reach the shore. Once ashore, unable to contact the Ghost Lake, they're suppressed, turning into a pool of water like this. But those in contact with the lake become true malevolent spirits, unkillable."

Cao Yang observed this, gaining crucial information.

Yang Jian said, "Makes sense, but the Ghost Lake is big enough. The female corpse doesn't need to come ashore; it just waits there for us. Even if we know this, what can we do? There's no way to deal with it."

"That's true, the ghost never leaves the Ghost Lake, yet it can invade other waters through the lake, affecting the city." The hint of joy that just emerged on Cao Yang's face was immediately extinguished.

"Your curse is resolved, mine doesn't need attention, so what about Leuk San?" Li Jun said, "His situation seems to be quite bad."

Yang Jian turned to look at Leuk San again.

At this moment, black hair had already grown on Leuk San's head, his skin was pale and delicate, his consciousness seemed to be eroding, one eye was lifelessly pale, and the curse had at least eroded half of his body. If this continues, he will be completely eroded.

If that happens, Paper Man Leuk San might just turn into Ghost Lake Leuk San.

Then another formidable ghost will appear.

"No choice, we have to use the Ghost Scissors; if this continues, he'll really die." Cao Yang immediately said.

"I know."

Yang Jian's expression changed slightly as he picked up the Ghost Scissors in his hand.

His vision changed.

He saw the cold female corpse almost overlapping with Leuk San, and there seemed to be whispering voices.

Meanwhile, he was already engulfed in darkness.

Decayed corpses, eerie heads, the sound of dripping blood, approaching footsteps... all sorts of supernatural phenomena emerged around him, all accumulated curses.

Every use of the Ghost Scissors touches these curses, and the slightest mistake can result in being tainted.

"Yang Jian, if it's inconvenient for you, let me do it." Cao Yang said, "Even if I catch a bit of the curse, I'll find a way to handle it."

"No need, my ability to withstand curses is stronger than anyone else's. Even the curse of the Ghost Lake couldn't hold me; I believe other curses won't affect me either." Yang Jian shook his head, refusing Cao Yang's goodwill.

Then he stepped forward, ready to make his move.

He raised the Ghost Scissors towards the neck of the female corpse almost merged with Leuk San.

On the first cut, he only sheared away half of the female corpse's head.

Immediately, all the curses in Yang Jian's vision seemed to come alive, with a harrowing sense of ghostly revival, all closing in on him.

And the effect of breaking the curse appeared.

Leuk San's one lifeless eye turned normal, and his consciousness became clear.

"Not enough." Cao Yang said.

"It takes at least three times." Yang Jian replied, then extended the scissors for a second cut.

Another piece of the head was clipped off.

The black hair that had grown on Leuk San's head began to disappear rapidly, and the invasion marks vanished.

However, on the second cut, Yang Jian's face tightened, and he looked down.

An unknown rotten Dead Man's Head had already turned around at some point, staring provocatively at him, and though it was slowly disappearing, the unsettling feeling remained.

Looking again.

At some point, that rotten Dead Man's Head was lurking in the darkness not far from him, like a terrifying ghost standing in the dark, fixated on him.

"Tainted by a curse." The thought popped into Yang Jian's mind.

There's no need for further probing; a mere intuition is enough to determine the current situation.

"Indeed, the Ghost Scissors aren't a convenient supernatural item. Since this situation is unavoidable, it's not worth worrying about."

He finished speaking and used the scissors for the third cut.

Another large chunk of the female corpse's head on Leuk San was clipped off.

At this moment.

Leuk San stopped vomiting, no more stagnant water flowed out, and the whispering sound beside his ear vanished.

His consciousness was no longer at risk of invasion.

As for his body... Yang Jian did not want to act, because it's too complicated, requiring at least six or seven cuts with the Ghost Scissors, which he considered not worth it, especially now that Leuk San wouldn't die.

"Just tainted by a curse, luck wasn't great but not bad either." Yang Jian's expression shifted slightly, then he put away the Ghost Scissors.

"The Ghost Lake can erode consciousness, it's a bane for us supernatural beings, you all have to be careful."

Upon regaining consciousness, the first thing Leuk San said was this.

"Already figured it out," Cao Yang said, "You were having a hard time staying conscious just now, at this rate you would've surely died. Luckily, the Ghost Scissors weren't lost in the Ghost Lake, or else there'd be no way to handle this curse."

"Thank you, I owe you my life." Leuk San said.

Cao Yang said, "It's not me who saved you, it's Yang Jian. If you want to thank someone, thank him."

Leuk San, still not fully conscious, thought it was Cao Yang who used the Ghost Scissors.

"Yang Jian, I'm sorry for troubling you," he said, then felt a bit embarrassed.

"Not really a trouble, the real issue isn't resolved yet," Yang Jian said.

Ghost Lake, huh?

Everyone fell silent, enveloped in a rather heavy atmosphere.

This supernatural incident is too difficult to handle.

Moreover, the situation is complex, and from previous encounters, the Ghost Lake isn't something that can be contained.

Once attacked by the ghost in the Ghost Lake, even if not dead, one will be tainted with a curse and have their supernatural powers stolen.

This means.

The more you confront the Ghost Lake, the more terrifying it becomes,

possessing the potential for infinite growth.

Next time, if they act without confidence, a few more attacks from the Ghost Lake, and who knows to what extent it will grow.

Judging from the current information.

The Ghost Lake's invasion replaces the living, likely stealing from Shen Lin.

The numbers, most likely stolen from Leuk San.

The clothes, possibly taken from the one-eyed old man.

Yang Jian was attacked but not stolen from, because he previously had supernatural connections to the Ghost Lake, so he was unaffected.

As for Li Jun, he didn't seem to be stolen from, perhaps because he lost consciousness at the time.

Chapter 1133 - Wishes and Deals

Just one curse affected three captains, and almost eroded another.

This result is really hard to accept.

The fierce ghost on that ship has yet to be truly encountered, who knows what kind of danger will occur after the next encounter, it might be worse than today's situation.

"It's already very late today, I suggest we temporarily halt the operation, get some rest, and then visit Ghost Lake again tomorrow at noon." At this moment, Yang Jian proposed taking a day off.

He felt that everyone in this state was not at all suited for continuing to confront the fierce ghost.

The previous contact with Ghost Lake was an enormous burden for everyone, and if they were to continue using supernatural powers, it's not just that others couldn't hold on, even Yang Jian himself couldn't withstand it.

"A day off, huh?"

Li Jun looked at everyone, rather uncommonly without opposing: "I think it's a good idea, this state is indeed not suitable for continued action, we went too hard before, affecting ourselves too greatly, so it's good to adjust a bit."

Cao Yang said: "It's not just simple recuperation, previously Yang Jian had made large-scale alterations to the landscape to lock down Ghost Lake, we also need to see if the subsequent influence from Ghost Lake has spread; if not, it means the lock-down was perfect, and we then have a new choice, using this expanse of land to end this supernatural incident."

"The supernatural lock-down strategy is quite common, I'm sure headquarters can understand, after all, our lives are more important compared to dozens of miles of land."

Ah Hong nodded and said: "Yes, as long as Ghost Lake hasn't influenced places outside of Zhongzhou City, maintaining control over the danger zone of this supernatural incident, then this operation can already be considered more than half successful, and previously headquarters was so urgent in requisitioning captains to handle Ghost Lake because it had invaded the water bodies, affecting many cities, even impacting Dachang City hundreds of miles away."

"So Yang Jian's previous actions were quite correct, whether or not the supernatural incident can be handled, whether or not the fierce ghost can be contained, first lock down the area to reduce the influence range, even if the supernatural incident can't be resolved, as long as the scope of influence isn't significant, it can be accepted." Li Jun said.

Everyone expressed that they could agree with these results.

But whether the lock-down truly worked depends on the reactions of the coming days, after all, the landscape alteration happened not long ago, and whether it can completely stop Ghost Lake's spread and how effective it will be is still unknown.

"Don't stand here any longer, go inside the service station to rest, discuss anything else tomorrow, I've already confirmed there's no one in the service station, but don't let your guard down at night, this place isn't far from Ghost Lake, any anomaly must be notified to the others in time."

Yang Jian had no interest in continuing the discussion, he felt really unwell today and needed rest, while simultaneously checking his own condition.

"That's right, there's no rush with the issues, everyone rest first, discuss anything further tomorrow, but I don't need sleep, I'll keep watch tonight, you all rest easy." Li Jun nodded and said.

Yang Jian said no more, turning and heading towards a hotel in the service station, soon disappearing from everyone's sight.

"Looks like Yang Jian's condition isn't very good either." Cao Yang mentioned as he watched Yang Jian leave first, with a slight look of contemplation.

"That's certain, he previously fought against the senior ghost handlers of Taiping Ancient Town, and also altered the landscape using the Ghost Domain, using supernatural powers almost the whole day, under such circumstances, it's hard for oneself not to have issues no matter how special the ghost handler is."

Leuk San said, feeling a great relief as the curse on him weakened.

"In my opinion, the Ghost Lake incident is likely difficult to resolve completely, the final outcome is probably to handle it via lock-down, actually, all of us know that the moment Ghost Lake invaded reality it had already spiraled out of control and cannot truly be contained."

"At least, we have to try tomorrow." Li Jun said.

Leuk San glanced: "There was a fierce ghost that previously escaped from Ghost Lake, but that number was very small, after all, if Ghost Lake was still here, and we truly dealt with Ghost Lake, the ghosts inside once fully revived would be fatal, Ghost Lake's existence at least maintains relative balance."

Li Jun remained silent.

Because what Leuk San said was correct, Ghost Lake is not just a simple supernatural incident, but the subsequent explosive supernatural outbreak is daunting.

Previously, Yang Jian ordered everyone to retreat not just because of the curses on the three people, but also likely hesitating whether to continue risking their lives to resolve Ghost Lake.

"I'll report this matter, let headquarters decide, headquarters has a professional team for analysis, we only have to tackle the task." Li Jun said.

"I should have turned down this mission, almost died in this damn place." Leuk San shook his head, turned, and left.

He didn't need sleep, but also needed to adjust his condition.

"Let's talk about it tomorrow, Li Jun, tonight take advantage of this time to report things, establish the Ghost Lake case file, see what headquarters says, tomorrow we wait for their response." Cao Yang said.

Li Jun nodded: "Okay, I'll contact headquarters now."

He took out the satellite communication phone as he spoke.

Though it fell into Ghost Lake before, the phone was still functional, not hindering contact.

Feng Quan saw this and also said: "Then I'll rest first, let me know if there's anything else."

Everyone was mentally and physically exhausted, and didn't converse for long, after a brief discussion, they dispersed.

However, the service station wasn't big, just this limited space, although everyone was resting separately, in reality, they weren't very far apart, doing this was also to ensure each other's safety.

At this moment, Yang Jian arrived in a room within the service station.

As soon as he entered the room, he locked the door, then quickly headed to the bathroom.

Suddenly, Yang Jian bent over and started vomiting over the toilet, a lot of blood gushing out of his mouth, like a flood gate opening, unstoppable.

His skin color lightened to a pallor visibly.

In an instant, the living body turned cold and gloomy.

"The influence on me after stealing the supernatural power of Ghost Lake is growing, Ghost Shadow can't handle such supernatural forces, if this continues, I'll be completely eroded by the supernatural power of Ghost Lake and become a second Ghost Lake."

"The balance after Ghost Shadow's crash is being disrupted."

"Indeed, my previous caution was right, with every additional piece of supernatural, the uncertainty increases."

Yang Jian felt his body's anomalies and at this moment lifted his head to look at himself in the mirror.

His face looked particularly ghastly, like a drowning victim, devoid of blood.

"But without the supernatural power from Ghost Lake, I would've already drowned at the lake's bottom before, there's no way I could be alive now." Yang Jian said and again bent over to vomit.

A large amount of blood was being lost.

This is the supernatural of Ghost Lake rejecting the blood in his body.

What filled his body now was not blood, but lake water.

"But this erosion also has its benefits, the restlessness from Ghost Eye Resurrection seems to be gradually calming down, so in the coming period, my worry isn't Ghost Eye Resurrection, but rather the erosion of Ghost Lake on myself."

Yang Jian understood that mastering new supernatural powers comes with a cost.

Back when he controlled Ghost Eye, rode the Ghost Shadow, these all came at a great cost before finally mastering these two supernatural powers, and now it's the same with Ghost Lake.

"Therefore, after the Ghost Lake matter ends, I'll have to spend my remaining time finding a new balance, resolving the influence of Ghost Lake on myself, if successful, I'll certainly solve the problem of Ghost Eye Resurrection, open Ghost Domain to the eighth layer, besides that, also completely master the supernatural power of Ghost Lake."

Yang Jian's gaze shifted slightly, thinking about that eerie human skin paper.

If there's any method to completely harness this level of supernatural power, it would be the human skin paper that knows.

As he thought, he bent over again to vomit.

It felt like he wouldn't stop until every last drop of blood was drained from his body.

However, just at this moment.

A gust seemed to blow into the dark room, the originally closed door suddenly made a slight creaking sound, slowly opening slightly.

This movement was normally inconspicuous.

But at this moment in the restroom, Yang Jian instantly stopped vomiting, then sharply turned his head toward the door and barked: "Who?"

Despite the supernatural power influence from Ghost Lake, he hadn't reached the point of relaxing his guard.

Just now, Yang Jian clearly remembered shutting the door as soon as he entered the room, and also locking it.

How could a gust of wind open the door?

Yet outside the restroom, everything was pitch-black, without a hint of light.

Yang Jian didn't turn on the light, since due to his landscape alteration earlier, this service station had long been out of power.

He waited silently for ten seconds.

His expression suddenly turned grim.

No reply, which meant it wasn't someone else looking for him.

"Is it a fierce ghost from Ghost Lake that has followed me?" Yang Jian pondered this, but the ghost eyes had already opened.

Although he was now being eroded by the supernatural power of Ghost Lake, this erosion required some time, and as the erosion intensified, his ability to harness supernatural power would grow stronger, until eventually, he lost complete control.

This is just like a resurrected ghost master.

The closer they are to resurrection, the more terrifying the supernatural power, until finally, there is no difference from a real ghost.

Under the ghost eye, the dark environment is no longer an obstacle.

At this moment, Yang Jian cautiously walked out of the toilet, holding a long gun.

The door was open, in a half-closed state.

The lock was not violently broken; it was as if someone had opened it from inside the room.

He looked again at the floor tiles.

The floor tiles were spotlessly clean, with no wet footprints.

This indicates that it wasn't a fierce ghost from the Ghost Lake that came ashore; if it was, it would most likely leave wet footprints.

Inside the house, it was silent, with no sign of anything unusual.

It seemed that Yang Jian had just been overly sensitive, and everything was actually normal.

But Yang Jian didn't believe it was just his imagination; he opened his ghost eye again to continue peeking inside the house.

There must be something that entered the room; he just hadn't seen it yet.

However, even after opening the ghost eye, Yang Jian still saw nothing.

The Ghost Domain had been opened to the fourth layer; the fifth layer couldn't be opened at will; otherwise, this building would be transported out of the real world.

"If it's not hidden in the Ghost Domain, then there's only one other possibility..."

Yang Jian took out an eerie pair of scissors entwined with hair from his body.

If the Firewood Knife could use fingerprints and footprints as a medium to see who or what passed by, then the Ghost Scissors could reveal every curse.

The next moment.

The vision around him changed, and various terrifying curses appeared around him.

Dripping blood, approaching footsteps, whispers behind him, and scattered broken bodies nearby.

None of this was real; it was a manifestation of fierce ghost curses and murder rules.

Yang Jian stared at everything around him.

Finally, he saw that at his feet, blood was flowing, forming a scarlet trail stretching into the distance.

"Is this... a new curse? When did this happen? I didn't see this curse before when I had the Ghost Scissors." Yang Jian's expression shifted slightly, and he pursued the bloody trace.

The next moment.

His pupils sharply contracted.

The bloody trail connected to a red-painted wooden cupboard—that was the Ghost Cabinet.

The curse of the Ghost Cabinet had reappeared.

But it wasn't just that that shocked Yang Jian; what shocked him was that there was a terrifying ghostly figure standing in front of the Ghost Cabinet.

The figure was eerie, old, and lifeless, making one's heart palpitate.

Yet it felt strangely familiar.

As if he had seen it somewhere before.

Yang Jian quickly searched through his memories.

That's right.

He had seen that figure when investigating the ghost beside Zhao Xiaoya.

The ghost was said to be able to grant people's wishes.

"I remember now, the Wish Sticker." Yang Jian suddenly understood what might be going on.

At that time, after he entered the Ghost Lake, he used the Wish Sticker to create a supernatural conflict with the Ghost Cabinet and saved Ah Hong.

Afterward, he thought he had dispelled the curse of the Ghost Cabinet and didn't give it much thought.

Now, it seemed there might be more trouble than he anticipated.

Not only had he provoked the curse of the Ghost Cabinet, but he had also attracted the fierce ghost beside Zhao Xiaoya.

"But why is that fierce ghost blocking the Ghost Cabinet?" Then Yang Jian noticed a detail.

The fierce ghost was standing in front of the Ghost Cabinet.

This way, the Ghost Cabinet couldn't be opened, and the transaction couldn't continue, and similarly, the fierce ghost following Zhao Xiaoya didn't entangle with him; instead, it entangled with the Ghost Cabinet.

"Could it be that the wish-granting ghost and the Ghost Cabinet are stuck together, so the ghost didn't entangle with Zhao Xiaoya, nor did it with me, and likewise, the Ghost Cabinet couldn't proceed with its next transaction with me." Yang Jian observed, quickly drawing conclusions in his mind, attempting to analyze the current situation.

"If that's the case, as long as this balance remains unbroken, both Zhao Xiaoya and I are safe."

"This curse isn't such a bad thing; at least for now, it is."

"But if I were to use the Ghost Scissors to cut through this curse now, what would happen? Would both the ghost and the Ghost Cabinet disappear from this world forever, or would there be some other unknown change?"

At this moment, Yang Jian had an impulse to try once again.

If it was as he thought, then the ghost and Ghost Cabinet would remain in an eternal stalemate, unable to entangle with anyone, and no one would know of these two opposed existences, naturally preventing any successors from being tainted by these two curses.

But Yang Jian abandoned this idea.

He was afraid that if he failed to mediate properly, he would become the one to suffer the most, targeted by both the Ghost Cabinet and the fierce ghost, forced to complete the Ghost Cabinet's transaction and fulfill the fierce ghost's wish.

After all, now was not the time to invite trouble.

He put down the Ghost Scissors.

All traces of the curse disappeared from his sight, but Yang Jian still looked warily towards the corner of the room.

The ghost was still there.

"Being able to maneuver among these ghostly things and still survive until now, I must say, it truly is a miracle." Yang Jian rubbed his head.

He hadn't forgotten, stored in his memory was an Evil Hound.

The Evil Hound was still lurking.

Yang Jian didn't even dare to sleep anymore, fearing that he would be chased and bitten to death by the Evil Hound in his dreams.

The Evil Hound biting people to death had precedents; that woman from Taiping Town had died like that, in her sleep.

Meanwhile.

Li Jun and Ah Hong were organizing today's information and reports, submitting the matter to headquarters and establishing a Ghost Lake incident file.

Cao Yanhua hadn't slept all night; he was too focused on the progress of the Ghost Lake incident.

Following Feng Quan, Li Jun's information was even more detailed.

Although the information was fragmented, headquarters had dedicated personnel to analyze and organize it, even supplementing missing parts, so repetitive inquiries to Li Jun weren't necessary.

After compiling it, when Cao Yanhua received the Ghost Lake report, he couldn't help but heavily pound his desk.

His expression wasn't pleasant.

Because between the lines, Cao Yanhua only reached one conclusion: the Ghost Lake incident is unresolved.

It's not a problem that can be handled.

Rather, it fundamentally cannot be handled.

Chapter 1134 - The Final Summoning

The Ghost Lake incident cannot be handled and should not be handled.

After reaching this conclusion, Cao Yanhua felt completely suffocated.

He had sensed something wrong when Yang Jian had previously made large-scale changes to the landscape, and it now seemed that this ominous premonition was gradually becoming a reality.

Although Yang Jian is a thorny person.

He is, however, the top-tier in handling supernatural incidents, and none of his measures are meaningless. When he alters the terrain to block a supernatural event, it means that the situation is far more complicated than imagined.

"To truly handle the Ghost Lake incident, perhaps bringing in the remaining half of the captains would provide a chance," Li Jun concluded his last report with this statement.

Cao Yanhua sat silently at his desk for a long time.

This request was impossible to fulfill, as even he, the deputy minister, could not gather all the captains.

Fortunately, the actions on Li Jun's side had ceased, and there were no casualties. They also found the long-missing Captain Yinzi, though the bad news was that Shen Lin had disappeared.

Although disappearances are common in supernatural events, Cao Yanhua had to prepare for the possibility that Shen Lin was already dead.

The headquarters, though having a quota for twelve captains, had made plans for rotation. Thus, there were captain candidates ready to step in immediately if a captain went missing for a long time or died, preventing any vacancy.

"Let them discuss and decide on the Ghost Lake incident independently. If it cannot be resolved, allow them to seal off the area and abandon the operation. We cannot afford to lose any captains in the current situation," Cao Yanhua said gravely.

"Also, try to gather information about Shen Lin. He is unique, capable of existing in people's memories, so his disappearance might not be true death; he could be lost in someone's past memories."

"Moreover, Ye Zhen from the Supernatural Forum has recently been in frequent contact with Wang Chaling in Dadong City, leading to several conflicts and tension. Keep a close watch, and don't let them clash. At the very least, delay it until after the Ghost Lake incident is resolved."

"We've deployed too many captains this time; if something goes wrong, the number at headquarters will be insufficient."

Cao Yanhua couldn't help but be troubled by the recent incidents.

Meanwhile, at a highway service station near Zhongzhou City.

Li Jun reported everything that happened today and received a temporary response.

"What does headquarters say?" Ah Hong asked while touching up makeup in front of the mirror.

Li Jun put down the satellite phone: "If there's no better solution, we can only seal off Ghost Lake and abandon the operation. Headquarters has agreed to this, as it is the method with the fewest casualties, and currently headquarters can't deploy more captains to support us, so tomorrow we'll have to rely on ourselves."

Ah Hong looked at her reflection, heavily made-up, appearing glamorous on the surface but in fact revealing a stiffness and eeriness, devoid of vitality, full of gloom, making one uncomfortable.

She sighed: "Surviving this time is already quite fortunate."

"I need to analyze the intelligence again to see if there's a better method to deal with the Ghost Lake incident."

Li Jun wasted no time; he didn't need to sleep, so he began contemplating strategies again.

He hoped that by pondering repeatedly, he might suddenly come up with a plan.

In contrast, Cao Yang appeared much more relaxed.

He had escaped Ghost Lake, successfully rescued. Under such a brush with death, the success of the mission became less important.

"Sleep, sleep." Cao Yang found a place to lie down, intending to sleep first.

At this moment, Yang Jian also didn't have other actions. He sat alone in a chair, one hand holding a cracked spear, the other supporting his head. Though his eyes were closed, a ghostly eye opened in the dark, staring at an inconspicuous corner of the room.

There was nothing there, yet an inexplicable chill emanated, as if an invisible ghost was lingering there.

He dared not sleep.

Because Yang Jian was unsure if, upon sleeping, he would be targeted by that Evil Hound, even though it was a ghost that his father spent a lifetime raising, but ghosts are too unpredictable.

Without a certain level of assurance, Yang Jian temporarily didn't want to interact with that Evil Hound.

At least, he planned to wait until after the Ghost Lake incident to find an appropriate time and opportunity to deal with that ghostly thing.

For now, it was unsuitable.

So now, Yang Jian planned to spend the night peacefully in this manner.

But the events of today were far from settling down.

The scope of Ghost Lake's influence was vast.

Due to Yang Jian's previous alteration of the terrain, Taiping Ancient Town had been submerged, though not entirely; most buildings were soaked in cold lake water, with only a few prominent structures at higher elevations escaping full submersion, though half were under water.

A black boat docked before a half-submerged shrine in the ancient town.

At the helm was a one-eyed old man, along with Boss Liu, who ran the inn, and the Faceless Person, arriving here.

These three were the last surviving old residents of Taiping Ancient Town; others who migrated here were ordinary people unaware of the origin or secrets of Taiping Ancient Town.

As the place became submerged, Taiping Ancient Town stood desolate, with only them lingering.

The shrine was deeply inundated, with water reaching waist-height.

But the depth of water wasn't the most critical aspect; it was more significant that this water was connected to Ghost Lake.

This meant that supernatural occurrences were always possible in this flooded area.

Even so, the one-eyed old man left the black boat, wading through the water, walking within the shrine.

Behind him,

the tall Faceless Person carried a young female corpse on its back, with Boss Liu holding an oil lamp that had yet to be extinguished.

"Alas, Taiping Town is finished." Boss Liu sighed as the waterlogged shrine drew his lament.

The one-eyed old man paused, slightly raising his head to look at the spiritual tablets before the shrine.

The tablets were set high, thus not submerged, each tablet clean and tidy without a speck of dust, the surrounding area kept in order.

Every spot was a testament to the old man's lifelong devotion.

He had guarded this place for decades, thinking he would hold it until his dying breath, not expecting the shrine to be submerged before that day.

After a brief pause for observation,

the one-eyed old man approached the rows of tablets. Familiar as he was with their arrangement, he grabbed one without needing to look closely.

"Follow me."

He uttered these words and headed towards the back of the shrine.

Boss Liu and the Faceless Man wordlessly followed.

The rear hall of the shrine was vast and empty, with several rooms on each side, each door tightly shut.

The one-eyed old man arrived at one door, opening it to reveal two long benches in the center, submerged, supporting a coffin painted in bright red lacquer. Though it seemed placed a long time ago, it appeared new.

"Place the body inside," the one-eyed old man instructed.

The Faceless Man nodded, opened the red coffin, and put the young woman's corpse retrieved from the lake inside.

The corpse was dressed in an old-fashioned coat.

The coat's color was dull and suppressive, adorned with many eerie patterns, twisted bodies, grimacing faces, strange limbs... as if many fierce ghosts resided within, chilling the spine.

"Seal the coffin and place the tablet on top," ordered the one-eyed old man.

The Faceless Man took the spiritual tablet, sealed the coffin, and placed the tablet on it.

At this moment, the one-eyed old man, from somewhere, produced a thick stack of white paper, covered in dense black writing.

He then took out an incense stick.

This incense was familiar, seemingly identical to that in front of the coffin in the old house.

When lit before a tomb, it could awaken the memories of the past, sustaining only for the duration of the burning incense.

This was a supernatural item from the Republic of China Period.

Unexpectedly, it was present here.

Soon, the incense was lit.

An unusual fragrance emanated, a misty smoke wafting undispersed, floating before the red coffin.

As the smoke passed over the tablet, an eerie scene unfolded; a blurred young woman's figure appeared through the smoke, resembling precisely the corpse within the coffin.

"Whether she can successfully come back to life, I don't have much confidence,"

the one-eyed old man confessed, somewhat despondently. He held uncertainty as he struck a match, setting fire to the thick stack of white paper in his hand.

"Let's give it a try. If not, our ancient town is truly doomed; our generation's nearly all gone, losing another today. If our successors return safely, it would be worthwhile after all," Boss Liu said.

The Faceless Person still couldn't speak, he just faced the direction of the coffin.

Although he had no eyes, he seemed to be watching.

"Hoo!"

Suddenly.

In front of the red coffin, a gust of chilly wind blew, and the ignited white paper immediately started to float in the wind, with a strong smell of paper ash filling the air.

At the same time, the smoke from the incense stick that had been lit wasn't blown away by the wind. Instead, it bizarrely drifted into the red coffin.

At first glance, it seemed like something inside the coffin was absorbing the smoke.

Supernatural phenomena kept occurring, but the three people paid no heed to it and didn't find it strange. They just stared intently at the coffin, as if waiting for some result to emerge.

Not sure if it was an illusion.

After a while, the red coffin suddenly quivered slightly.

Simultaneously, the spirit tablet placed on the red coffin made a cracking sound and split open.

An incomprehensible supernatural power was interfering with everything around.

The spirit tablet was slowly cracking, the incense was burning rapidly, and the white paper flying around the coffin was burning down more and more, until even the paper ashes were quickly disappearing.

As these things happened, the movement inside the red coffin grew stronger.

It seemed like some change was happening to the female corpse inside the coffin.

"Wake up, you shouldn't have died like this." The one-eyed old man murmured in a deep voice.

Boss Liu, however, cautioned, "It's better to be careful. If what wakes up isn't a person, then it's a terrifying ghost that gets awakened, and then we'll be in danger. This sort of thing is very uncertain, and nobody can guarantee the result will definitely be good."

The Faceless Person nodded in agreement with this statement.

Supernatural resurrection itself is a taboo, not allowed in the eyes of the older generation.

But for the last young person of the ancient town, they broke this rule and triggered this taboo.

"It won't fail." The one-eyed old man looked at the gradually cracking spirit tablet, especially at the name on it, his eyes revealing a hint of reminiscence.

He seemed to return to more than a decade ago.

As usual, he sat inside the ancestral hall, guarding the place, but the difference was that the silent and oppressive ancestral hall was filled with a touch of joy.

It was a lovely little girl.

She loved to play, loved to make noise, loved to listen to stories, running in the ancient town of an old era, as if welcoming the arrival of a new era.

However, the despairing world swallowed the last hope of this ancient town.

He could only utter decayed sighs, powerless.

But today.

He broke all the rules he could break just to resurrect a young person who died in Ghost Lake.

Amidst such a heavy atmosphere, a voice abruptly appeared.

"As expected, you old fellow haven't left and are still guarding this place. Very well, I'll take your life today." It was the voice of Leuk San.

"It's the young man we drowned in the lake during the day." Boss Liu recognized this voice immediately.

"I'll go stop him."

The one-eyed old man waved his hand, saying, "This is a grudge I've caused. I can't let this grievance pass onto the next generation. You don't interfere. I'll handle it. You stay here and keep an eye on this coffin."

"You really don't need any help?" Boss Liu asked worriedly.

He knew that after fighting once with that backhand called Yang Jian today, plus an Evil Hound invaded his consciousness, the one-eyed old man's state was not good at the moment.

Moreover, the garment just now had also been taken off and left inside the coffin.

"If I can kill him once, I can kill him a second time, it's no bother." The one-eyed old man walked out.

Very quickly.

He saw Leuk San at the door of the ancestral hall.

At this moment, Leuk San was standing on the water, incredibly, without sinking.

The one-eyed old man showed a few signs of surprise, then frowned again.

Because in his pallid eye, what he saw was not Leuk San, but a chilling headless female corpse standing on the lake, overlapping with Leuk San, supporting him to not sink.

This was the curse of Ghost Lake.

Suffering the curse, yet unharmed, instead benefitting from it, gaining the ability to stand on the water.

"That group of youngsters should have withdrawn, so you came back alone to retaliate?" The one-eyed old man said expressionlessly.

Leuk San sneered, "Retaliate? I'm here for revenge. I remember clearly that it was you who almost had me drowned. Where are the other two? Hiding for what?"

Then he glanced toward the direction of the back hall.

"Living isn't good for you, why seek death." The one-eyed old man's pallid eyeball was rotating, staring at him in a strange manner.

"It's fine not to show, after all, my target is only you. As for seeking death, I don't have that thought for the time being." As Leuk San spoke, the skin on his body began to peel away slowly.

What was hidden beneath the second layer of the paper human body gradually came into view.

It was an old corpse, terrifying and insidious, wrapped by the paper human, hidden well.

And this time, what Leuk San revealed was not just a pair of arms, but almost his entire body.

Only a face remained unchanged, covered with yellow paper, belonging to the paper human.

Seeing this old corpse, the one-eyed old man's face slightly changed, with some surprise: "I see, so there's such a corpse hidden within your body."

"Afraid? To be honest, I don't dare to release it either. This is a truly terrifying ghost; the more released, the greater the possibility of losing control. Once entirely out of control, I might just die immediately. I, Leuk San, never take risks, but to eliminate you, I think taking a risk once is worth it."

Leuk San spoke coldly, even voluntarily revealing his secrets.

The reason for this was not that he was stupid, but because he was confident.

If he couldn't eliminate the opponent, then revealing secrets was no longer important. In any case, it would surely be his own doom.

If he could eliminate him, then the dead would not tell tales.

"Not enough, just this won't kill me, ultimately, it will be you who dies. I advise you, young man, to know what's good for you. Let go of the grudge and leave now, then everything will be safe and sound. If we really fight, I will be merciless."

The one-eyed old man's eyes narrowed slightly as he spoke.

"Really? Unfortunately, I've made up my mind. Tonight, I will either kill you and go back or die here in this ancestral hall," Leuk San said, then slowly walked over the water across the entrance of the ancestral hall and directly walked inside.

The one-eyed old man sighed, "Is that so, then that's really unfortunate."

In the next moment.

The door of the ancestral hall creaked, displacing the water, and slammed shut.

Both of them knew very well that today, no matter what, one of them had to die, otherwise, the matter wouldn't end.

And at the service station, everyone wasn't aware that Leuk San had sneaked away during the night. No, to be precise, he hadn't sneaked away because at the station Leuk San was still there, not having left.

Obviously.

The one staying at the station was just a paper human.

Since matters of personal vendetta were known, the other captains might not agree with his actions. Therefore, Leuk San didn't plan to seek the others' consent, he came directly to take revenge.

Premonition!

Leuk San didn't initiate an attack, but directly used the power of premonition.

But the next moment, his expression suddenly changed, noticing something unusual.

"Did you discover it? Unfortunately, it's too late; in the ancestral hall, no one can last the time it takes to burn an incense stick." As the one-eyed old man spoke, the spirit tablets behind him toppled one after the other.

Then, one by one, eerie figures materialized out of nowhere, standing behind him.

"By the way, let me introduce myself to you, young man. My name is He Liansheng. Though I seldom mingle in the supernatural circle and few people used to know me, I do have a nickname: Soul Summoner."

"Soul Summoner, He Liansheng."

This was the first time the one-eyed old man revealed his identity information.

Chapter 1135 - The Old Departure and New Birth

Soul Summoner, He Liansheng.

At this moment, the one-eyed old man ignored all the rules of Taiping Ancient Town and revealed his name, as if intending to re-enter the supernatural circle and regain the spirit of his youth.

Once he thought of leaving Taiping Ancient Town to explore the outside world, but various rules and taboos bound him, forcing him to stay.

Responsibility and mission bent his back.

Until today, he only slightly straightened his chest.

This wasn't for any grievances or passions, just to protect this ancestral hall and the red coffin behind it.

"This is not a place for your recklessness."

He Liansheng's wrinkled face bore an extremely serious expression.

Behind him.

The ghostly figures seemed to be increasing.

Among these figures were men and women, young children, and elderly people, each one unique.

These people represented the past of Taiping Ancient Town, entities long dead.

He Liansheng used some uncanny supernatural power, using ancestral tablets as a medium, to present past people into the present.

This phenomenon resembled a soul summoning.

Thus, He Liansheng gained the title of Soul Summoner.

But the dead from the past cannot linger long in the present, especially those from Taiping Ancient Town who were once in the supernatural circle and controlled ghosts, making it extremely difficult to summon past ghost controllers, and their stay is incredibly short, with the longest period no more than a stick of incense.

However, if it were only this, then the title of Soul Summoner would be merely a triviality, insufficient to earn the confidence of others in Taiping Ancient Town.

The truly terrifying thing about He Liansheng is that he summons the dead from the past, who possess their supernatural powers during their stay.

"This old thing, does he have such a trick up his sleeve? He didn't take Yang Jian seriously when they confronted each other before. No, such ability must come with a price. He doesn't want to use it, it's just that"

Leuk San appeared grave, watching those terrifying figures gradually emerge.

He felt a strong sense of unease in his heart.

Yet, as pieces of paper like skin peeled off his body, the deadly old corpse gradually revealed itself, adding some confidence.

No one knows better than him how terrifying this old corpse is.

Therefore, he doesn't think this old man named He Liansheng could withstand it.

"If you regret it now, it's not too late, I can let you go. After all, I'm not going to live for many more years, the future belongs to the younger generation like you. Fighting to death with me is truly a foolish thing to do."

He Liansheng said harshly, making a final admonition.

Some people from Taiping Ancient Town will need to move outside in the future, so he doesn't want to leave behind this vendetta for the next generation.

"I've said, since I've come, I won't leave easily, I must avenge today's hatred." Leuk San said coldly.

"Understood." He Liansheng nodded slightly.

But as soon as he finished speaking, a ghostly figure behind him took a few steps forward, twisted for a moment, then disappeared in front of them.

In the next moment.

Leuk San's vision abruptly went dark, and he was enveloped in darkness as if engulfed by it.

Immediately, he felt an indescribable icy coldness invading his body, as if an unseen ghost was trying to kill him.

But it's useless.

His body now resembled a real ghost, terrifying and chilling.

Without any confidence, Leuk San wouldn't dare to come again alone to this ancestral hall to settle accounts with this old thing.

Soon.

The icy feeling on his body dissipated like smoke, such supernatural attacks came fiercely but also faded quickly, without causing him the slightest impact, and the darkness surrounding him also retreated.

No.

It wasn't darkness surrounding Leuk San but rather his eyes went blind, losing sightfulness, and nothing around him changed.

Yet as his sight gradually recovered.

Heavy footsteps echoed in his ears, along with the sound of iron chains dragging on the ground.

Leuk San squinted slightly, in the dim, shadowy vision, he saw a terrifying black ghost approaching him, but its figure was blurred as if it could disappear at any moment.

However, in the next instant.

An iron chain clanged, and the cold, heavy chain landed directly on him, rapidly binding him.

A terrifying force came from both ends, as the chain tightened, twisting Leuk San's body.

He was somewhat surprised.

One must know that he is currently in the form of a ghost, if an ordinary ghost controller were attacked like this, they would certainly die instantly.

"Such methods won't kill me." Leuk San said expressionlessly as his body struggled.

The eerie old corpse seemed to awaken at this moment, extraordinarily terrifying; merely struggling caused the chain to creak, while being eroded, the chain was disappearing at a perceptible speed.

He Liansheng's face showed a look of surprise: "Even this can't trap this guy?"

"Bang!"

In the next moment, Leuk San forcefully broke free from the chains, snapping them, leaving only a few marks on that worn old corpse, which quickly faded with time.

He Liansheng glanced behind him.

Three blurred figures were moving together towards Leuk San.

Leuk San decided to counterattack; he didn't want to keep confronting, because his state couldn't last much longer, otherwise, once this old corpse lost control, he would be completely doomed.

His arm slowly moved.

The arm was dark, cyan, with bits of corpse spots, emitting an indelible stench, as if a long-buried corpse had risen again.

But even such an arm lit up the surrounding light once lifted, dispersing the accumulated water in the ancestral hall.

He Liansheng was similarly affected.

At this moment, He Liansheng felt a chill of horror, as if his life was being controlled by that terrifying old corpse, linked together.

This uncontrollable feeling made him realize something was wrong.

Suddenly.

Leuk San suddenly froze, his whole body immobilized, motionless in place.

The emergence of some kind of supernatural power interfered with his actions.

Immediately after, an ethereal figure swiftly approached, a hand with red-painted nails seemed to appear out of thin air, covering Leuk San's face, and then ruthlessly tore off his entire face.

The face was flawless, without a scratch or damage.

Then.

The third ethereal figure was pressed against Leuk San's back.

A flame ignited, and the ethereal figure and Leuk San burned together, just like Li Jun's Ghost Flame.

A series of supernatural attacks were consecutively falling on Leuk San, each one lethal enough to instantly kill an ordinary ghost handler.

It's quite astounding that Leuk San could endure for so long.

At this moment, Leuk San was burning and showed no signs of stopping, his whole body rapidly disappearing in the firelight, becoming a pile of ashes.

Did he just die like this before their eyes?

"Is he dead?" He Liansheng frowned, somewhat incredulous.

The pile of ashes before him was indeed real.

But under the cover of the firelight, he could not glimpse more of the truth.

"Your means are indeed terrifying, but that's all. Killing one of my paper men is so laborious, and do you know how many such paper men I have?"

But immediately.

On the walls surrounding the shrine, one paper Leuk San after another flipped inside, each paper man had a living face and a terrifyingly old ghostly body under it, just like the one burned earlier.

A dozen paper Leuk Sans appeared, directly besieging He Liansheng.

It turned out the Leuk San that He Liansheng painstakingly eradicated earlier was just one among these dozen paper men.

"That's impossible, just now..."

He Liansheng's pale eyeballs subtly shifted, initially bewildered, then realizing something.

"I see, it's that old corpse, everything originates from the corpse under the paper man, that corpse is the final paper man, but not the last one."

Leuk San said, "Now you understand, but it's too late, I've used my harsh methods, I can fight to the death with anyone in the supernatural circle, and you're no exception."

Behind He Liansheng, the ethereal figure twisted and dissipated, seeming to have reached the limit and could not be maintained.

"You are indeed a dangerous person, precisely because of this I have to kill you."

All the Leuk Sans surrounded, each possessing a chillingly old corpse, at this moment these corpses all slowly raised their arms, lifting that decaying hand.

The supernatural was being pushed back, the smoke was dissipating.

All the spirit tablets on the shrine began to topple one after another.

The next moment, Leuk San's arm drooped powerlessly.

As if a dying person took their last breath.

This was a supernatural attack capable of forcibly depriving a living person's life.

Just one could eliminate any ghost handler, and now there were a dozen attacks coming at once.

He Liansheng faced a dozen such terrifying old corpses, before he could think more, life seemed to be forcibly stripped from him, his whole expression was deathly gray, no longer able to move.

Leuk San glanced at him, quickly approaching with one of the paper men, and then lifted a hand to strangle He Liansheng's neck.

He had seen many cases of ghost handlers coming back to life, so he didn't want it to happen.

With a slight force in his hand, the neck previously slashed by Yang Jian was not yet fully healed, at this moment it was easily removed by him.

"Dead for sure."

Leuk San could not sense the presence of life, thus determining the situation.

He dared not linger here.

Because after a ghost handler dies, comes the revival of fierce ghosts.

After hurriedly throwing down the Dead Man's Head, he began a swift retreat.

Because the opponent's last attack had found his weakness, if there were any accomplices still around, he risked being finished.

With the person dead, Leuk San did not want to risk staying longer.

A dozen paper men quickly stepped over the water, climbed the wall, and their footsteps rapidly faded away.

At the scene.

He Liansheng's headless body still stood there, and a Dead Man's Head floated on the water.

A moment later.

"Dead, dead?"

Boss Liu came out from the back hall, dumbfounded at the scene.

"How is this possible, how could he be killed by that young guy just like this? Why was the Soul Summoning only able to summon a few souls, and why didn't it summon the most crucial ones?"

He couldn't comprehend or accept that He Liansheng died just like this.

Although that person named Leuk San was indeed formidable, in a true fight, whether He Liansheng would die was another matter, but he could definitely take Leuk San down.

As Boss Liu was wondering.

At the back of the shrine.

That red coffin underwent a change.

First, the spirit tablets on the coffin suddenly shattered into a pile of wood chips, then the heavy coffin lid was abruptly lifted.

A young female corpse sat up, eyes violently opening.

A faceless man nearby heard the commotion and looked this way.

He knew the resurrection was successful.

Because he sensed a trace of life.

The female corpse in the red coffin sat stiffly for quite some time, but the eyes that opened gradually gained some vitality.

"Wasn't I already dead?" she looked around, everything seemed both familiar and unfamiliar.

Familiar because the architectural style here was the same as in Taiping Town.

Unfamiliar because everything was flooded, as if submerged.

Finally, when she saw the faceless person standing in the flood not far away, memories abruptly resurfaced.

Chapter 1136 - The New Soul Summoner

"I'm resurrected?"

The young woman sitting inside the coffin murmured uncertainly at this moment.

She lifted her hand to take a look.

No longer pale and cold, instead it carried a hint of warmth, the aura of the living. Besides all this, her body was somewhat different from before; it seemed that the supernatural powers within had vanished, leaving only this very special piece of clothing.

She recognized this clothing; it was from the tailor shop in Taiping Town.

At this moment, Boss Liu returned. He heard the commotion in the back hall, and upon seeing the young woman, he paused in surprise.

Yet it all seemed to be expected.

"He used the method of summoning souls, along with some other supernatural powers, to bring you back to life."

Boss Liu fell silent for a moment before speaking: "But He Liansheng is dead, killed by a youngster moments ago. If you're alright, come out and take a look at him. You might as well help bury him; it's fortunate this coffin can still be used, so it won't go to waste."

He Liansheng is dead?

The young woman showed an expression of astonishment upon hearing this news. "How could Grandpa He possibly die..."

"Everyone dies, no exceptions. The former generation is all gone, let alone us few." Boss Liu said.

"I don't believe it." The young woman's emotions grew agitated; she couldn't accept He Liansheng's death.

She hurriedly turned and jumped out of the red coffin. She almost stumbled into a pool of water but was caught by the looming Faceless Person nearby.

The young woman waded through the cold, stagnant water, quickly heading toward the ancestral hall.

Sure enough.

Upon arriving at the ancestral hall, the young woman saw it: standing in the center was a headless corpse, motionless and showing no signs of falling, while a Dead Man's Head was picked up by Boss Liu earlier and placed on the offering table of the ancestral hall, covered with a piece of red cloth.

Witnessing such a gruesome scene, the young woman's eyes narrowed, her entire body stiffened, and tears began streaming down uncontrollably.

He Liansheng was not merely an elder of Taiping Ancient Town.

He was also her grandfather.

Though not blood-related, she bore the surname He too, having grown up in Taiping Town from a young age. Guarding the ancestral hall, He Liansheng had always been the most important memory of her childhood.

She'd never thought that, upon returning here today, upon coming to this ancestral hall, she'd be met with such a scene.

Boss Liu and the Faceless Man followed along. They paused in silence, then spoke: "Don't be too sad, folks like us meet our end sooner or later. Letting go lightly, he wouldn't live many more years anyway. Dying now could be considered a release; at least he managed to resurrect you, bringing closure to a grudge."

He now somewhat understood why He Liansheng was killed by Leuk San. Besides holding back, he feared He Liansheng hoped to end the entangling grudge between the old and new generations through his death, allowing the descendants of Taiping Town to appear cleanly outside.

If He Liansheng killed Leuk San today.

Then the headquarters behind Leuk San, and those formidable newcomers around him, would probably not spare He Liansheng.

Killing back and forth, eventually everyone in Taiping Ancient Town would end up finished.

Thus, He Liansheng used his death to end all the conflict.

"Who, who killed Grandpa He?" The young woman stopped crying, revealing her vengeful fury.

Boss Liu was about to speak.

Suddenly.

An unusual fragrance wafted through the surrounding ancestral hall.

Someone had lit incense.

Boss Liu's expression shifted, he immediately scanned around, finally discovering in an inconspicuous corner of the ancestral hall a stick of incense that was burning.

The incense was inserted into the wall.

Unlike ordinary incense, it was the ancestral hall's treasured Soul Summoning Incense.

"Who lit the Soul Summoning Incense?" Boss Liu asked in bewilderment.

But then he discovered that this incense had already burned halfway, not as if it had just been lit. It had been lit earlier.

"Do not shout in the ancestral hall; I lit the Soul Summoning Incense. This is the final soul summoning." At this moment, an ethereal voice echoed within the ancestral hall.

Through the swirling smoke, the apparition of a one-eyed old man appeared.

Undoubtedly, this elderly man was the Soul Summoner, He Liansheng.

"You..."

Boss Liu, taken aback, pointed at him with his hand: "You actually lit your own Soul Summoning Incense ahead of time; you were already prepared to die?"

The Soul Summoning Incense is a single-use supernatural item; once lit, it can summon the deceased, enabling them to reappear in this world, but only for the duration of one stick of incense.

This doesn't count as resurrection, only an unfathomable supernatural phenomenon.

"Grandpa He."

The young woman, surprised and delighted, rushed over quickly.

He Liansheng, looking at the familiar ancestral hall, familiar faces, and his own corpse standing not far away, smiled, revealing a few kind looks: "Yiner, my time is longer, I have some things to entrust, afterwards I can rest in peace."

This young woman had her own name.

Her name was He Yiner, but in the headquarters' files she was Silver, a pseudonym for convenience in outside activities.

"Grandpa He, speak."

He Yiner bit her lip slightly, holding back her sorrow, listening to his final instructions.

He Liansheng said: "My death is inevitable, don't grieve for me, but the secrets of Taiping Ancient Town must be passed on and not buried because of this. This ancestral hall I've guarded for decades, since my youth till now, so at this last moment, I wish to entrust this burden to you."

"Yiner, you will take up the role as the next Soul Summoner."

He Yiner paused, about to speak, but was interrupted by He Liansheng.

His time truly was short, less than half a stick of incense remained, so he continued: "Whenever a Soul Summoner takes over, the previous one dies, that's the tradition and the rule. I'm the third, you're the fourth now, and I'll tell you how to become the new Soul Summoner."

"Don't refuse, this is something you must undertake." Subsequently, He Liansheng became stern.

"Okay, alright Grandpa He, I will guard the ancestral hall for you, I'm willing to become the Soul Summoner." He Yiner nodded in agreement, not wishing to betray this last wish.

"To become a Soul Summoner, one must tame the Soul Summoning Ghost, which is stored in my left eye's eyeball."

He Liansheng said: "Gouge out my eyeball, then place it in your own eye, that's the first step to becoming a Soul Summoner."

"But even that's not enough; the more terrifying the ghost, the easier it loses control, so you need to become the anomaly in their mouth, and I've paved all the paths for you."

He Liansheng's ethereal figure flickered, appearing ready to disappear at any moment: "Once you control the Soul Summoning Ghost, use the supernatural power of summoning souls to call forth your own soul."

"She's a living person, how could she summon her own soul." Boss Liu immediately said.

"She's already died once; it's completely fine."

He Liansheng said: "This is the Soul Summoner's secret; one must first die once to accomplish all this."

Boss Liu was startled, finally understanding the meaning behind He Liansheng's words.

A living person can't summon a soul, but a dead person can.

He Yiner is someone who has died once, so she can successfully summon a soul.

This is a loophole.

What happens if you summon your own soul?

He Liansheng explained, "Once you summon your own soul, let it use summoning again. Don't worry, even though the souls are different, the supernatural power is connected. Everything is linked through the medium of the Soul Summoning Ghost, so the summoned soul can still use the power of summoning."

"Although the summoned soul can only exist for one incense stick's duration, if repeated, the time of this incense stick will be extended infinitely. It's like gears; when the outer gear rotates once, the innermost gear slows down by countless times."

"Eventually, the summoned soul will dissipate, but the period before it vanishes is the length of your life. When I first became a Soul Summoner, the best I could achieve was to extend my life by forty years. Living to sixty meant inevitable death, but you are different. You rely on that garment to resist the intrusion of the supernatural, so you can summon more often than imagined. I believe you can live at least a hundred years, maybe even longer."

He Liansheng revealed the secret of the Soul Summoners.

He wasn't afraid of this secret being revealed because He Yiner would be the longest-living Soul Summoner. Once she dies, everyone who knows the secret will cease to exist.

Time can bury everything, no exceptions.

And if Yang Jian had heard these words, he would surely be astonished because this was no tradition of Soul Summoners, but a method to harness fierce ghosts and become a supernatural being.

He Yiner nodded, "I understand."

"Don't blame me for putting you on this path; we had no choice." He Liansheng sighed and glanced at the Soul Summoning Incense on the wall.

Only a small piece was left.

He Liansheng continued, "Forget about the ancestral hall in Taiping Town, take the spirit tablets and leave, find a place to rebuild. The stories of these spirit tablets I told you in childhood were not fictional, but events that actually happened in the past. When necessary, use the spirit tablets as a medium to summon the souls of the deceased."

"They are the most terrifying Ghost Riders. Once revived, they can solve all problems for you. But remember, summoning requires a medium, and the spirit tablet is their final medium, so you can summon only once. After that, unless you find the items they used in life, you can never summon them a second time."

"Those most taboo spirit tablets, I've never summoned even once; I leave them to you, hoping they'll be of help in the future."

At this point, Boss Liu realized why He Liansheng didn't go all out against Leuk San.

He didn't want to involve the last few people of Taiping Town, waste a medium for summoning, nor did he want to ruin the legacy of the fourth Soul Summoner. Most importantly, he didn't have much longer to live.

So, when faced with death, he chose to be killed by Leuk San.

Of course, Leuk San was truly terrifying. Even though He Liansheng held back, that guy genuinely did him in.

"Lastly, don't avenge me. My death was arranged by myself. Seeking revenge means forgetting the responsibility of a Soul Summoner. That would prevent me from resting in peace, as Soul Summoners exist to guard the ancestral hall, avoiding worldly affairs and grudges."

"I broke the rules, and thus I died. This is a cautionary tale."

In the end, He Liansheng earnestly reminded He Yiner not to seek revenge on Leuk San, fearing she'd get entangled in a web of grudges and unable to escape, ultimately ending the legacy of the Soul Summoners.

He didn't want to see Taiping Town's last descendant die or witness the end of the Soul Summoners' legacy.

"I promise you, I won't seek revenge." He Yiner didn't say much, just bit her lip and nodded repeatedly.

At this moment, she would agree to anything He Liansheng said.

Because this was the last summoning.

Despite multiple uses being possible with a medium, those summoned souls carried risks. Only the Soul Summoning Incense was most reliable, and it could be used by a person only once.

Which meant, with He Liansheng's absence now, his reappearance was unlikely.

"Very good, you are the most outstanding descendant. In these years of wandering, you have grown, putting my mind at ease." He Liansheng finished speaking, then addressed Boss Liu and the Faceless Person.

"You two must take care of her in the future, support her for a time until she truly grows. Remember, Taiping Ancient Town hasn't vanished. As long as a Soul Summoner exists, there's always hope for rebuilding."

Boss Liu sighed, "Even in death, you can't rest, assigning such a task. Oh well, my inn got flooded, no place to go. Moving elsewhere is fine; at least there's someone to collect the bodies after we die. Just not sure what his opinion is."

The Faceless Person gestured with his hand, "I have no problem."

"Very well, since the matter's settled, I should leave. Handle my body well, don't let it cause calamity." He Liansheng said, then turned away.

He looked back at He Yiner once, without any attachment, moving further away.

The Soul Summoning Incense on the wall gradually extinguished.

The smoke slowly dispersed, making He Liansheng's figure increasingly blurry.

With the last incense stick burnt out, the smoke vanished, and nothing was left before them.

He Yiner watched He Liansheng leave, not crying, only feeling a sense of reluctant farewell.

Quickly.

He Yiner turned wordlessly back to the altar, uncovering the red cloth.

He Liansheng's head appeared.

His eyes were open, unresigned in death, yet one ghastly white eyeball still restless and moving.

Without a word, He Yiner plucked out the ghastly white eyeball, then, gritting her teeth, gouged out one of her own eyes.

Blood gushed, pain unbearable.

But she didn't care about any of it.

Enduring the pain, He Yiner inserted the ghastly white eyeball into her socket, then carried the Dead Man's Head and the headless body off to the back hall, wordless.

Boss Liu wanted to follow but was stopped by the Faceless Person.

The Faceless Person shook his head, signaling him not to go.

"I understand." Boss Liu sighed, finding a place to quietly wait.

Time ticked away, second by second.

Soon, it dawned.

At exactly eight in the morning.

He Yiner walked out from the back hall expressionless, her eyes strange, one pitch black, one ghastly white, with an inexplicable eerie aura surrounding her.

"From now on, I am the fourth Soul Summoner of Taiping Town."

No doubt, she succeeded.

With He Liansheng's plan, He Yiner, with no mishaps, became an anomaly, inheriting the title of Soul Summoner.

Boss Liu and the Faceless Person turned serious, cupping their hands in respect, acknowledging her identity and status.

"Pack and take away all the spirit tablets," He Yiner instructed.

"No problem, but where are we going?" Boss Liu asked.

He Yiner replied, "To Dayuan City, I will rebuild Taiping Town there."

"Why Dayuan City?"

He Yiner answered, "Because I previously was responsible for Dayuan City, and I'm also a team leader at headquarters. Rebuilding Taiping Town there will be the easiest."

"Yes, it's a big city, a good choice," Boss Liu nodded, agreeing with the new destination.

Quickly.

The last few people of Taiping Town got busy.

They took the spirit tablets, significant mysterious items, and Old Liu didn't forget to retrieve his hidden savings book from the flooded inn.

After they left.

In the room at the back of the ancestral hall.

The red coffin remained quietly placed on the bench.

The coffin contained He Liansheng's body.

He was left in Taiping Ancient Town, to be buried with the ancestral hall he guarded his entire life.

Chapter 1137 - Blockade Plan

It's dawn.

The sunlight dispelled the darkness, illuminating the deserted highway service station.

Several people gradually emerged from various places in the service station.

Yang Jian did not sleep all night.

He was neither tired nor fatigued, as being an aberrant, he no longer needed sleep or bodily functions to sustain life; what kept him going were supernatural powers and the will to survive.

Li Jun, Ah Hong, Cao Yang, Feng Quan, and others gathered together.

They needed to discuss the follow-up actions for the Ghost Lake incident.

"Where are Yang Jian and Leuk San? Why haven't they shown up? Are they still asleep? Contact them and let them know to come over quickly." Li Jun looked around but didn't see the two of them.

Ah Hong picked up the satellite phone to contact Leuk San.

However, in the next moment.

Leuk San walked out from the toilet beside the service station: "Sorry, I had to use the restroom. Do we need to gather this early today?"

"We need to discuss some strategies. Acting early is beneficial for everyone." Li Jun said.

"We only rested for a few hours; this time is not enough to adjust well."

Leuk San said casually as he walked, not mentioning the attack on the Soul Summoner He Liansheng in Taiping Town last night at all.

Cao Yang scrutinized him: "Leuk San, you look worse than a dead man now. You didn't look like this when you withdrew from Ghost Lake yesterday. What happened last night?"

He was a bit suspicious because Leuk San had changed significantly overnight.

"Nothing much, just consumed too much energy before. It's normal for the state to have deteriorated." Leuk San offhandedly said.

"That's right. You were quite exhausted yesterday." Cao Yang knew he was lying but didn't press further.

Over-inquiring into others' secrets is a foolish thing.

Leuk San said no more.

He was indeed not in good shape; taking down the Soul Summoner He Liansheng last night had come at significant risk.

"Only Yang Jian is left. He can't still be asleep, can he?" Li Jun added. "Feng Quan, go and call him. It's not early anymore; it's time to decide our next actions together. Everyone is waiting for him."

"Okay, I'll call Yang Jian." Feng Quan nodded.

Yang Jian didn't have a satellite phone, only a personal phone.

However, when Feng Quan dialed the number, it showed that the phone was off.

"Yang Jian's phone might be damaged and not contactable." Feng Quan said.

"I'll go call him. Yesterday I saw Yang Jian enter that room and never come out again." Cao Yang said as he walked toward the nearby hotel building.

They were all anxious at this moment.

Without Yang Jian, there was no point in discussing the next actions. After all, after the Ghost Lake incident, he was the key to breaking the deadlock, so his opinions and thoughts were crucial.

Nonetheless, Yang Jian was not in the room.

He appeared near Zhongzhou City, examining the scene influenced by the supernatural.

At this moment.

Yang Jian stood beside a great river, which originally didn't appear on maps. It emerged after he altered the landscape yesterday. After a night, the rushing water had calmed entirely, although slightly murky due to the short existence of the new river, requiring time to settle.

He squatted by the riverbank, waving his hand gently.

Immediately, the water parted, revealing the riverbed that was submerged.

"Still under control, indicating the spread of Ghost Lake has been curbed." Yang Jian pondered for a moment, then turned and left, heading for other places.

This was outside a county town.

Originally, a river flowed near this county, but now it had become flat land with no trace of the river. Many locals were amazed and visited the flat land for pictures, marveling in awe.

Yang Jian's presence was inconspicuous.

He briefly checked the area, confirming no interference and then left.

There are significant side effects to altering landscapes within the Ghost Domain.

Geological collapses, river backflows into cities, groundwater eruptions—if these aren't handled properly, they can trigger natural disasters.

Yang Jian spent some time making rounds, addressing some unreasonable places while confirming the spread of Ghost Lake.

Though the action to confine ghosts was unsuccessful, fortunately, the spread of Ghost Lake was contained.

This means.

Ghost Lake only submerged Zhongzhou City and affected a few surrounding regions without expanding along waterways to other places.

"The fierce ghosts that broke free from Ghost Lake have disappeared." Yang Jian then noticed another potential threat.

During the confrontation with Ghost Lake, several fierce ghosts emerged from it. They were lingering nearby before, but now they're gone without a trace.

This signifies that the ghosts have left the area.

"The fierce ghosts that can escape from Ghost Lake are definitely not simple. I'm afraid a few supernatural events will occur again." He frowned now, feeling somewhat troubled.

But at the time, there was no managing so much, given Ghost Lake's out-of-control impact was immense; other supernatural events were insignificant.

After searching fruitlessly, Yang Jian returned to the highway service station where he had rested earlier.

"Yang Jian, where did you go? We were looking for you. Cao Yang searched for you earlier, and you weren't at the service station. We thought something happened. If you plan to leave, you should inform us in advance to avoid worrying others." Just upon arrival, Li Jun immediately spoke.

"I took some time to tour the surroundings. The impact of altering the landscape is significant, so I needed to check in person. Currently, the situation is mixed." Yang Jian replied.

"What do you mean?" Li Jun asked.

Cao Yang, who returned, said, "Share your thoughts."

"Currently, blocking Ghost Lake is fairly successful, and the supernatural spread has been stopped. However, when Ghost Lake invaded reality yesterday, fierce ghosts walked out of the water and are now missing. This poses a potential threat, indicating that supernatural events will increase around Dayuan City in the future."

Yang Jian remarked calmly, "Who is the captain responsible for Dayuan City?"

"It's Captain Yinzi, but she had an accident and sank into Ghost Lake. However, those elder ghost wielders from Taiping Town seemingly rescued her from the lake bottom yesterday. The current situation remains unknown." Feng Quan said, having some understanding of basic intelligence from headquarters.

"No, the latest situation is that Captain Yinzi has come online." Cao Yang disclosed a new secret.

Leuk San was astonished: "That's impossible. She's already dead. We all saw it; how could she still be alive?"

"The latest news from headquarters can't be wrong."

Cao Yang said, "Don't be so surprised. Those people in the ancient town desperately attempted to retrieve the corpse for a reason. Now resurrecting is a good thing; at least we'll have another hand available in the future."

Despite that, Leuk San couldn't be happy.

Because if that Captain Yinzi was truly from Taiping Ancient Town, she would likely seek revenge on him for killing He Liansheng last night.

This was not good news for him.

"Let's discuss regarding the person in charge of Dayuan City later. We should now focus on how to handle Ghost Lake and quickly resolve the present issue. After a night of rest and reflection, I believe everyone has some ideas." Li Jun interrupted the conversation and continued to discuss the Ghost Lake incident.

After all, handling Ghost Lake was their mission and goal on this trip.

Leuk San was the first to speak: "The vengeful spirit in Ghost Lake has already appeared, and it's right on that wooden boat in the middle of the lake. If we really need to handle this, I think instead of fighting it head-on, we should try a different approach. Li Jun, do you remember that haunted camera? I think we can give this plan a try."

The haunted camera?

Li Jun's expression slightly changed as he recalled this supernatural item.

This thing can capture vengeful spirits, and once the capture is successful, it can imprison the spirit within the photo. However, the cost is not small; during the shooting process, there is a risk of the

haunted camera going out of control. If it loses control, the user themselves will be imprisoned within the photo, which is very sinister.

It was used during the Ghost Painting incident, and unfortunately, it failed due to bad luck.

"The haunted camera is highly feasible; this plan is pretty good." Li Jun nodded and said, "Yang Jian, what do you think?"

Yang Jian said, "Ghost Lake cannot be handled; I think this supernatural incident can end here."

"What?"

As soon as these words were spoken, Li Jun was immediately surprised: "Abandon the mission? No way, the impact of Ghost Lake losing control is unimaginable. If it isn't dealt with this time, it'll be over if it loses control again next time. We've gathered so many people this time, we're fully capable of fighting the vengeful spirit. This is the best opportunity."

He unequivocally rejected Yang Jian's idea.

Cao Yang and Leuk San, however, started to ponder at this moment.

They were not surprised by Yang Jian's suggestion because Yang Jian had already said that since Ghost Lake had been successfully sealed off, this supernatural incident was essentially resolved in a strict sense.

It's just that the place confining Ghost Lake is a bit large.

If we continue to choose to fight, it would be hard to handle if more problems arise.

Yang Jian, expressionless, said, "Many vengeful spirits are dormant in Ghost Lake; if Ghost Lake is gone, those spirits will be freed. What will we do about those issues then?"

Li Jun said, "I can send those ghostly things into Ping'an Tower all at once."

Yang Jian glanced over and said, "What's the difference between that and Ghost Lake? Both Ghost Lake and Ping'an Tower are places for confining vengeful spirits, and both exist in reality. The only difference is that Ping'an Tower confines a building, while Ghost Lake confines a city. Apart from the area of confinement, their nature is completely the same."

"And can you guarantee that Ping'an Tower won't lose control as it holds more vengeful spirits? There are two S-level supernatural incidents inside: the Ghost Painting and the Ghost Envoy. If the confinement fails, the impact would be no less than that of Ghost Lake."

Li Jun was silent at this moment, his brows furrowing tightly.

Because Yang Jian made sense. Upon further thought, there was no difference between Ping'an Tower and the blocked-off Zhongzhou City.

Yang Jian withdrew his gaze and continued looking in the direction of Ghost Lake: "Moreover, Ghost Lake has a terrible growth potential. If we fail this attempt, its growth would cause many deaths. Right now, we've hardly managed to seal off this area. If it loses control again, no one could enforce a second seal."

"It's not that I disagree with taking action now; it's just not prudent due to the risk of failure. And this failure risk is too great to gamble on."

"Makes sense. We've already sealed off Ghost Lake at the smallest cost. Taking another risk now may not lead to a good outcome," Cao Yang understood Yang Jian's point.

It's not about refusing to act, but rather being unable to bear the consequences of failure.

The reason for gathering captains to deal with Ghost Lake before was that the supernatural influence had already spread to other cities. Plus, two captains and a supervisor disappeared because of it, so it had to be taken seriously.

Although Ghost Lake hasn't been resolved at present, the influence has been reduced to the Zhongzhou City area, and there's no longer any tendency to spread.

This way, further agitation might not yield a good result.

It's better to make a timely retreat, rather than push aggressively.

Leuk San also said, "Exchanging an abandoned Zhongzhou City for an S-level supernatural incident is an acceptable price. Yang Jian is right; we've encountered the vengeful spirit in Ghost Lake before, and it is indeed terrifying. My Ghost Camera plan is theoretical only, not guaranteed to succeed, and subsequent problems are also tough."

"I suggest postponing dealing with this supernatural incident. We've seen how terrible Ghost Lake is; once we've grown more capable, handling it later will be much easier."

"If we don't deal with Ghost Lake, wouldn't this trip be for nothing? It'll be hard to explain to headquarters," Ah Hong hesitated.

Yang Jian said, "There's no requirement for a supernatural incident to be thoroughly resolved. The Ghost Envoy wasn't resolved, nor was the Ghost Painting. Moreover, many A-level supernatural incidents still exist in the headquarters' archives. When faced with insoluble supernatural incidents, as long as the danger is minimal, it can be allowed to exist."

"The Ghost Painting and the Ghost Envoy locked in Ping'an Tower are precisely because of this. As long as the two vengeful spirits can't wander out and cause damage, headquarters naturally turns a blind eye. If you don't believe, report the damage assessment and see what Cao Yanhua says. He'll definitely agree to my sealing plan."

Li Jun said, "Yang Jian, don't rush into a decision. Let's do this: I'll contact headquarters first, see their take, and then we'll discuss further."

"I'm just a hired hand; getting Cao Yang out and sealing Ghost Lake have been my utmost efforts. Cao Yanhua wouldn't want to see us exhausted to death here," Yang Jian said.

Li Jun was already contacting headquarters and had reported Yang Jian's words up.

Such an important matter had a group dedicated to receiving and handling it at headquarters.

Soon, a response was received.

Li Jun put down the satellite positioning phone and looked at Yang Jian: "Minister Cao has agreed to your sealing plan. The Ghost Lake incident is allowed to be temporarily shelved, but the prerequisite is that you must ensure the supernatural aspect of Ghost Lake won't spread."

"The supernatural is full of uncertainties; how am I supposed to ensure that? Sign a guarantee? How long would I be sentenced if I breached it?" Yang Jian said.

The satellite positioning phone was still not hung up.

Cao Yanhua heard Yang Jian's words and replied loudly, "Yang Jian, I only need you to occasionally monitor Ghost Lake. Additionally, if there are signs of losing control, I'll redeploy you. I hope you can come promptly then."

"You would need to add money for that," Yang Jian said.

"Then owe it," Cao Yanhua said.

Yang Jian said, "Owing it also carries interest, and the interest is quite high."

"It still will be owed first."

Cao Yanhua said, "This time the matter wasn't settled, and I haven't asked to claim back previous items, so take that as a concession."

He was also expressing his stance, not letting Yang Jian get too greedy every time, or else he'd be hard to employ once his appetite gets big.

"If you say so, next time you ask for my help, I'll still charge you, and the task will be left pending," Yang Jian said, "You're forcing a trustworthy person like me to become a rogue."

Cao Yanhua was momentarily speechless and then said, "Headquarters seems to have collected Ghost Money previously. I'll find it later and give you three coins."

"Only three? No, it must be seven coins," Yang Jian said.

"Once I find Ghost Money, however many coins there are, you'll get them—no more talking nonsense. If you have a plan to deal with Ghost Lake, I'll allow you to take freely from the containment room," Cao Yanhua said, painting a pie.

Unfortunately, the pie was too small, and Yang Jian was uninterested.

"No need. I'm already at my limit with Ghost Lake; going this far is the best I can do. If you want to handle it, get other captains. Conceding loses half the battle; at most, I'll return half the overtime pay," Yang Jian said.

Cao Yanhua grudgingly said, "Well, let's settle it this way. You keep an eye on things, report promptly if there are problems."

The conversation concluded in the end.

Headquarters gave their bottom line and agreed to the plan of sealing Ghost Lake.

Cao Yanhua, with his usual steady style, although he wanted very much to resolve Ghost Lake, also feared the complete wipeout of several captains. Now, having rescued Cao Yang, the Silver Captain was also found, even though Zhongzhou City's chief Cheng Haw was lost, and Shen Lin disappeared, the overall situation had significantly improved. If everything was sent out again this time, it would be regretful, especially since the supernatural spread of Ghost Lake has been stopped.

"You all heard it, Cao Yanhua agreed, the Ghost Lake incident is shelved, not to be handled for the time being," Yang Jian looked at the others, "What's your take?"

Cao Yang shook his head and said, "I have no objections, I agree. I also feel the Ghost Lake incident must stop here and cannot continue."

"I agree as well," Leuk San said.

Fighting to death with Soul Summoner He Liansheng himself already affected him, and he didn't want to continue exerting himself.

Li Jun said, "Naturally, we must follow headquarters' orders, but only if we are sure Ghost Lake is sealed. If we leave now and Ghost Lake loses control immediately after, what then?"

"If you're uneasy, we can stay here for a few more days," Yang Jian said.

"Observe for three days. If there's nothing unusual after three days, then I have no objections; otherwise, I won't agree," Li Jun said.

"Alright, we'll observe for three days," Yang Jian didn't mind staying a bit longer.

He also wanted to study the new supernatural Ghost Lake.

After all, it's his newly mastered supernatural power, and it needs to be explored slowly.

Chapter 1138 - A Peculiar Phenomenon

Three days can be neither long nor short.

After obtaining approval from headquarters, everyone's opinions were completely unified, choosing to end this supernatural incident by sealing off the area.

Of course, this ending is only temporary. If Ghost Lake loses control again, the operation will continue.

On the first day.

Ghost Lake remained calm, and there were no reports of new supernatural incidents nearby, suggesting that the seal was effective.

On the second day, people only found some bizarre corpses in some rivers, but upon verification, it was discovered they weren't malevolent ghosts, just some bodies scattered out from Ghost Lake, abandoned in other waters for some reason, and a simple disposal resolved the issue.

However, on the night of the second day,

During the final investigation of the day, at eight o'clock, Leuk San sent a message indicating the appearance of a supernatural phenomenon and requested everyone to come over.

Soon.

A dense mist that couldn't be seen through drifted over from an unknown location in the countryside at night.

Once this mist drifted over, it quickly split into two, and Feng Quan's form emerged from it: "Leuk San, what did you find that requires all of us to come over?"

"Encountered an incredible supernatural phenomenon; I'm not sure if it's related to Ghost Lake, but it feels very unusual." Leuk San said as he looked towards a nearby county town.

"There's a problem with that county town?" Feng Quan asked.

Leuk San said: "This county town wasn't on the map before, so I want to ask Yang Jian if he moved a county town here when he used the Ghost Domain to alter the terrain. If that's the case, then it's fine; if not, then it's a problem."

However, before he finished speaking,

Li Jun, Cao Yang, Yang Jian, and others arrived one after another.

They were investigating some distant places, so they were slightly slower in arriving.

Yang Jian's complexion was pale, devoid of blood color, as he walked over coldly: "I didn't move this county town here, and it's not a county town near Zhongzhou City. This is a never-before-seen county town, and there's no real-world counterpart to it. It's almost certain it's related to the supernatural."

"Do you think it's a supernatural phenomenon, or could this be a ghost's Ghost Domain? I remember a malevolent ghost emerged from Ghost Lake and gradually disappeared afterward. Could it be a ghost lingering nearby?" Leuk San asked.

Cao Yang said: "I personally think this so-called county town is likely a Ghost Domain, but whether it's formed by a malevolent ghost from Ghost Lake is unknown. If we're not afraid of dying, we could go over and take a look."

He felt it was a supernatural incident and suggested going to have a look.

Li Jun said: "Going for a look would be good too. If it's a supernatural incident, we can handle it easily. Against Ghost Lake, we may struggle and might die in the incident, but dealing with ordinary supernatural events is certainly manageable."

"So, shall we go over and check?" Leuk San asked, looking at Yang Jian.

Yang Jian frowned, using his ghost eye to ignore the darkness of night and looked at the county town. But the more he observed, the more familiar the town seemed, as if he had seen it somewhere before.

Browsing through his vast memory, he soon recalled a memory of a similar county town.

It was when he went to deliver letters for the post office, taking a supernatural bus passing through a station, and one station had a similar county town. Though it shouldn't be the same one, since the station back then likely had little relation to Ghost Lake.

"Let's go have a look; this is a chain reaction from the Ghost Lake incident and likely has some close connection to Ghost Lake. Investigating it to understand the situation is probably best." Yang Jian said.

"Alright, let's go." Li Jun immediately said.

Without disagreements, the group promptly approached the county town.

"Indeed, it has relations with Ghost Lake." As they approached, everyone noticed the ground of the county town was wet, as if washed by rain.

But having just gone through the Ghost Lake incident, they recognized that the wet patches were lake water, containing supernatural power.

"The water stains on the ground are slowly disappearing, as if gradually drying out, and the damp aura is dissipating." At this moment, Cao Yang noticed a detail.

With the incident's progression, the county town in front was gradually shaking off the influence of the lake water.

"This suggests the supernatural within the county town is resisting Ghost Lake, and seemingly stronger, hence the lake water vanishing, creating a drying illusion." Yang Jian stopped walking, standing outside the county town.

Under his feet was a dirt road, but a step forward would be into a concrete road.

It seemed just one step was needed for him to enter the strange county town area, yet he didn't take the step.

Because Yang Jian was very cautious.

If Ghost Lake's supernatural was dispelled by this eerie county town, would Yang Jian, who stole supernatural power from Ghost Lake, also be affected?

So he didn't choose to advance; instead, after stopping, Yang Jian squatted down and reached out a hand to touch the concrete road ahead.

Rough, cold, hard, the texture of the concrete surface felt very real, with the sensation on the skin proving it.

But the Ghost Domain possesses strong deceptive traits; Yang Jian wouldn't just believe the county town was real based on touch, as he could achieve such effect himself.

"What is it, did you discover a problem?" Cao Yang stopped to ask.

Yang Jian said: "The supernatural in this county town has had some effect on me; it doesn't concern you much."

He saw his hand that touched the county town's surface began to change in complexion, originally pale and bloodless, now recovering some color. This change was minor but very noticeable.

This indicated his body's Ghost Lake supernatural was impacted to some extent.

Yet it was only just some impact.

Despite having four percent of Ghost Lake's supernatural eroded severely, it wasn't enough for this one eerie county town to suppress it; this merely slightly reduced some surface effects.

Yang Jian's probing was merely a precaution.

"This county town is definitely strange, everything around seems to be disappearing."

At this moment, Li Jun had already stepped onto the ground of the county town, the Ghost Flame flickering in his hollow eyes, emitting a sinister glow.

The water that had accumulated in the county town began to blur after disappearing, and although the texture remained real, if this continues, the county town will soon vanish as well.

"It's simple, because the supernatural powers mutually influence each other, the lake water became a sort of medium which caused the county town to manifest," Yang Jian said, standing up.

"Let's go take a look together. I'm very curious. This Ghost Domain, like a county town, has been dormant in the Ghost Lake all this time. Now that it's revealed, what kind of secrets might it be hiding?"

As he spoke, he didn't hesitate to step into this supernatural place.

The team of captains entered the county town together, confident they could handle any emergencies.

This county town isn't large, with just four streets laid out in a grid formation, and the architecture style is that of the seventies and eighties, but it's eerily quiet, without a single noise, nor a single person, akin to a Ghost City, exuding an unsettling aura that nobody can adapt to.

"There's nothing here, it's just strange," Li Jun said.

Leuk San frowned: "I feel like as the water in the county town disappears, something is emerging, no, to be precise, things that should appear after the supernatural interference fades are starting to show."

"Listen, there's movement."

Suddenly.

Strange sounds suddenly echoed through the silent county town. Initially very faint, but gradually growing louder, capturing everyone's attention.

"Follow the sound to see."

Yang Jian's face was expressionless, seemingly fearless, swiftly moving towards the sound.

Soon.

At the end of the road, after a corner, he narrowed his eyes, revealing a hint of astonishment as if witnessing something terrifying.

There was a stage, built with wooden planks, covered with a black cloth, but white long strips of cloth hung from the stage top, the black-and-white combination gave off a funeral vibe, raising doubts whether this stage was for the living or the dead.

Only the stage was empty, no one nor any ghosts, just vacant.

But beneath the stage, there lay long wooden benches, coated in bright red paint, resembling fresh blood.

Similarly, the wooden benches were empty, with no one seated.

"Everything feels familiar."

Yang Jian stared fixedly at the stage where the cloth strips hung; the white, rectangular strips of cloth resembled the Corpse Wrapping Cloth he once received at headquarters.

Except the Corpse Wrapping Cloth at headquarters was dirty, having wrapped corpses before, leaving traces, but the cloth strips here were clean without a speck of dirt.

The long wooden bench below the stage, he had even encountered this supernatural object.

In Dadong City, he came across a red wooden bench blocking the road, with a vengeful ghost sitting on it.

Now it seems, perhaps that ghostly presence on the red bench might just originate from here, or even if not, it's likely connected in many ways.

"Maybe, the red wooden bench isn't empty, but filled with people, only lacking the medium, temporarily invisible."

Yang Jian contemplated the killing pattern of the red wooden bench.

Once you sit on it, you'll be killed by the vengeful ghost, yet you can equally see the ghost sitting on the red wooden bench.

If you don't sit on it, all you would see is just an empty red wooden bench.

"Yang Jian, what did you discover?"

Li Jun walked over boldly, not being cautious at all, unafraid of any attack.

But he had reason for such confidence, being the human-skinned ghost himself, he couldn't be killed.

"An empty stage?"

Ah Hong, Leuk San, Cao Yang, and Feng Quan quickly approached, momentarily stunned upon seeing the thing.

"Don't get close."

Yang Jian stopped Li Jun, warning him: "The ghost is right there, getting too close, you might catch the vengeful ghost's attention."

"I see nothing," Li Jun said, the Ghost Flame flickering in his eye sockets, even its light couldn't reflect any supernatural presence.

"Seeing nothing is what's dangerous. This stage isn't what it seems; I advise against getting involved. Of course, if you're intent on courting death, I won't stop you," Yang Jian seriously warned.

Hearing this, their hearts involuntarily shuddered.

They had truly failed to sense any danger, perceiving only the empty stage before them.

"There's only this abnormal stage here, no other dangers noticed, if you think this stage is unimaginably perilous, then don't get close, after all, the county town is about to vanish," Leuk San said.

He sensed the danger too, feeling wary, not daring to venture too close.

"The sound is coming from the stage, although not loud, it sounds somewhat chaotic, not clear before, but now I can roughly guess, it seems someone is performing," Cao Yang frowned: "An empty stage with sounds of performance is not a good omen."

Yang Jian remained silent, just took a deep glance at the stage, then turned to leave: "At this critical juncture, I don't want to meddle; this matter should just be recorded, archived, without breaching some taboo."

Chapter 1139 - Testing and Withdrawal

Yang Jian perceived the danger and didn't want to get involved in such an ominous affair, so he chose to turn around and leave.

The others looked at his actions with some surprise, as according to Yang Jian's personality, he wouldn't usually distance himself from a supernatural event without direct contact.

"Is it really that dangerous? We've gone through the Ghost Lake incident, and the supernatural phenomenon leaking out from the Ghost Lake shouldn't be scarier than the Ghost Lake itself," Li Jun mused with a thoughtful expression.

"Yang Jian's judgment should be accurate. Given that there's only this one supernatural phenomenon nearby, appearing under the influence of the Ghost Lake must indeed be terrifying. His choice to not move far away is a cautious and prudent approach, no problem there," Cao Yang stated.

Leuk San was slightly squinting at the deserted black and white theater stage, with rows of red wooden benches beneath it.

It seemed as if there were eerie shadows sitting on each wooden bench, and a terrifying ghost was pacing about the stage.

However, these elements were invisible and required some kind of medium to be triggered.

"The water is disappearing, and this county town is disappearing too. We need to leave. If we're caught up disappearing with this town and left in this ghostly place, that would be terrible," Leuk San then said.

Li Jun replied, "It's clearly a supernatural event, and just leaving like this might seem like a failure. I think we should try to resolve it."

He's always responsible, encountering a supernatural phenomenon and thinking of solving it, tackling it, regardless of the risks.

"Resolving this will require confronting new ghosts, and I don't think solving it right now is a good idea. Because Ghost Lake is nearby, if we trigger some kind of chain reaction, what if both supernatural events lose control? I think even if we wanted to solve it, we shouldn't choose here, but somewhere else."

"Li Jun, next time, just record this event and report it, leave it to me. I'll establish a new file, level X, dubbed 'Mysterious County Town,' how does that sound?"

Cao Yang wasn't shirking responsibilities; after speaking, he prepared to establish a file, defining the event as level X.

X is a special level.

It refers to mysterious and eerie supernatural incidents that, despite not presenting direct harm, harbor significant hidden dangers, requiring further investigation to reset the level.

"Fine, I have no objections," Leuk San nodded.

Li Jun hesitated for a moment, seemingly contemplating, "I think the intelligence data is still lacking; the best approach is to probe a bit to determine the specific dangers. Once this town reappears, we'll have some precautions, rather than knowing nothing and needing to investigate all over again."

"You guys don't need to act; I'll investigate, just protect Ah Hong. I won't die."

He didn't want to leave without doing anything, so he wanted to take advantage of the town's disappearance to uncover more useful information.

Having said that, Li Jun didn't waste words; Ghost Flame flickered in his hollow eyes, reflecting a ghostly green glow around.

Cao Yang, Leuk San, and Feng Quan exchanged glances and immediately pulled Ah Hong back, not wanting to get swept up in Li Jun's Ghost Flame, while also avoiding possible impending dangers.

The next moment.

The entire silent and deserted county town was instantly set aflame with Ghost Flame.

The entire town was engulfed in flames, burning furiously as if intending to incinerate everything, erasing traces of the supernatural entirely.

Ghost Flames danced across the streets, fiery light spilling from the windows of dark, empty buildings, and also tainting the theater stage.

These flames can burn the supernatural; apart from the real ghosts not burning, all derived supernatural phenomena and entities would be destroyed by Ghost Flame, though unfortunately, Li Jun couldn't maintain it for long, resulting in the terror level of Ghost Flame not appearing very high, unable to unleash its full horror.

"Is the county town gradually melting?"

The others surveyed the scene, witnessing the county town's walls melting like wax, the ground twisting, and strange, faint screams emerging from the flames.

The screams were extremely piercing, sending chills down the spine.

Accompanied by the onset of the screams, they saw a person engulfed in green flames rushing out from a long-abandoned old building but collapsed after only a few steps, leaving nothing behind except a human-shaped black char, faintly revealing a few still-burning bones.

"Not a living person, living people can't be ignited by Ghost Flame," Cao Yang commented, observing closely.

From the residual matter within that charred corpse, it was barely discernible that it belonged to a person who died here over a decade ago, preserved by some supernatural influence without decay, hiding in that abandoned building till Ghost Flame finally incinerated it completely.

Similar situations have occurred several times.

Occasional screams would arise, but those corpses couldn't endure the Ghost Flame for even a moment, promptly turning into heaps of charred remains.

Nevertheless, despite the entire county town showing signs of melting from Ghost Flame, what concerned them most was the untouched black theater stage at the crossroads which remained unburnt.

Despite the flames burning, the stage remained intact.

This phenomenon indisputably indicated that something unimaginably significant might reside on the stage; hence Ghost Flame was blocked.

Li Jun wasn't particularly surprised by the scenario; igniting the county town was merely to confirm certain conditions.

Currently, it seems that the truly eerie place is just this stage, while the empty town is merely close-to-reality supernatural phenomena, not the source of danger.

"I'll go over and have a look," Li Jun approached the stage, flames emanating from his body.

The red wooden benches were orderly arranged around, and walking amongst these benches, he encountered no threats, only felt an exceptional chill that even Ghost Flame couldn't resist.

As if there really were ghosts sitting up there.

"Yang Jian mentioned before, to see ghosts you must sit on the red wooden bench. The bench serves as a medium to break the boundary between humans and ghosts," Li Jun reached out, attempting to touch the red wooden bench.

"Li Jun, don't be reckless, you're going to investigate, not to confront the ghost," Cao Yang immediately shouted upon seeing the situation.

Li Jun paused his hand briefly at the words, "Don't worry, I'm practically a dead man, without a life, what's the point of desperation? Even if I die, I can come back to life, no problem."

He finished speaking and proceeded to reach out to touch the red wooden bench.

Upon contact.

Li Jun immediately felt a chill; he still couldn't see what was on the red wooden bench, but his palm felt slimy, as if touching something.

Instinctively, he pulled back his hand to take a look.

On his palm was branded a blood-red handprint, which was very small, not the hand of an adult, probably that of a twelve-year-old child.

Moreover, this handprint had no palm lines, indicating that what he touched earlier was likely a hand without human skin.

"A ghost, indeed, exists on the red bench," Li Jun confirmed this suspicion.

However, there are at least dozens of red benches here.

If every bench had a malevolent spirit on it, the problem here would be severe.

Li Jun's expression gradually turned serious, although the blood-red handprint on his palm was slowly fading away.

Covered in human skin, he himself was a ghost, and the supernatural had very limited effects on him, so killing him wasn't an easy task either.

"Let's check the stage," Li Jun then turned and looked at the black-and-white stage.

This stage, arranged like a mourning hall, was filled with an eerie atmosphere everywhere, and the intermittent strange sounds were coming from the stage. But the sound was incomplete, impossible to hear clearly what was being said, yet the large curtain behind the stage piqued his curiosity.

Li Jun hesitated a bit but still turned over and jumped directly onto the stage.

But the moment he leaped onto the stage, the sound suddenly ceased.

"Li Jun, don't try it anymore, come back, what you are doing will break some kind of balance," Leuk San couldn't hold back anymore and urged Li Jun to return.

If a situation arises, they would also get involved.

Silence filled the vicinity of the stage, and the hanging white strips of cloth slowly swayed as if a chill wind was blowing around, and the ghost flames lit around were going out at an incredible speed, simultaneously, the previously melted town was instantly restoring to its former state.

The red benches below the stage started to move eerily.

The benches moved back a little.

As if everyone sitting on the red benches had stood up, but these people were invisible.

The more this was the case, the greater the sense of oppression.

Because those moving red benches numbered at least twenty, leaving only a dozen benches still.

Seeing this scene, Li Jun prepared to confront, the ghost flame in his hand igniting, faintly revealing the outline of a building in the firelight.

"Li Jun, don't test anymore. Let's go, or we might not be able to leave," yet Cao Yang suddenly appeared behind Li Jun the next moment.

He patted him on the shoulder, then grabbed him, disappearing instantly from the original place.

"Retreat."

Feng Quan also realized something was wrong, and a thick fog appeared around him, without hesitation using the Ghost Domain.

The thick fog spread quickly, enveloping the several of them.

The group quickly retreated, needing to leave before the town disappeared, ensuring they were not affected.

Everyone utilized the Ghost Domain, retreating quickly.

Within just a few seconds, they had already appeared in the suburban area outside the town.

The outline of the town in front grew increasingly blurred, the only difference being that the black-and-white stage in the town's center appeared particularly prominent.

"Li Jun, your probing went too far, nearly leading to direct confrontation with a ghost," Cao Yang looked at him, somewhat displeased.

"I think I can discover more, in fact, I've indeed gained something." Li Jun's expression was calm, "Moreover, this operation, although risky, I think I can bear it."

"I know you can bear it, but you can't handle the aftermath alone, right?" Leuk San said, "Yang Jian has already retreated; sticking it out here is sheer foolishness."

Lacking a top-tier captain like Yang Jian.

Facing paranormal events of this level could very likely lead to annihilation.

"Alright, let's end it here, let the town just vanish like that," Cao Yang gestured to stop any dispute among them.

Leuk San no longer spoke.

After all, although Li Jun's approach was inappropriate, it was also out of responsibility and not truly intending to cause trouble for everyone, so he didn't want to dwell on it.

"Are you guys done?" suddenly.

Yang Jian's voice appeared, he showed up on the open ground not far away, calmly watching these people retreat from the soon-to-disappear town.

"Don't think that just because a few captains joined forces you can do whatever you like, those from the Republic of China Period couldn't completely handle paranormal events, and you think we can? Plus, my collaboration with you guys is limited to the Ghost Lake. I won't get involved in supernatural incidents I'm not in charge of, so if something really happens I'll just stand by and watch you die, won't intervene."

He issued a warning, stating his attitude and stance.

After all, his position as captain was only nominal and he wasn't actually affiliated with Headquarters.

"You're still the same character," Li Jun said.

He knew Yang Jian's character and wasn't upset.

Yang Jian said, "Today is the second day. If the Ghost Lake lockdown remains normal tomorrow, I'll return to Dachang City. By then, whatever you do is your business, just don't involve me."

The group remained silent without words.

Though Yang Jian's words were heartless, they were indeed not unreasonable, since his agreement with Headquarters was exactly like that.

Chapter 1140 - Apartment Appointment

"There's no problem today either, as agreed I should leave today," Yang Jian said.

At this moment, he stood on a deserted road, speaking to Li Jun, Cao Yang, and others, preparing to leave.

Three days passed swiftly, and these days of observation were enough to prove that Yang Jian's plan to seal Ghost Lake was successful. Ghost Lake only submerged Zhongzhou City, affecting the surrounding area of tens of kilometers, without further spreading out.

The only affected place is Ping'an Ancient Town.

But it might be a good thing that the ancient town got submerged; after all, that place was indeed very special, and it's better for it to be submerged within Ghost Lake than remain in this world.

"Yes, I should leave too. I've been gone for so long that many people thought I was dead, and I have a lot of troublesome things under my name,"

Cao Yang said: "Since the sealing plan for Ghost Lake succeeded, then everyone should disperse."

"The matters of Ghost Lake aren't over; the ghost is still on the wooden boat on the lake. If there is an appropriate opportunity in the future, we still might join forces," Li Jun said seriously.

Leuk San showed a strange smile: "That depends on whether we can live to see that time. And this operation wasn't considered a success; don't forget that Captain Shen Lin is still missing. If there's no news about him soon, he might be presumed dead."

"Losing one captain and losing a Zhongzhou City leader is already the least costly. If it weren't for Yang Jian, we would all certainly have been wiped out. When our action report comes out, do you think any Captain would be willing to join in after headquarters sees the report?"

Feng Quan and Ah Hong looked at him.

Indeed.

The matters of Ghost Lake make people uneasy. Once the action report is out, it's likely no Captain will come here to die.

Therefore, trying to gather so many people to participate from headquarters again is probably impossible.

"Though supernatural events are frightening, we are also growing and progressing. As long as we are alive, nothing is a problem," Li Jun said.

"That's why I said we need the life to survive until then. Next time, we might not have many people left. Li Jun, don't speak too kindly. Think about it; when we participated in the headquarters captains' meeting, how many ghost masters are left now?"

"The mortality rate among the top batch is so high, let alone others."

Leuk San shook his head: "Forget it. Discussing this now is meaningless. I must leave too. Yang Jian, I really owe you thanks this time. Without you, I wouldn't have survived this, but I won't say too many polite words. If something comes up in the future, just call me; as long as I can help, I certainly will. Your words have a bigger pull than headquarters' with me."

Li Jun's expression changed slightly, looking at Yang Jian.

Indeed, Yang Jian's participation this time helped turn the situation around, saving many people and avoiding being wiped out. Most importantly, he didn't act based on personal preferences but cared for the bigger picture everywhere.

This approach also garnered others' respect.

Cao Yang also said: "I'm very grateful. Without you, I'd still be soaking in Ghost Lake. Contact me in the future if you need help; I will repay this favor."

Though they were affected by supernatural power and lost feelings, they could still distinguish basic pros and cons.

In the future, with Yang Jian's growth, he would certainly surpass the Captain Level. Befriending such a person benefits survival.

"It's just struggling for survival, nothing worth thanking."

Yang Jian was calm and didn't let a few compliments make him feel self-important.

He almost died within Ghost Lake too.

Surviving wasn't because Yang Jian was remarkable, but because unforeseen changes happened to him, which was the crucial reason they weren't wiped out.

The root of all this was the evil hound stored within Yang Jian's memory.

"Still, the Taiping Ancient Town matters need attention. I feel this world doesn't just have Taiping Ancient Town; there are other places related to the Republic of China Period. You all have wide areas; if possible, investigate them. Maybe you can uncover some secrets."

Yang Jian's expression turned serious and spoke attentively.

Li Jun immediately said; "Indeed, there is a similar place, once known as Fengmen Village, which involves things from the Republic of China Period. But since this happened quite a while ago, the consideration then was to seal the area, not investigate."

"Your reminder makes me decide to take a look when I find the time."

Leuk San also said: "There are similar places in my jurisdiction, but they aren't ancient towns or villages. It's a leftover righteous estate, where a mysterious profession called Corpse Guardian supposedly existed. I heard of it but haven't seen it. Now it seems Corpse Guardian might be similar to people from Taiping Ancient Town."

Cao Yang thought for a while and said: "In the area of headquarters, there's also a sealed place codenamed Haunted House, an old building from the Republic of China Period, very dangerous. People have died there before; I wonder if there would be follow-up reports. I'd like to participate and investigate past information and clues."

They all recalled some supernatural events they had seen or heard of in the past. Now, comparing them, there's realization that clues related to the Republic of China Period do exist and haven't been buried.

These clues are deeply hidden and highly perilous. Before, ghost masters lacked the qualification to investigate, or they might inadvertently discover them, but mostly upon discovering, they would encounter danger and perish, leading to such matters existing in a veiled way.

Now, only those who have become captains among these anomalies have the capability to touch upon these matters.

"As long as you have direction, follow it to investigate. If you hear anything, hope you inform me, don't conceal too much," Yang Jian said.

"It's not a secret. I can share some archival information with you," Leuk San said instantly.

Cao Yang didn't refuse either and agreed to share some intel with Yang Jian in the future.

"Good, it's settled then."

Yang Jian nodded, reaching some agreements among them.

"About time, that's it for now. We'll contact again if necessary. I have other matters to attend to, so I won't stay longer."

A while later, seeing the conversation nearing its end, Yang Jian decided to leave.

"Feng Quan, return to Dachang City alone."

Feng Quan asked with surprise: "Yang Jian, aren't you going back too?"

"No."

Yang Jian finished speaking without much explanation and turned to leave.

He didn't walk far before disappearing from everyone's sight, clearly utilizing the Ghost Domain.

Leuk San said: "Since Yang Jian left, there's no point in staying here. I'm leaving too; if you want to stay, go ahead. I don't wish to waste more time."

Then he left decisively without hesitation, quickly disappearing.

Feng Quan pondered slightly, feeling like Yang Jian might be hiding something, seemingly guarded.

Yet he didn't ask further; after all, everyone has their secrets.

Yang Jian, after leaving Zhongzhou City, didn't return to Dachang City. He now intends to meet someone, one who died long ago but exists in the past. Perhaps that person might resolve some inner doubts.

The speed of Ghost Domain in traveling is fast.

This city hasn't suffered the influence of supernatural events.

Dahan City.

The person in charge of this city is Sun Rui, codenamed Sick Ghost.

But now Sun Rui is trapped somewhere in this city.

A place formerly known as Ghost Post Office, now called Hell Apartment.

A flash of red light suddenly streaked past.

The next moment.

The figure of Yang Jian appeared on a blocked street. He looked at the abandoned building in front of him, however, in the vision of the ghost eye, this abandoned building had turned into a weird and sinister apartment.

The front door of the apartment was open, and a person sat at the entrance leaning on a cane, looking this way.

"Captain Yang, long time no see. How have you been?" Yang Jian saw Sun Rui, and Sun Rui also saw Yang Jian.

They ignored some supernatural barrier and met again.

Yang Jian walked over with large strides: "Not very well lately, I've encountered some trouble and need to meet someone here."

"Who?" Sun Rui asked.

"Yang Xiao." At this moment, Yang Jian had already walked into Hell Apartment and said a name.

Even without Sun Rui's invitation, he could forcibly break into Hell Apartment, entering this strange place.

"I see." Sun Rui stood up at this moment and tapped the ground with his cane.

"Bang!"

Something fell from the wall.

It was an oil painting. In the painting was a young man, bearing a seven to eight-tenths resemblance to Yang Jian. This man stood on a village path, with a familiar yet silent village behind him.

At this moment.

The man in the painting moved, his eyes slightly shifting to look in Yang Jian's direction.

Yang Jian continued to walk forward, he slowly merged into the oil painting, entering the world within the painting.

It was dim, cold, dead silent, and empty here, not a real world, but a world constructed by supernatural forces. People in the painting could only exist in this world and could not exist in reality, so to meet, one must enter the painting.

"You want to see me?" The man in the painting world slowly spoke.

He stood on the village path, his dim eyes slightly shifting as if scrutinizing Yang Jian.

"I have encountered something and need to ask you about it." Yang Jian said.

"I am a dead man, and perhaps know less than you do." Yang Xiao replied.

Yang Jian said, "I know your future, you know my past. As long as we share information, many things can become clear."

"Makes sense." Yang Xiao nodded, "So what do you want to know."

"About the fierce ghost you control, codenamed Ghost Dream, and about the evil hound raised at your old home." Yang Jian said.

"Ghost Dream, huh?"

Yang Xiao slightly turned his head to look at the farm hidden in the darkness behind him, "But I don't know about the evil hound you speak of, the event you mention must not have happened when I died."

"I can tell you." Yang Jian said.

"Alright."

Yang Jian recounted in detail the events regarding the Ghost Dream and the evil hound without missing a single detail.

At that moment, Yang Xiao seemed to be learning about his own future, feeling a sense of incredulity.

When he finished listening to the story, he couldn't help but exclaim, "What a marvelous plan, a Ghost Dream that living people couldn't control could be controlled by a dog."

"You came up with this." Yang Jian reminded.

Yang Xiao said, "At least the current me couldn't come up with it."

Yang Jian said, "After hearing about this, do you have any good suggestions for dealing with the evil hound lodged in my nightmare? I don't want to be bitten to death by a dog in my dream one day; this matter needs a resolution."

"The one who ties the bell must untie it. A perfect plan shouldn't result in an uncontrollable outcome. If it were, I would rather not keep that dog, so you should enter the dream and meet that dog, perhaps the answer lies with it." Yang Xiao said.

"Maybe I'll get bitten to death the moment we meet." Yang Jian was very concerned.

Because once he enters the dream, he becomes an ordinary person, powerless to resist, and being bitten to death by a dog is definitely possible, and the probability is quite high.

"You can't avoid dreaming your whole life; it needs to be resolved sooner or later, the sooner, the better." Yang Xiao said.

"That makes sense too." Yang Jian seemed thoughtful.

Instead of passively waiting for the nightmare to arrive, it would be better to proactively make contact and find a solution.

"Rest assured, if this plan truly involves me, then perhaps only you can control that perfectly harnessed Ghost Dream, which is why it lodges in your memory as a unique existence." Yang Xiao said.

"I've only met that evil hound once, will it listen to me?" Yang Jian asked.

Yang Xiao said, "Do you know why among so many animals, I chose a dog instead of a cat, or any other animal?"

"Because dogs are loyal?" Yang Jian guessed.

"Exactly, dogs are loyal enough, and that's why we choose a dog over other animals, so what you get may not be an evil hound but a loyal one." Yang Xiao said.

Yang Jian's expression shifted slightly, "If that's the case, then that's really something remarkable."

"With everything on the line, a finished plan naturally should come with matching benefits; it's quite normal." Yang Xiao said.

"Alright, I roughly know what to do. Today I'll make contact with that evil hound. If everything is as you say, I'll gain a loyal dog instead of being bitten to death by an evil hound in my dreams." Yang Jian decided to resolve this matter as soon as possible, as he had quite a few curses on him.

Apart from the evil hound, there was the Ghost Cabinet and the fierce ghost fulfilling wishes lingering around him.

The curse of the Ghost Scissors had also tainted him, and who knows what consequences that might bring.

Not to mention the corrosion of Ghost Lake was still ongoing.

Now, Yang Jian had to continue considering survival issues.

"Meet that evil hound in the Ghost Post Office. If there's a problem, I can help you out. Don't forget, I'm still Nightmare Yang Xiao." Yang Xiao said seriously once more.

Yang Jian nodded and did not refuse.