

Revival 346

Chapter 346: Guo Fan's Call for Help

"I'm Tong Qian, and I have now entered the Caesar's Grand Hotel. Based on the latest intelligence I've received, the first human head balloon incident in Z City occurred right above the Caesar's Grand Hotel. I personally believe there are some issues with this hotel..."

"I've come to the second floor of the hotel where there are quite a few guests, and everything seems normal... It's very late, so I plan to check in and continue to investigate discreetly. However, for safety reasons, I think it would be better to seal off the hotel, but I didn't do so since I currently have no evidence. Rashly sealing off a hotel could easily cause unnecessary panic."

"When I woke up and left my room, I found myself lost. There's something wrong with the third floor of the hotel; it seems to have turned into a labyrinth with many rooms that are not usually there. It's somewhat similar to... the Ghost Domain."

"The phone signal was cut off, not by supernatural forces, but by a signal jammer—a human act. Now I can only save messages by recording them."

Yang Jian was listening to the recordings from Tong Qian's satellite-tracked phone as he drove.

"Buzz..."

But as he continued to listen, a sharp electronic interference noise suddenly came through the phone. This noise lasted a long time and replaced the original recording content.

The key content that followed seemed to be deleted.

“How is this possible? The phone was taken out from Tong Qian’s stomach; it shouldn’t have been touched by anyone during that time. How could the recordings be deleted? Or does it mean the phone fell into the hands of that ghost after Tong Qian was harmed?” Yang Jian frowned and casually turned off the phone.

He had thought he could find some clues through these phone recordings, but now it seems things are worse than he imagined.

All information had been erased.

All the secrets were left in that Caesar’s Grand Hotel.

“Yang Jian, I have bad news for you,” suddenly, the voice of another operator, Qin Meirou, came from his satellite-tracked phone.

“Go ahead, I’m listening,” said Yang Jian.

Qin Meirou said, “Guo Fan has sent out a distress signal; something has happened on his end, and he wants your support. He’s currently trapped in room 31 on the third floor of Caesar’s Grand Hotel, and the situation is urgent. If you use the Ghost Domain for rapid travel, you can get there within thirty seconds. I hope you act quickly.”

Room 31?

Yang Jian's expression changed upon hearing this number. It was the clue left by Zhao Lei before he died, who said the ghost was in that room.

But the signal from the Ghost Cabinet was for room 13.

"What about Feng Quan?" Yang Jian didn't rush to respond but immediately asked.

"We've lost contact with him; his situation is probably not good either," said Qin Meirou.

"Then I refuse to support."

However, after thinking for a moment, Yang Jian immediately refused coldly.

"Why is that?"

Qin Meirou was somewhat surprised. Under these circumstances, Yang Jian should have acted immediately, despite having some personal grievances with Guo Fan and Feng Quan.

“Do you really want to sit there and watch them perish in the hotel? Yang Jian, you really shouldn’t do such a thing, this is not the time to be tangled in personal grudges.”

Yang Jian said, “This supernatural event is not as simple as you think. I’m certain that this distress signal is definitely a trap, a trap specifically for me. Whether Guo Fan’s plea for help is real or fake, if he was going to die, he wouldn’t be able to send out a distress signal. I learned something from the recording on Tong Qian’s phone.”

“There is a signal jammer in the hotel. If Guo Fan could send out a distress signal, then it must be with the ghost’s permission. Even if you’re foolish, you should know what that means.”

“Draw in to strike a blow?” Qin Meirou said the four words somewhat surprised.

Yang Jian replied, “That’s about the gist of it. I said before, what we’re facing this time is not a regular ghost. This ghost can control human memory and turn people into its Ghost Slaves. So in this situation, what you really have to fight against is not the ghost but a group of people, and they are a group of very smart individuals,”

“Additionally, the hotel is very dangerous; there’s more than one ghost. There must be a reason that thing chose this place to set traps,”

“But we can’t just stand by and let people die, right? Even if it’s a trap, we have to face it head-on. If Guo Fan and Feng Quan die inside, the situation will only get more complicated, and the case will become even harder to close,” Qin Meirou said after a moment of silence.

Yang Jian said somewhat angrily, "This is why I hate incompetent teammates. I had already instructed Zhao Jianguo to command these two to leave the hotel, but they insisted on going inside. And I can't even be sure that Guo Fan and Feng Quan haven't had their memories altered by the ghosts. Plus, with Tong Qian's Ghost Face being taken and the source of the human head balloon incident still unclear, everything is already out of control."

"If I go to support them, it's quite possible that I could end up dead at the hands of Guo Fan. Can you guarantee he's fine now? What if he's already dead and is conspiring with the ghosts to harm me? Once I die, the case will definitely spiral out of control, and then Z city will fall, creating another S-class supernatural event."

Hearing all this analysis, Qin Meirou was somewhat taken aback.

As an operator, she hadn't considered all these factors; her job was simply to relay messages. However, hearing Yang Jian break it down like this, she couldn't help but feel a chill go through her body.

Ghosts are truly terrifying.

She had thought that an A-class supernatural event in Z city could be resolved quickly and smoothly with Guo Fan, Feng Quan, and Yang Jian on the case.

Yet, in just one day, the situation took a drastic turn for the worse.

Guo Fan called for help, Feng Quan went missing, and Yang Jian also suffered setbacks, forcing him to leave the Kaiser Hotel to investigate clues outside.

The only piece of good news was that Tong Qian had been rescued, but it was already too late to make a difference.

Qin Meirou was not stupid; she gradually realized that Yang Jian's worries might have become a reality. How could things have escalated so rapidly if it weren't for a trap that was laid out in advance?

"What do we do now?" she asked, no longer panicking.

"Tell Zhao Jianguo to just cooperate with my work, and not to give any rash commands. I have my way of doing things. If anyone wants to meddle, let them come to Z city. And I'll say it again, I won't go rescue Guo Fan, not because I'm indifferent to his life, but because I'm considering the bigger picture. If you think it's due to personal reasons, then call in another Ghost Slave to support him. I won't object,"

Yang Jian said and immediately turned off the communication.

"Things are getting out of control, starting with Tong Qian's disappearance... We must find a breakthrough soon, or else when that ghost comes for me, I'm done for."

Right now, that ghost was still accumulating strength and increasing the number of people under its control. It hadn't yet taken proactive measures.

Yang Jian stepped on the brake and stopped at a red light.

"I remember, that incompetent trio was also in this city. One of the girls among them has the ability to use Ghost Sound to locate people. Maybe I should utilize that ability to find crucial individuals..." Suddenly, he remembered another important ally.

"Right, I'll find her. With her and Xiong Wenwen, we can form the strongest exploration team to accurately locate the target,"

After realizing this, Yang Jian promptly prepared to set off.

But just as he was about to step on the gas and drive away, a car suddenly screeched to a halt on an adjacent lane, stopping to his right.

The car window rolled down, and a man in a suit glanced at Yang Jian, his face wearing a stiff, eerie smile.

This smile was hauntingly familiar, almost identical to that of the Ghost Face.

Yang Jian's expression shifted, and almost instinctively, he reached for his handgun, aiming it at the chilling smile.

The suited man seemed oblivious to Yang Jian's warning and the danger, smiling all the while.

“Another victim with altered memories? Killing him would be useless. As long as the source isn’t dealt with, the number of victims will only continue to grow.”

In the end, Yang Jian chose not to shoot. Instead, he slammed on the gas pedal, and the car enveloped in a red glow, vanished from the road in an instant.

The man in the suit, still smiling, continued to drive unhurriedly forward, not even bothering to check if the light was still red.

Chapter 347: Searching for Someone

This is a private mansion located in the suburbs of City Z.

Secluded and far from the city center, it was unknown which wealthy individual used it as a vacation home, but some time ago, this private mansion changed owners.

The new homeowner was Luo Su Yi.

On the surface, he was a rich second generation who seemed to do nothing, idling his days away, but in reality, his true identity was that of a member of a paranormal forum, a spirit controller, dealing with occult events beyond the wildest imagination of ordinary people.

However, as one of the spirit controllers with a very low survival rate, Luo Su Yi did have some self-awareness.

He hadn't chosen to go it alone, instead, he had made several friends of the same kind, so that the safety factor could be greatly increased should any incidents arise as long as they acted together.

But Luo Su Yi, who had been in City Z for only a little over ten days, planned to leave tonight.

"Pack up, we can't stay in City Z anymore, we've got to leave," said Luo Su Yi, returning to the living room in a rush after finishing a phone call.

There weren't many people in the living room, a middle-aged man, and a young woman who looked to be about twenty.

They were friends and companions of Luo Su Yi.

Huang Fei was watching TV with his mobile phone and now looked up in astonishment, "What? Leaving now? It's the middle of the night, I'm about to go to sleep, is there something so urgent it can't wait till tomorrow?"

"I'd like to wait till tomorrow, but there's no time. The situation in City Z has worsened. According to the information I've received, it seems that Ghost Face Tong Qian was rescued by Yang Jian from the Caesar Hotel, but what's worse is that those two international spirit controllers, Guo Fan and Feng Quan, seem to be trapped inside," Luo Su Yi explained.

Huang Fei said, "Just because of this, we have to leave? That's not necessary. Yang Jian from Dachang City even came here, the situation here will be resolved sooner or later, no matter what, we are the external support requested by Zhao Jianguo. It's already not right for us to be hiding here watching TV and playing games, and now fleeing, if Zhao Jianguo finds out, it won't be easy to explain."

"If we offend the headquarters too much and they issue a warrant, we'll be done for."

The Asia headquarters held great power, and even they, as civilian spirit controllers, had to show some respect and couldn't be completely unheeding, otherwise a single command could bring an abrupt end to their good days.

"I was actually quite happy to spend a few days in City Z, but now I can't stick it out. Think about it, Yang Jian has come to City Z, Tong Qian has been rescued, that should be good news, right? But why hasn't Yang Jian immediately gone to support when his two teammates, Guo Fan and Feng Quan, are trapped?"

"Such a formidable person, capable of suppressing the ghosts in the three of us with just one look, a top-tier spirit controller like that ought to easily handle a B-class occult event like this, but the situation remains unresolved."

"You're overthinking it. How long has Yang Jian been here? One day? To be precise, not even a full day. Even hanging requires taking a breath. You wouldn't be scared and trying to avoid him on purpose, would you?" Huang Fei gave him a glance.

Luo Su Yi immediately laughed, "Kidding me, scared of him? If I hadn't been careless last time, how could I have been restricted by him? It's normal to be preempted due to a lack of intel. I think if I had been the one to act first, Yang Jian surely wouldn't have had it so easy."

"I think we should still show Zhao Jianguo some respect. If we leave just like this, it'll be hard to deal with if it's brought up later. I don't want to be on a national manhunt, my family and relatives would know, and I'd be too ashamed to see people again," said Huang Fei, shaking his head. He was more composed and would not take such an offending step unless something particularly serious occurred.

"If we don't leave now, we might also get dragged into this paranormal event. I have a premonition that this is definitely not just an ordinary paranormal event. If Zhao Jianguo is willing to transfer Yang Jian here, it shows that the matter must be out of the ordinary." Luo Su Yi insisted. "By the way, I am not really afraid of that Yang Jian."

"You're just scared," said Lin Luomei from the side. Unable to speak, she expressed her thoughts through a speech device.

Luo Su Yi rolled his eyes, "I won't stoop to arguing with you. Anyway, pack up and leave today, trust me, nothing will happen. We still need to find a way to solve the problem of reviving fierce spirits, during this period we must avoid particularly dangerous paranormal events as much as possible. This is for our own safety. Besides, someone else is responsible for the incident in City Z, it has nothing to do with us, there's no need to stay here just to show respect."

Although his thoughts were somewhat selfish, it must be said that his intuition was quite keen; he could vaguely sense that something was off with the situation in City Z.

However, while the three of them were discussing, suddenly, the doorbell of the house outside rang.

"Ding-dong~!"

The crisp bell sound came through the monitor.

At the sound of the bell, Huang Fei on the couch with his mobile phone, Lin Luomei listening to music, and Luo Su Yi immediately changed expressions and became alert.

The time displayed was 1:30 in the morning.

At this hour, there were neither people nor dogs in their suburban villa— it was simply impossible for the doorbell to ring.

“Ding-dong~!” The doorbell continued to ring.

“Stay alert, I’ll go have a look,” Luo Su Yi said, frowning as he went upstairs.

From the second floor, one could see the situation next to the yard downstairs.

However, as he scanned the outside several times, he couldn’t spot anyone outside the house, not even a shadow.

“No need to look anymore, the person is here.” Yet, a sudden voice appeared in a corner of the hall.

A young and somewhat immature-looking man with a solemn face stepped out from the corner, walking over the floor.

“Yang Jian?”

Upon seeing the person’s face, Luo Su Yi, Huang Fei, and Lin Luomei were all startled.

What had happened when they last met in Dachang City was still vivid in their minds.

The greeting from that time had left too much fear in their hearts for them to forget it to this day.

“How did you find us?” Luo Su Yi ran down from the second floor, his voice betraying a touch of nervousness.

Yang Jian said, “It took some time to find you, about ten minutes. I thought you were still in the center of Z City, but turns out you’ve hidden away in the suburbs. Seeing you like this, it seems you don’t intend to get involved in this incident. If that’s the case, then what did Zhao Jianguo bring you here for? To cheer from the sidelines?”

He walked over and casually seated himself on the sofa.

“This is our affair and should have nothing to do with you. We only agreed to come to support in Z City, not specifying how to offer that support,” Luo Su Yi said.

Yang Jian spoke, “If you don’t want to support, then you don’t want to support, understandable. No need to make any excuses or feel embarrassed. Actually, I didn’t want to come to Z City either, but I had no choice.”

Huang Fei carefully lit a cigarette and ventured, “Yang Jian, would you like a smoke?”

“No need.”

“Not sure what brings you to us this time? After we left Dachang City last time, we shouldn’t have done anything to offend you,” Huang Fei offered a sheepish smile, appearing somewhat uneasy.

After all, with Yang Jian’s abilities, if he were to take action, the three of them would likely have little chance of leaving this place alive.

Yang Jian said, “I’m not very good at courtesies, so I’ll be direct. I’ve encountered a bit of trouble with a supernatural event this time, there’s a ghost that wants to play hide-and-seek with me. It’s hiding really well and I need this beauty’s help to find it for me. You don’t have to do anything, I’ll handle it personally.”

“I refuse,” Luo Su Yi replied immediately, even before Yang Jian could finish.

“Oh, you won’t even make a condition or anything? Such a straightforward refusal,” Yang Jian glanced at him.

Luo Su Yi said earnestly, “We know what you’re capable of, and if you’ve encountered trouble, then this matter is definitely not simple. Even going to help could be dangerous for us, so we can’t offer our help. Lin Luomei has only commandeered one ghost, and the number of times she can use her ability is limited, it’s not long until the powerful ghost revives.”

Yang Jian smiled, “It’s okay not to help; I won’t insist, as I’m not that unreasonable. However, I need to requisition that ghost inside Lin Luomei’s body— I need its ability at the moment.”

“This is not a request, it’s an order,” he stated.

After he finished speaking, he glanced at Lin Luomei beside him, his domineering attitude unmistakable.

Chapter 348: Coordination and Change

Hearing Yang Jian’s almost unreasonable demand, Luo Su Yi’s face immediately darkened.

Lin Luomei also looked at him with some unease and doubt.

Not wanting the person, only the ghost?

Such a request was very special, but after some careful thought, it also gave one an inexplicable sense of fear.

Did Yang Jian mean to kill Lin Luomei and forcibly take over the ghost she controlled, or was he planning to directly find a way to strip it away?

Either way, Lin Luomei's safety was hard to guarantee.

"Yang Jian, don't you think you're going a bit too far? Although we are no match for you, we are still members of the supernatural forum. If you really offend us, I'm afraid it won't be easy for you to end this," Luo Su Yi said, trying to be tough, but his lack of confidence made him seem weak and unconvincing.

"That's right, if you're capable, why don't you solve the supernatural incident in City Z? What kind of skill is it to bully a girl here?" Huang Fei also mustered up the courage to speak.

They were all feeling uneasy.

Because they all knew very well that if Yang Jian really decided to make a move, it would be very difficult for them to walk out of this house alive.

"You don't need to provoke me, I'm not like those hot-blooded youths," Yang Jian glanced at them: "In the face of supernatural incidents, I will make full use of all the resources at my disposal. I will act with

the ferocity of a lion hunting a rabbit, never underestimating my prey, but that thing cannot even be considered a rabbit, and I have not yet become a lion.”

“So, whether you like it or not, you will have to help me. If you refuse, that’s fine too, but don’t speak to me, tell them.”

Having said that, he placed a satellite positioning phone on the coffee table.

The entire conversation was public, with someone at headquarters monitoring the content of this call.

At that moment, a somewhat annoyed voice came from the phone, “Luo Su Yi, I don’t care whether you are a member of the supernatural forum or not, or whether you’re willing to help. As long as you are still in City Z, still in Asia, you must obey our requisition. Besides, I asked you to come help. Are you trying to brush me off now?”

“Do you have any idea how many innocent citizens are being sacrificed in City Z every night? Headquarters strongly supports Yang Jian’s action plan. If you refuse outright, I will immediately suggest to headquarters to authorize Yang Jian’s special handling of the matter, consequences be damned. I’ve said my piece. Yang Jian, you take it from here. Headquarters has no particular demands. We only hope you can resolve the City Z incident as quickly as possible.”

“Damn.”

Luo Su Yi couldn’t help swearing in his mind after hearing Zhao Jianguo’s voice.

Yang Jian calmly turned off the communication and then said, "Sometimes, it's good to work for headquarters. At least you can count on cooperation from all sides during operations. There's no need for reasons or even permissions; a single phone call is all it takes to get clearance. You've heard what Zhao Jianguo said."

"If you're not willing to help, I can dispose of you legally and reasonably. After all, most civilian ghost controllers are like potential bombs that could go off at any time. Dealing with you in advance might not be such a bad thing."

"Is it worth it for someone like you to work so diligently on behalf of headquarters?"

Luo Su Yi struggled to speak, only managing to say, "With your abilities, wherever you go you would be treated with the highest regard. Why get yourself involved in these supernatural events willingly?"

Yang Jian thought about it seriously and then replied, "From the day I became a ghost controller, my path was no longer my own to choose. It is a dead-end that cannot be turned back from and can only be followed forward. The attitude you mention, of self-comfort and not caring about disasters after death, is actually avoidance."

"But avoidance is never the solution. Look at you all, having been ghost controllers longer than I have. But what's the result? Nothing more than three little mice scurrying and hiding, not even addressing the issue of your own ghosts' resurgence. This path leads only to death."

"Of course, I don't believe that your way of survival is wrong. After all, to enjoy oneself before dying is already a luxury for most people. But I won't do that, which is why I am here today."

“So, Lin Luomei, are you willing to come with me?”

After speaking, he didn’t wait for Luo Su Yi’s answer; instead, he turned his gaze directly to Lin Luomei.

Lin Luomei’s face showed conflicting emotions as she looked at Luo Su Yi with eyes seeking guidance. Yet Luo Su Yi was silent, unsure of how to answer Yang Jian, and when she looked at Huang Fei, he also chose silence.

This time, Yang Jian’s visit was not only to show his personal dominance but was also indicative of headquarters’ stance.

If they refuse to cooperate with Yang Jian’s plan, they could be dealt with legally and justifiably today. No one would come to their rescue, nor would anyone dare to risk a complete fallout with headquarters by trying to clarify the situation.

In the face of supernatural incidents, headquarters would not back down a single step, and no negotiations would be tolerated.

So, from the moment Yang Jian appeared, the answer was already predestined.

“I’ll go with you.” Lin Luomei didn’t speak out loud; instead, her phone’s speaker emitted the sound to replace her voice.

However, her expression was filled with panic and unease because she also knew that once involved in a supernatural event, there was a high possibility of dying right there, especially since even Yang Jian couldn't easily resolve this particular paranormal occurrence.

"Very well, then let's go. If things are resolved smoothly and you manage to survive, I won't let your help go unrewarded," Yang Jian stood up, ready to set off immediately, unwilling to waste the night and let the situation deteriorate.

Lin Luomei silently walked over, ready to leave with Yang Jian.

"Wait, wait a moment." At this time, Luo Su Yi gritted his teeth and said, "I'm going too."

"I don't need your cooperation," Yang Jian glanced at him and said curtly.

Luo Su Yi replied, "I didn't say I'd cooperate with you. I'm going to protect her. She's my teammate, and I can't just watch her face danger. This event is very exceptional, I'm well aware of that, otherwise, you wouldn't be here seeking help. You might not need my help, but she does."

Lin Luomei had only controlled a ghost, and the possibility of directly stimulating a malicious ghost to awaken if attacked was very high, so having someone to protect her would significantly increase her chances of survival.

After thinking for a moment, Yang Jian said, "If you're willing to come, I don't mind, but only on the condition that you have the ability to keep her safe. Just don't get her killed because of your own failings."

Luo Su Yi understood what Yang Jian meant. If he went to protect Lin Luomei, she wouldn't receive any care from Yang Jian, and he would be fully responsible for her safety.

"Don't worry, I have that much confidence," he said earnestly.

"Good," Yang Jian nodded.

The only remaining person, a middle-aged man around thirty named Huang Fei, said at this moment, "Since you're both going, count me in as well. It's more reassuring to act with three of us together."

"No, Huang Fei, you stay here. It'll be fine if I go. If something happens to us, at least someone should survive," Luo Su Yi immediately refused, "Don't forget our agreement: One of us three must make it out alive."

Upon hearing this, Huang Fei fell silent and resignedly sat back down, having just stood up.

Yang Jian glanced at him, then without further delay, he used the powers of the Ghost Domain to vanish from the suburban mansion with Luo Su Yi and Lin Luomei.

When they reappeared, the three had already arrived at the temporary shelter they'd been at before.

"Rest for now. We start the operation at eight in the morning. Remember, it's best not to contact anyone before then. That ghost has secretly altered the memories of many people, turning them into Ghost Slaves. Right now, trust no one but me; this is for your safety," Yang Jian cautioned them before returning to his tent to rest.

Immediately, the staff arranged for Lin Luomei and Luo Su Yi to rest in another tent.

In the day and night since arriving in Z City, Yang Jian's progress hadn't been smooth, but he was already starting to prepare for the second phase of the operation.

And it was around two or three in the early hours of the morning.

At the special ward in Z City's Third Hospital.

This place was guarded around the clock by protective personnel, with medical staff on shift duty as well.

Tong Qian still lay unconscious on the hospital bed. According to the previous diagnosis, if no miracle took place, she'd likely be paralyzed and bedridden for life.

However, this prognosis now seemed different from what was expected.

Tong Qian, previously in a comatose state, suddenly opened her eyes without anyone knowing when.

Her eyes were hollow, lifeless, staring straight at the hospital's ceiling without blinking once, eerily abnormal.

This state didn't last long. Tong Qian's lips curled up slightly, revealing a professional-like forced smile, unnervingly stiff, devoid of any emotion. Paired with those hollow eyes, it was just like the Ghost Face with a smile previously on the back of her head.

Tong Qian's change went unnoticed by everyone, with no one discovering it.

Chapter 349: Enshrouded by Mist

At 8 a.m. the next morning, Yang Jian set out on time.

The defeat of the previous day had not defeated him; after reevaluating everything, he was preparing for a second attempt. The incident in Z city was not over, and the longer it dragged on, the greater its impact would be—not just on society, but also extremely unfavorable to himself.

The nearby streets were sealed off, and a pickup truck drove unobstructed toward the direction of the Caesar Hotel.

"How confident are you about this operation?" Luo Su Yi, who had been silent in the car, couldn't help but ask.

"I can't answer that question for you. In supernatural events, anything can happen, and the situation in that hotel is very complex. It's not just about one ghost. That thing chose that place for a reason, but you don't have to be afraid. If we really encounter danger, as long as you don't panic, I can lead you out without a problem," Yang Jian calmly said while driving.

He showed no signs of nervousness or fear, a psychological quality nurtured through his many experiences with supernatural events.

This composure often infected those around him, making them feel that as long as he was there, everything would be fine.

"If we really encounter danger, can you save her first?" Luo Su Yi glanced at Lin Luomei next to him who couldn't speak.

Lin Luomei, in her early twenties, should have been brimming with youth and vitality, but due to becoming a ghost controller, she appeared somber and indifferent, making one question her mental state.

Yang Jian responded, "In terms of priority, Xiong Wenwen comes before you both. If I really have to make a choice, I will save those who can be saved. But you don't have to be so pessimistic. That thing is not as difficult to deal with as you imagine. After all, we are not ordinary people; we're not that fragile. Show a little more confidence."

“These things have to be faced sooner or later.”

Luo Su Yi’s mouth twitched slightly: You have that confidence because you’re Yang Jian, who has resolved S-grade supernatural events, but I’m just a salted fish, how can my heart not feel empty.

“Coward, I’m not scared, and you grown-ups are actually afraid. If someone were to die, it wouldn’t just be you,” Xiong Wenwen looked at him with disdain, thinking Luo Su Yi was weak.

However, Yang Jian chose not to speak further. He knew that this operation had mobilized all the currently available resources, and if it failed, the situation would deteriorate beyond imagination.

Success was a must.

Because neither Xiong Wenwen nor Lin Luomei could likely withstand being tossed about time and again, especially Xiong Wenwen, whose ability was precious with limited uses. It would be a great waste if not utilized properly.

“Hey, Yang Jian, don’t you feel that the hotel ahead doesn’t look quite the same as yesterday?” As the truck neared, Xiong Wenwen suddenly widened her eyes and shook his arm from the co-driver’s seat.

“What’s going on?” Luo Su Yi in the back seat, along with Lin Luomei, curiously leaned out of the window to look.

The Caesar Hotel still stood as before, with no changes in location or state from yesterday, but what was alarming was that the hotel... was now shrouded in fog.

A thick fog enveloped the entire hotel; from a distance, only the outline of the building could be seen, while the windows, wall decorations, and other details were all obscured by the fog, unrecognizable.

“This is very wrong. Have you noticed that only this hotel is engulfed in the fog? Once you leave the range of the hotel, there is no fog anywhere else,” Luo Su’s face turned pale, “This is an ominous sign. If we rashly enter the hotel, we will surely encounter danger.”

“If it weren’t dangerous, why would we come here?” Yang Jian had also noticed the eerie fog; after all, such an obvious phenomenon was impossible to miss.

But what he was more concerned about was the nature of the fog itself.

Yang Jian had checked the files, especially those of Feng Quan and Guo Fan, and the codename for Feng Quan was Ghost Fog.

Ghost Fog Feng Quan.

This was the name on his file.

Yang Jian had encountered this ability before during the Huanggang Village incident, though Feng Quan had not used it excessively, and the range of the Ghost Fog only covered a single room, not very large.

And now, the Ghost Fog enshrouded the entire hotel.

Such a feat was beyond the capabilities of someone like Feng Quan, who had only managed to control two ghosts.

“Could it be that Feng Quan is dead, and the resurrection of Ghost Fog caused this situation?” Yang Jian furrowed his brow, stepped on the brake, and stopped the car in front of the Caesar Hotel.

Upon closer observation of the fog, he realized that it was fundamentally different from ordinary fog.

Ordinary fog is formed from the condensation of water vapor, but this fog was more like a haze, cold, dense, and once inside, it was a murky grey instead of the pure white seen from the outside. Moreover, visibility and hearing were severely limited; it was as if one became isolated from the world upon entering the fog.

Forget about sound and sight, even one’s sense of direction could be lost.

“Yang Jian, you guys finally arrived,” Zhang Gao, who had already been at the scene, rushed out from the guard post responsible for the watch. His eyes were bloodshot, showing he had not slept all night.

“What’s the current situation?” Yang Jian asked.

Although he had left last night and not returned, surveillance and security around the hotel had been uninterrupted; it was just that no one dared to enter.

“Around 1:40 a.m., suddenly, there were cries for help from inside the hotel. Here’s the recording from the scene. The cries for help lasted until 2 a.m. and then stopped. Afterwards, all the lights on the second, third, and fourth floors of the hotel suddenly came on, and there were silhouettes of people standing by the windows looking out. This situation lasted for about two hours.”

“Around four o’clock in the morning, fog began to fill the hotel, just as you see now. It was a very eerie fog. Orders from above have come to retreat to the second line of defense and establish a fifth line of defense. You probably noticed on your way here that the surrounding streets have been completely blocked, and even some nearby residential areas have been urgently evacuated.”

“Cries for help around 1:40 a.m.?” Yang Jian recalled.

This was around the time the operator Qin Meirou notified him to go to the hotel for rescue. Although there was some discrepancy in timing, it shouldn’t be off by much.

However, Yang Jian had rejected that call for help.

He had believed that last night’s plea was a trap, so he paid it no mind.

“The fog has persisted from around four in the morning until now, never dissipating, and the range of the thick fog has been expanding. Judging by this rate of spread, it only needs twenty-four hours to cross the second and third defense lines. If it can’t be effectively contained and resolved, I’m afraid the range will only grow larger.”

Zhang Gao quickly made a report, summarizing and relaying everything he had observed to Yang Jian.

“I understand. Leave the matters here to me. If I can’t resolve this incident, prepare for the worst-case scenario on your side,” Yang Jian said gravely as he looked up at the Caesar Hotel shrouded in thick fog.

The incident itself wasn’t much, but when combined, it caused him an unbearable headache.

The loss of Ghost Face had already been a setback for Yang Jian. If Feng Quan had fallen as well, and with Ghost Fog resurging, it would be another troublesome matter.

“Alright, then I’ll leave it all to you.”

After making his report, Zhang Gao didn’t linger. He gave a serious statement and then took the last two security personnel with him as they withdrew from the location, standing the final watch.

“Yang Jian, things have turned out worse than imagined. I know you’re capable, but you can’t withstand this on your own. Let’s pull out; otherwise, it’s very likely that all of us will perish here,” Luo Su Yi again started to beat the retreat.

He increasingly felt that his earlier decision was correct—he should have stayed far away from the events in City Z. If he got involved, he might lose his life.

Yang Jian stood before the thick fog, his gaze flickering as he fell into contemplation.

The situation was different from the plan; the emergence of the Ghost Fog forced him to be even more cautious.

As for retreating, it was not currently under consideration.

Chapter 350: The Person in the Fog

At this moment, Yang Jian, Xiong Wenwen, Luo Su Yi, and Lin Luomei roamed near the Caesar Grand Hotel shrouded in the Ghost Fog. They neither chose to retreat nor rashly burst into the interior.

In such times, any recklessness could prove fatal.

Yang Jian wanted this operation to be perfect, to ensure a smooth resolution to the incident. The resources at his disposal were limited; if they didn't succeed this time, they definitely wouldn't be so well prepared next time.

"It looks like the odds are against us this time," Luo Su Yi stood not far away, his mood worsening as he watched Yang Jian deep in thought, "Yang Jian is being so cautious, which only goes to show how dangerous it must be inside. If it weren't for the fact that we had no other choice, you wouldn't catch me dead here."

Lin Luomei didn't speak. She just glanced at Luo Su Yi, her eyes betraying unease and fear.

She had a premonition that she might die in this hotel.

The feeling wasn't so strong before, but the closer they got, the clearer it became.

"You don't have to be afraid. If worse comes to worst, we'll find a chance to slip away," Luo Su Yi saw her discomfort and whispered comfortingly, "Besides, looking at this, Yang Jian might not even really plan to take action."

But whether such comfort was effective, nobody knew.

"If you're not sure, let's forget it. I have to go home tomorrow. My mom only gave me a three-day leave; if I'm late, I'm definitely going to get scolded," Xiong Wenwen tugged at Yang Jian's sleeve, looking somewhat pitiful.

Yang Jian didn't respond to him but furrowed his brow, feeling the pressure.

The appearance of the Ghost Fog meant that Feng Quan might have fallen in the hotel, too. How many ghosts were inside was now a mystery to him; furthermore, with Feng Quan's predicament, whether Guo Fan had also been harmed was uncertain... If he assumed the worst, the number of ghosts inside could reach astonishing levels.

To find Zhao Lei's location precisely in this environment and to track down the source of the memory-altering ghost would undoubtedly exact a tremendous toll.

Even the possibility that the four of them could be wiped out the moment they entered loomed large.

However, the emergence of the Ghost Fog and the lockdown of the surrounding streets gave Yang Jian considerable leeway. At least he didn't have to worry about the spread of the supernatural event causing a disaster in Z city.

"In extraordinary times, extraordinary measures are needed; just barging in with our heads held high is suicide—that's a fool's errand, and I won't do it," Yang Jian squinted as he stared at the hotel, obscured in the dense fog.

"The hotel has become a forbidden ground by now. It seems calm, but I'm sure once you really get inside, it'd be nearly impossible to come out alive. All of this predicament, I suppose that ghost anticipated it or even made it one of its strategies against me."

He felt it was a trap set specifically for him.

Otherwise, a mere supernatural event wouldn't have become so complicated.

To break out of this trap, relying on his own abilities wasn't enough. After all, he was the prey, and once the prey is caught in the net, how could it possibly escape? Thus, he needed external forces.

The only things that can confront ghosts are other ghosts.

This was originally said by Zhou Zheng and had long been a shared nugget of wisdom among the circlet of ghost manipulators.

Yang Jian thought it was time to call for some outside assistance; otherwise, they would have to abandon the mission.

“You guys wait for me at the police line behind, I’ll go in alone first to do some prep work, to reduce the danger level of this hotel. If everything goes well, then we’ll act together,” he thought of a more secure approach.

“And if things don’t go smoothly?” Luo Su Yi immediately asked.

Yang Jian said, “Then we’ll call off this operation. Do you think I would undertake something I’m not sure about? You’re afraid to die, and I don’t want to go down in this place without a clue either.”

“That’s good,” Luo Su Yi breathed a sigh of relief.

He was terrified that Yang Jian would lead them straight into the hotel.

“That’s settled then. Xiong Wenwen, you go back with them to the next police line. No matter what happens, don’t enter this hotel, not even if you hear me yelling for help,” Yang Jian sternly instructed.

Xiong Wenwen nodded quickly.

Without another word, Yang Jian immediately strode toward the depths of the Ghost Fog.

Before disappearing into the Ghost Fog, he looked back, “Don’t you two think of sneaking away while I’m not here. Even if you’re going to run, wait until after I’m dead. Otherwise, if you ruin my plans, I’ll definitely come back and hold you accountable.”

Luo Su Yi broke out in a cold sweat, forced a smile, but did not respond.

He wondered if Yang Jian had overheard his earlier words.

After issuing his warning, Yang Jian walked into the Ghost Fog. He had only taken a few steps forward when his figure was engulfed by the thick mist, and in the blink of an eye, he was no longer visible. The outline of the hotel building remained, but Yang Jian’s silhouette nearby could no longer be seen.

The fog emanated an unimaginable, eerie quality.

The earlier decision of the group to stop outside the dense fog was absolutely correct.

Upon entering the Ghost Fog, Yang Jian immediately lost his sense of direction.

He could not see in any direction, nor could he hear any movement; the silence around him was terrifying.

Earlier, they had been able to see the general location of the hotel from outside the fog, but after entering, there was no sign of it—everything before his eyes was a hazy gray, and there was a piercingly cold aura that continuously invaded his body, causing a chilling discomfort.

“This dense fog covers an area reminiscent of a Ghost Domain. Should an ordinary person carelessly venture inside, they’d surely lose their way unless something special happens. Otherwise, it’d be impossible for them to leave this fog,” Yang Jian surmised in his heart.

There are many forms of Ghost Domains; Yang Jian’s Ghost Domain emanated a red light from the Ghost Eye.

Meanwhile, the Ghost Domain of the Hungry Ghost enveloped the whole city with a blue-black haze.

Here, the Ghost Domain was a dense fog.

Regardless of the form a Ghost Domain takes, they all share one common characteristic: they can seal off an area, creating a Supernatural Space.

Beyond that, there's of course the most basic, and most critical, aspect to not overlook:

Within a Ghost Domain, there is inevitably the presence of a ghost.

Meaning, hidden within this gray, hazy Ghost Fog was the source of the dense fog—a ghost that's presumably been resurrected.

Yang Jian did not overestimate his abilities, nor did he waste any time; he simply opened his Ghost Eye and unfolded his own Ghost Domain.

Ghost Domains repulse each other, and so far, Yang Jian had not encountered a situation where two ghosts' domains melded together.

His Ghost Eye emitted a red light, dispelling some of the surrounding Ghost Fog, and created an area he could control.

This range wasn't large, no more than three meters, and it was obvious his Ghost Domain was being suppressed.

But that was just an ordinary layer of the Ghost Domain. Yang Jian directly opened his second Ghost Eye. Without needing to overlap domains, both Ghost Eyes already strengthened his first layer because he now needed the Ghost Eyes to monitor his surroundings.

Under the influence of two Ghost Eyes, his Ghost Domain expanded to about a ten-meter radius.

The visibility in the dense fog noticeably improved.

“Who’s there?”

Yet, when he opened the Ghost Eye on the back of his head, as its field of vision fed into his mind, he abruptly stopped, his heart sank, and he stared intently at the patch of dense fog he had just passed through.

Within the fog about ten meters away, a human silhouette stood immobile. The dense fog obscured the figure’s features and build, making it hard to distinguish whether it was human or ghost.

What was certain, however, was that this entity had been following him shortly after he entered the Ghost Fog.

If not for the Ghost Eye on the back of his head surveying the rear, Yang Jian wouldn’t have noticed it at all.

“Should I take care of it first?” Yang Jian took out the Ghost Candle he carried, ready to restrain it, whether it was human or ghost.

However, as soon as he thought to act, the figure standing in the fog seen through his Ghost Eye quickly blurred, and with the surrounding gray fog drifting, it disappeared once again.

It seemed to move away from Yang Jian, or perhaps it merged with part of the Ghost Fog, ready to reappear suddenly and eerily at any moment.

“Left, huh... But now isn’t the time to waste energy and resources elsewhere,” Yang Jian thought, his expression shifting slightly, without trying to stop the thing from leaving.

As long as it didn’t attack, he wouldn’t bother even if a ghost passed by him.

That’s because they weren’t his target this time.

If he randomly changed his objective, it would only make matters worse.

“To the hotel,” Yang Jian grew even more cautious. He maintained a ten-meter Ghost Domain as he navigated through the Ghost Fog, with his two eyes and two Ghost Eyes granting him visibility of any sudden occurrences in his vicinity.

And with the Ghost Candle in hand, his chances of survival alone were very high.

As long as he doesn't encounter an unsolvable deadly threat, Yang Jian could manage to survive through any supernatural incident.