



Illusions, Lies, Truth Volume 4: In the Name of God (Part 2)  
Original novel in Chinese by: [御我 \(Yu Wo\)](#)  
Translated by [Prince Revolution](#)

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- [Prologue: Prologue](#)
- [Chapter 1: In the Name of God Part 1- Resurrection](#)
- [Chapter 1: In the Name of God Part 2: Exorcism](#)
- [Chapter 1: In the Name of God Part 3: Coming True](#)
- [Chapter 2: Xiang Shui Pan, Part 1—From Liuging to Tea to Coffee Today](#)
- [Chapter 2: Xiang Shui Pan, Part 2—Dustfall](#)
- [Chapter 2: Xiang Shui Pan, Part 3—Returning Home](#)
- [Chapter 3: It Has Begun, Part 1—Trouble Arises](#)
- [Chapter 3: It Has Begun, Part 2—Club President](#)
- [Chapter 3: It Has Begun, Part 3—The Bookcase](#)
- [Chapter 4: Do You Believe, Part 1—That Book](#)
- [Chapter 4: Do You Believe, Part 2—Father](#)
- [Chapter 4: Do You Believe, Part 3—Son](#)
- [Chapter 5: Library, Part 1—Devil](#)
- [Chapter 5: Library, Part 2—Angel](#)
- [Chapter 5: Library, Part 3—Book](#)
- [Epilogue: Character Introductions](#)

## Prologue: Prologue

Liu Yishi turned, wanting to rush downstairs to the school campus to save his son. Although there was nothing he could do about a fire, what father could leisurely eliminate demons over here when he clearly knew that his son was in danger?

However, the stairs were gone. The stairway had turned into a pool of water at some unknown point. Huge bubbles had formed in the deep and dark water, which appeared extremely thick, unlike normal, clear water.

“What’s going on?”

Hu Lican was rather calm. This was not the first time he had experienced something like getting trapped. The most recent occurrence was precisely that time when he and Lu Yang had been trapped together on the eighth floor of this place. Back then, there had even been an immobile corpse standing there! Although, they had later determined that it had actually been Jiang Ziya.

Liu Yishi’s face grew solemn. His usual gentle expression slowly faded. No matter how frantic he felt, no frustration showed on his face. This was due to his personality, as well as his many years of experience as an exorcist. The worse the situation was, the calmer he must be. Only then could he find a chance of survival.

He picked up a pebble from the floor and tossed it at the black water. While it was still mid-air, the water actually surged up a meter high, slithering like a snake, directly swallowing the pebble. Then, the water

collapsed, returning to a bubbling surface.

“What in the world is that?”

The policemen hadn’t ever seen anything like it before, and they all began to panic. Only Hu Lican was a bit calmer. Although Fang Da had some experience and didn’t lose his composure, he was trembling all over.

At this time, Liu Yishi suddenly turned his head to look. The supposedly dead person standing there lifted a hand, pointing upstairs.

“You want me to go upstairs?”

Normally, Liu Yishi wouldn’t dance to the other party’s tune, and even more than that, he wouldn’t brute force it like his wife and son would. Rather, he would carefully search for the opponent’s weakness and strike there. That was his usual method. However, the possibility that his son was currently trapped in the scene of a fire made him decide to change his approach this time.

“I’m heading up to the eighth floor now.”

The policemen’s eyes widened. They stared in disbelief at Liu Yishi. Then, they watched as he actually did walk upstairs right before their eyes after shouting those words.

“Captain, Hu Lican, what should we do now?”

All the policemen looked toward Hu Lican one by one, but how would

he know what to do? In the past, when he asked for Lu Yang's help, Lu Yang would only have one request: if you don't have to come, then don't. If they had to be on site, then, they should pretend to be invisible people with no presence. Their only responsibility was to follow closely. They didn't need to and shouldn't do anything else.

While being stared at so intently by his own subordinates, Hu Lican could only force himself to say, "Follow him up! What else can we do? Do you guys want to stay behind and keep that fellow company?"

He gestured at that person who should have been dead. Everyone looked over. The person stood rooted to the spot, hand still pointing upstairs, completely immobile. At first glance, you wouldn't notice anything off and might even think that the other person was normal, but if you took a closer look, you would immediately feel a chill down your spine. That person's hand was lifted but was completely motionless, with not even the slightest waver, like a frozen frame out of a film.

As they shivered from the sight, that person actually stirred—with a "smile." However, it was as if a formless hand were pulling those lips upward. Other than the corners of that mouth, there was no motion anywhere else at all, not even on the face.

The smile grew wider and wider, until it was slowly pulled into a huge grin, yet there wasn't even a trace of that smile on the rest of the face, the gaze from those eyes empty. It did not stop there either. The corners of that mouth continued to be pulled outward, like they would be ripped apart in the next second...

“Come up, quick!”

The group jumped in great shock, only then realizing that Liu Yishi was standing on the stairs and calling out to them. The policemen couldn’t help turning and looking back. The person who should have been dead still stood rooted to the spot, completely motionless, with absolutely no trace of any smile on that face.

Hu Lican quickly took his team over, believing even more in what Lu Yang, that college kid, had said—follow closely!

*We fucking fell victim the moment we didn’t follow closely. Not going to hesitate to follow him after this. I’m going to train my eyes entirely on Liu Yishi!*

Although that was what he wanted to do, right when they got upstairs, everyone reflexively looked in the same direction but didn’t see anything there.

*Now that we’re on the eighth floor, there actually isn’t anything?* Everyone relaxed yet felt that this wasn’t right. It unnerved them even more. Danger that could not be seen would only make people feel all the more paranoid.

“Is there some sort of smell?” Fang Da took in a deep breath but soon started dry-heaving for a moment. The air reeked too much, as if there was a... *rotting corpse?*

Once he thought of the answer, he immediately paled from fright. At that time, all the others seemed to have smelled it too, their faces all



turning as white as a sheet.

Liu Yishi turned his head to look, discovering that it was that young policeman again. He seemed to have some talent but not too much, so he wouldn't run into any problems normally. If he ran into a situation, his reaction would be a bit faster than those around him; however, this talent wasn't a good thing with the current situation. It would even give the foe more of an advantage.

Yet Liu Yishi had no intention of admonishing or guiding him. For people who had not experienced things like this before, this group of policemen had already far exceeded expectations. Most likely, Hu Lican had helped them mentally prepare in advance.

Guidance was even more unnecessary. Such a high level barrier dimension meant that even practitioners would be affected. It was impossible for an ordinary person to escape the hallucinations induced by the barrier dimension just through a short period of guidance. Even if Jiang Ziya, who possessed the truth-seeing eye, were here, he would not be able to notice any oddities right away.

*The skill of the person who created the barrier dimension is unbelievably high. If it is just like what my son has guessed, that this is a performance assessment...*

Liu Yishi's heart dropped. He braced himself and decided to let his son fend for himself. He had to stay here and think of a way to take care of the opponent. If he actually let this kind of person, who held no regard for human life, pass their assessment, who knew how many human lives would have to be lost before matters ended?

Liu Yishi moved forward one step at a time, the stench growing stronger and stronger, setting off an incessant alarm within him. Normally, scent was the most difficult sense to materialize in a barrier dimension. Moreover, the key to dismantling plenty of barrier dimensions was exactly that they had no “smell.”

Even knowing this weakness, few people would turn it around and use smell as the method to create a barrier dimension, as it was too easy to notice. A person’s sensitivity toward smell was more instinctive than sight, so it would actually be more difficult to trick someone that way. If it wasn’t done well, you could shoot yourself in the foot.

However, this time, Liu Yishi could not detect any flaws.

A female corpse leaned against the wall, appearing exactly the same as before.

The policemen actually let out a sigh of relief. This was the first time they had ever rejoiced so much upon seeing a corpse. However, a few sharp-eyed policemen immediately noticed that this corpse was identical to the one before. Their hearts skipped a beat right then, a sense of foreboding rising up.

At this second, it was still a sense of foreboding, yet in the very next second, it immediately came true. The female corpse twitched. At first, it was just the fingers, and the policemen could still comfort themselves that it was just a trick of the light. However, following that, the twitching extended to the arms until the entire corpse began jerking around madly like it was in the throes of a seizure.

The policemen's faces also began to twitch at such a sight. One by one, they inadvertently backed up, shrinking behind Hu Lican. They also could not help but place their hands on the gun holsters by their waists. Even though Hu Lican had warned them again and again before they had come here that they should never fire without his command, at the critical moment, it was likely that no one would have the leeway to heed something like a command.

The corpse's skin and flesh trembled incessantly. If not for how its blood had already dried up, even blood would probably be spurting out from all the trembling. The people present began to wonder if perhaps this corpse would tremble like this until it exploded. They couldn't help but back up. However, it actually stopped. The transition from wild jerking to stillness took merely a blink of the eye. It was so fast that they began to doubt whether the sight they had witnessed just now was but a hallucination.

At this time, Liu Yishi abruptly turned his head and stared pointedly. Everyone immediately followed suit. An entire row of people now stood behind them without anyone noticing before this. Their apparel and facial features couldn't be any more familiar—weren't they exactly those homeless people who had stood on the seven floors below them?

They all gave an alarmed shout and backed up in the opposite direction, but they didn't dare to back up beyond Liu Yishi, as there was still a female corpse that might jerk around over there!

They could neither move forward nor could they back up. Hu Lican immediately looked toward Liu Yishi, discovering that he was still calm

and did not seem nervous at all. Even though Hu Lican felt that he might be pretending to be calm, it still relieved Hu Lican a lot. In the past, there had never been a mission that Lu Yang could not solve. Now that Lu Yang's father was on the case, there was no way this couldn't be solved, right?

"Mr. Liu, what exactly is the current situation?"

Hu Lican still could not help but ask. Though he had some more experience than the other policemen, he still had never come across anything this weird before. If every case were as outlandish as the current situation, then in the future, he probably wouldn't ever be willing to touch cases like this again. The moment he encountered it, he would seal the case and considered it closed.

Compared to how nervous the policemen were, Liu Yishi remained calm, as this was the type of case he specialized in. It was just that he had wanted to lure the person behind the case out, and so he had let the situation play out until now. However, with current conditions, he was a little hesitant about whether or not he should let it continue.

He and five policemen were at the scene. This number of people far exceeded the norm. The hallucinations induced by a barrier dimension would have different results depending on the person. With more people, it was inevitable that discrepancies would arise. As long as someone grew doubtful, then the barrier dimension would start to become unstable.

Moreover, they were all people who had come mentally prepared. Hu Lican had experienced his share of these kinds of cases. Liu Yishi was

even a practitioner. This would make it difficult for the barrier dimension to take effect.

From the start, Liu Yishi had not disallowed Hu Lican from bringing so many people partially because he wanted to test the limits of this barrier dimension. However, the results exceeded his expectations. The barrier dimension's influence was beyond the norm, and given that no updates were coming from his son's side, they were probably stuck in the barrier dimension, too. With how large the barrier dimension was, even if this were a performance assessment, then it was just a side benefit. This could not possibly be a mere performance assessment.

Liu Yishi deliberated over what the truth was to himself over and over, until he heard Fang Da cry out in shock. He was staring at the homeless people, his eyes as wide as saucers. The other officers could not help but follow his gaze to stare at the homeless people. Every single policeman crowded toward Liu Yishi in fright.

One after another, the homeless people rotted. First, they turned deathly pale, their eyes glassy like fisheyes. Their blood vessels rose to the surface of their skin, which was so pale that it was translucent. Their abdomens began to swell, forcing the policemen to back up, so as to prevent themselves from getting splattered if those stomachs were to explode.

When the first homeless guy rotted until only white bones were left, Liu Yishi came to an understanding. He turned to look. The female corpse leaned against the wall, as if motionless, but Liu Yishi astutely realized that something was wrong. The female corpse's skin was not

as ashen as before.

Behind him came the sound of heavy objects crashing against the floor, one crash after another. With each sound of a corpse collapsing, the female corpse's metamorphosis grew more and more evident. First, the wounds healed, and blood actually flowed backward, glassy fisheyes closing...

Once the final corpse rotted and fell, the policemen also knew by then where to look. They were just very reluctant to turn their heads, deeply afraid they would see an even more frightening sight—even though there were few things that could be scarier than watching a live person rot away into a corpse.

However, no matter how scary something was, it could not be scarier than their imaginations. The policemen really couldn't stand the feeling of "there's something behind me." They shared several glances with each other and with resolve, abruptly turned their heads. Then, they let out sighs of relief.

The female corpse was no longer like a corpse. She leaned against the wall, head lowered, appearing just like a woman who was sleeping or unconscious. No matter who looked at her, they would not think she was a corpse.

Hu Lican was just about to ask, "Mr. Liu, what's going on," when he saw the female corpse move. She twitched several times, hands touching the floorboards, as if investigating them. Soon after, her knees bent, and she tried to crawl up, but she did not seem to be in full command of her limbs. Her movements were odd, as stiff as a

robot's.

All of the policemen pulled out their guns. Even Hu Lican, who had given the command that they were not allowed to shoot, pulled out his gun. He resisted the urge to shoot with great difficulty and gestured at the others not to shoot just in time.

Liu Yishi walked forward and ascertained that none of the policemen were closer to the female corpse than he was. Then, he quickly drew a cross with his hand in prayer.

“Lord...”

As he gave voice to his prayers, Liu Yishi extended his right hand, holding his fist upwards. As he opened his hand, glowing light appeared in his grasp, which slowly and faintly took the shape of a book. The pages opened flat as the book floated above his hand. It was not actually lying on his hand—it was a presence that could not be touched, just like Lu Yang's sword.

The female corpse stood up crookedly, head turning with a *clack*, *clack*—then, her head lifted...

## Chapter 1: In the Name of God Part 1

Lu Yang ran with all his might toward the abandoned campus. People's lives were in danger. His running was nearly fast enough to break the world record.

Soon, he reached the abandoned campus. He glanced toward his destination; there was only a single floor lit brightly in the dark building. Lu Yang counted as he ran. It was the eighth floor.

He rushed into the building. With each stride, Lu Yang was able to leap half a floor up, making it look like he was practically flying. He rushed straight to the staircase that connected the seventh floor to the eighth. A pool of black water blocked his path where the staircase turned.

The water was actually flowing backwards, with the water pooling above his head, as if the eighth floor was lower than the seventh. The water flooded the eighth floor's stairway instead of flowing down to the seventh floor. *This is completely illogical!*

Lu Yang boldly extended his hand to touch the black water. He immediately felt chilled to the bone although his fingertip had barely touched it. No matter how much of a rush he was in, he did not dare to dash directly into something like this. He immediately summoned his sword.

"Slay! Cut this thing apart!"

The ancient sword shone brightly, seemingly agitating the black water so that it surged and spun warily. However, when the sword cut into



the surface of the water, it was like a ship that left no trace of its passage. The gash made from the sword instantly sealed up, returning to its previous state.

Lu Yang's face darkened. Just as he was about to throw all caution to the wind and rush in, he abruptly remembered the legend behind the abandoned campus and how to trigger it. Perhaps he needed to follow the method detailed as he headed upstairs to be able to enter the barrier dimension.

Lu Yang frowned and abruptly stuck his left hand into the black water. When he got his hand in up to the wrist, he was only able to endure it for three seconds before he felt it was too cold to keep going. He took his hand out. His entire left hand had blackened, and there didn't seem to be much feeling in it.

He helplessly said, "All right, don't get agitated. I know I did something stupid again."

Slay raced over and abruptly stopped. The sword twisted to touch the top of Lu Yang's head, as if it was clobbering him, before returning to an upright position. Slay was trembling from tip to hilt, like it was distraught and furious.

"I'm just afraid that I won't make it in time. There are classmates who are nearly about to suffocate!"

Lu Yang explained as he went down the stairs. With a bend at the knees, he leaped up past an entire floor. If Jiang Ziya were to see this scene, he would once again lament that this was beyond human.

Lu Yang ran to the first floor and shouted “I’m heading up to the xth floor now” as he went up each floor. There weren’t any oddities along the way, making Lu Yang feel uneasy. *Don’t tell me the pathway can only be used once?*

*That would be bad.* He wasn’t adept at handling barrier dimensions. Earlier, he really should have forcefully carried Jiang Ziya over no matter what!

When he was between the fourth and fifth floor, Lu Yang suddenly heard a loud sound. He stopped in his tracks before realizing that it was a gunshot!

As if he had been shaken awake by the gunshot, Lu Yang began to hear the sound of people’s voices one by one, as well as a very familiar voice...

“In the name of the Lord, I command you to stand down. Stand down immediately!”

*Dad*— Lu Yang sped up even more. If it weren’t because the stairs in this building had no handrails, Lu Yang would have been able to grab the handrails and jump through entire flights at once.

Even if the black water had still been blocking him, Lu Yang might have rushed right into it. Fortunately, there was nothing blocking the seventh floor from the eighth this time.

With a leap, Lu Yang landed onto the eighth floor. The division down

the middle was clear at a glance. One side was dark while the other was bright, as if separated into two different worlds from within: one step to heaven and one step to hell.

The darkness crawled incessantly, wanting to encroach the territory of the light, yet it was blocked by a brimming white glow. Attempting to approach would only result in annihilation, with no room for invasion.

What was giving off the white light could be faintly made out to be in the shape of a book. The person standing behind the book was Liu Yishi. He was shouting while holding a cross in the air to put matters to a stop.

There were also a few policemen huddled in the farthest corner from the darkness. They had their guns lifted out of fear. If not for Hu Lican holding them back, there might have been several more gunshots.

Seeing that his father was fine, Lu Yang breathed a sigh of relief. He finally had the spare attention to observe the current situation.

The wide expanse of darkness was actually endlessly crawling hair. It was long and thick, and it was all over the place, from the floor to the ceiling. Lu Yang only then discovered that there was actually a woman hanging from the ceiling. She was nearly buried by the black hair, with only her face up to her chest still visible.

Her eyes were wide open, her mouth stretched to an extreme, as if it would split apart into two halves in the very next second. All of the black hair was coming from her head.

In contrast to the incessantly crawling hair, the main body was completely still. It was like the hair was the main body instead.

The white light wavered for a moment. Liu Yishi had noticed Lu Yang's presence and couldn't help but be slightly affected.

"Xiao Yang?" However, he couldn't be sure that what was before his eyes was actually his son. It could be a mirage formed by the barrier dimension to throw him off his guard.

Slay shot out, slashing apart a strand of hair that had wanted to "sneak across" from the corner when the white light had wavered.

"Dad, quickly finish her off!"

Liu Yishi looked at the hair that had been cut apart, no longer moving on the floor after being cut short. This was so much more powerful than his book. Along with the familiarity, he could determine right away that this was indeed his own son. He had never seen anything more adept at slaying demons than Lu Yang's sword.

"I want to finish this quickly too, but I really can't. This barrier dimension isn't simple."

Earlier, he had also been unsure of his son's situation. Liu Yishi had been in a hurry and had wished he could grow wings like an angel to fly over. If he had been able to resolve this, he would not still be here.

"This hair is endless. I have used the name of the Lord to burn the filth many times. But even though it can be burned, it grows again

afterwards in the blink of an eye. There is no way to clear a path to the exit.”

Lu Yang turned to look. The stairway he had come up from was once again flooded by black water—No, it wasn’t water. It was a tight tangle of black hair that was writhing like water!

Seeing that, Lu Yang’s face nearly turned as dark as the black water.

Jiang Ziya and a bunch of students in mortal peril were waiting for him to bring reinforcements. If he was delayed too long, lives would be lost.

“What about attacking that woman?”

Right now, Lu Yang didn’t have the capacity to care about whether or not that was a college classmate. He had already helped her ascend. If he were to call that thing Li Yao, even Jiang Ziya wouldn’t believe it.

Liu Yishi was about to shake his head but stopped and said, “You might as well give it a try.”

Lu Yang tried it immediately. He used his full strength at once.

“Natural order of Heavens and Earth, disperse the foulness from the air, mighty gods of the eight cardinals, cut down demons and bind evil. Let the evil impurities dissolve away, let Taoism last for all eternity, let this imperial decree of Taishang Laojun be heard—”

As the ancient incantation was recited, the ancient sword flew up and

took position, spinning several times to gather the surrounding energy around its blade. Its power exploded to the point that even the policemen could see Slay's prowess. Hope blossomed across their faces.

"Eliminate!"

With overwhelming power behind it, Slay pierced straight at the main body of the woman on the ceiling. Lu Yang had thought that the black hair might rush forward to block it, so he had used his full strength right away, but unexpectedly, the black hair didn't come forward to block it. Instead, it retreated to the corner and allowed Slay to pierce straight through her heart, gouging a huge chasm in the woman's chest.

*I succeeded?* Lu Yang was doubtful. Even though Slay had always been powerful, his father was no amateur himself. While Liu Yishi wasn't the attacker type, a barrier dimension that could ensnare him could not be this easy to break...

A strand of black hair suddenly moved, pouncing toward the woman's chest, filling up the chasm. The black color gradually transformed into other colors and shapes; skin, the color of the shirt, and even small details like the collar of the shirt were present.

Liu Yishi sighed. *That didn't work either.*

"It was like that earlier, too." Fang Da was nearly to the point of tears. "We couldn't kill it no matter how many shots we fired. Even Mr. Liu couldn't do anything."

Hu Lican smacked Fang Da so hard that his head dipped. He scolded him, "If he wasn't able to do anything, you'd long be dead!"

Liu Yishi shook his head to indicate that he did not mind or blame Fang Da. These policemen were pretty decent. They had only taken a few shots at the female corpse despite being under the effect of this kind of high caliber barrier dimension. Hu Lican had a good eye for the people he had selected.

"I am afraid the only path left is upwards," Liu Yishi said helplessly.

He had known this, yet he had not chosen to head upstairs because this trap was entirely too obvious. Going upstairs was definitely the worst choice possible. He had his book to protect himself, so he might be able to hold on until the barrier dimension vanished, but he could not guarantee the safety of these policemen.

Although he had worried about his son, Liu Yishi still could not do something that would jeopardize the safety of these policemen.

"Even though this is the only choice, it is also a dire one. It would be best for us to wait here for the barrier dimension to disappear. A barrier dimension of this caliber won't be able to last very long. I give it an hour at most, and this is under the scenario that the black hair does not go on the offense, or else it will be even shorter."

Lu Yang knew that his father was much better at figuring out barrier dimensions than he was, but he could not follow his father's suggestion at this particular moment. Right now, it was a matter of life

and death where every single second counted! He couldn't wait a single minute, let alone an hour!

"We'll head up immediately!"

Hearing that, Liu Yishi frowned, but he also knew that his son would not say that for no reason. There definitely had to be something even more serious outside waiting for them to solve, so they didn't have time to wait here for the barrier dimension to disappear.

"Okay."

Fortunately, his son was here to add to their strength. Liu Yishi was slightly more assured now.

"Open the way for us. Attack with everything you have. I'll take up the rear and protect the others."

Lu Yang nodded. His father's abilities were indeed better for defense than offense.

Hearing that, Hu Lican knew that he and the others were holding them back. If he knew this would happen, he would have stood outside to keep watch, pretending he was patrolling. Why had he thought to bring some people in to observe and learn? He had wanted the convenience of having a few more people understand these kinds of matters a bit more so that when they came across these kinds of cases, they could promptly hand matters off to the right people.

But this was not just understanding a bit more. This was knowing too



much!

Hu Lican felt he had really done a disservice to his fellow policemen. But now that things had come to this, all he could do was make sure that each and every one of them followed Lu Yang and Liu Yishi closely to prevent any casualties. If casualties were to happen, he would truly regret it forever.

Lu Yang rushed straight upstairs. Seeing how hurried his son was, Liu Yishi felt uneasy and quickly beckoned the policemen to follow.

Once upstairs, they all immediately discovered something wrong. They had clearly been on the eighth floor, but once they headed upstairs, they actually reached a dirt field that was rather wide. However, they could not see far into the distance because the entire world was ashen. Ash floated in the air everywhere. It appeared to be like snow at first glance, but a closer look revealed how wrong that was. The ash was dark gray and drifted super slowly, so slowly that it was nearly motionless, stretching across the entire world, dying their sight gray.

For some reason, unease seized their hearts, and they even had the desire to turn back and face the black haired corpse instead. However, when they turned to look at the stairway they had come up from, they realized it had turned into a small pond. The water of the pond was as black as ink. They did not dare to step in it at all.

This pond was a very familiar sight to Lu Yang. It was the Pond of Meditation that had the wishing corpse. Taking a closer look at his surroundings, he realized that it was the university!

Fang Da suddenly sucked in his breath and grabbed Hu Lican's arm in fright.

Someone was floating in the Pond of Meditation, face up, eyes staring widely up at the sky above.

Lu Yang calmly took a look, his heart plummeting. This was the male student who had died without a sound at the Pond of Meditation after making his wish.

A corpse did not scare them, but what did was the fact that ever since they had stepped into the abandoned campus, none of the corpses had obediently remained still. Each and every one of them had scrambled to crawl back up, like zombies in a movie.

Lu Yang stared at the corpse in the pond without taking his eyes off of it. However, this time, it did not seem like it was about to stand back up. It merely floated in the pond serenely.

Rather, it was the surface of the pond that rippled. Water swirled and surged until it formed a great whirlpool, except it did not cave downwards. Instead, it swirled upwards to form a long entity.

"Slay!"

Lu Yang, who had plenty of experience slaying demons, was not about to wait for this thing to take form. He was definitely going to get rid of it while he had the opportunity to do so! The sword shot out, piercing apart the unknown thing in its midst.

However, a person fell out from within. She struggled in the water, but when she discovered that it was shallow, she stood right up and walked to the shore dripping wet. She looked at the group of people in front of her with fear on her face.

It was Li Yao, yet she was not a corpse. She looked completely like a normal university student.

The black hair that had crawled everywhere had returned to its normal length. Even the color had changed, turning into the chestnut brown that she had dyed her hair to. Lu Yang remembered that Li Yao's hair was indeed this color. The clothes on her body had even returned to their original condition. If it weren't because she had been in the water and was now dripping wet, she would look entirely like some random university student one could see anywhere on campus.

"W-Who are you?" Li Yao's eyes wandered in fright. She shouted in fear, "And where am I? What happened?"

They had all frozen and did not know how to respond. When a corpse turned into a monster, they would run away in fright, but when a corpse turned back into a living person, how were they supposed to respond?

Lu Yang snorted coldly and warned, "Cut the crap. You can trick normal people into thinking that a dead person has come back to life, but do you really think you can trick a practitioner?"

Li Yao stared blankly at him before suddenly returning to herself and crying in alarm, "Lu Yang? You're Lu Yang, right?"

Lu Yang's face froze. The normality of her actions was unable to trick him, but giving voice to his name indeed startled him. If this fake knew his name, it meant that the mastermind behind this knew who he was. That also meant that the reason for Li Yao becoming a victim might be because she knew him and Jiang Ziya?

"Sweetie, don't let it affect you."

Liu Yishi clasped his son's shoulder. A father knew his son best. Even though Lu Yang remained calm, Liu Yishi had perceptively sensed that his son's emotions were off. Getting influenced by things in a barrier dimension was extremely dangerous. A moment of weakness could result in paying with one's life.

Li Yao ran toward Lu Yang but was stopped by the ancient sword. The tip of the sword was only a few centimeters away from her neck. Like a normal girl, she was frightened and screamed.

Tears burst out from fright, and she wailed, "I-I'm Li Yao. We met before. Have you forgotten? When we went to the infirmary, the windows of the school even shattered!"

Lu Yang grew angrier and angrier the more he heard. They had researched it so thoroughly. *Li Yao getting chosen really was my fault, wasn't it? Damn it!* He had only met her once. Was that really all it took?

Seeing such a scene, Liu Yishi knew that things were dire. Slay's glow was even beginning to turn a threatening red. Lu Yang had indeed

been affected. No matter how powerful he was, he was still a young man. Facing someone he knew would affect him after all.

Liu Yishi did not know whether he should feel worried or relieved. His son had been practicing by himself for a long time. If one day he faced an opponent and wavered, that would not be a good thing at all. However, if he never wavered at all, his heart hardening despite his young age, Liu Yishi would still worry as his father!

Liu Yishi stepped forward. With a swing of his hand, the book flew close to Li Yao and gave off a strong glow.

"In the name of the Lord, I command you to discard your disguise and face us with your true visage!"

Without Li Yao's skin, Liu Yishi believed that his son would immediately cut her down, and he would even use great force to do so. After all, Slay's red glow was growing more and more intense...

However, what resulted was a Li Yao who stared with wide eyes and great confusion. However, she did not jump away again, as a book was not as scary as a sword, and she hadn't understood Liu Yishi's words. She only knew that they at least did not include anything about killing or harming her, so she wasn't that scared.

"Why is there no change?" Hu Lican asked in confusion, "Earlier, Mr. Liu used this same technique to force her to show her true identity, but why isn't it working this time?"

Liu Yishi frowned. Even though his offensive power was not as strong

as his wife's or his son's, he was unrivaled in other areas. Under the light of his book, there were few things that could keep their true visage from him. She did not even show the slightest struggle, as if she was a normal human and wasn't affected by the book at all.

"C-Can I go home?"

Li Yao slowly stepped backward, looking like she wanted to put some distance between her and these strange people, including Lu Yang, a classmate who had clearly met her before yet was pretending that he did not know her. She still believed that she was on campus. Even though her surroundings were a bit ashen, it was often overcast lately, so it wasn't strange for the sky to be gray.

Lu Yang stepped forward. He had hesitated for long enough. No matter what this thing before him was, she could not be Li Yao!

Slay hung in the air, threatening the harmless-looking female student. Lu Yang growled, "Let us out right now!"

Li Yao cried, "What? I don't understand what you're saying at all!"

Lu Yang did not hesitate any longer. With two fingers pressed together, he pointed his sword at Li Yao's heart.

"W-What are you doing..."

Seeing the sword actually fly at her, Li Yao's eyes grew large. She shrieked, "Help, murder—!"

The sword stopped, but it was not that Lu Yang's heart had wavered. No matter if it was his classmates who were in mortal peril or the injured Jiang Ziya, neither allowed him the leisure to hesitate. Instead, someone had intercepted and blocked Slay's attack.

Lu Yang's face was downright ugly. This was not the first time Slay's attack had been stopped before. No matter how highly he thought of himself, he wouldn't dare to claim that he was so powerful that no one could stop him. However, this was the first time he had ever seen someone stop Slay's attack so completely, to the point that Slay could not move. He could even feel Slay's unbridled anger in response to this.

Had the true enemy finally appeared?

Liu Yishi stepped forward first. His book flew into the air and released a strong light. However, it was not harsh to his allies' eyes. Rather, it felt gentle, like sinking into a hot springs.

Seeing the direction his father was facing, Lu Yang's fingers turned. Slay's red glow grew even stronger, as it tried to break free of its restraints. It turned ninety degrees in the air and pointed straight at the sky!

There was actually someone in the air!

That person wore an old-fashioned black robe with golden trim. He held a golden scepter in his hands. His hair was tied into a bun, with a small black-based coronet lined with gold holding it in place. He even wore a mask on his face. It was a golden mask, with a mottled pattern

on it, and a sharp nose like that of a crow's beak.

The light illuminated the masked man.

*Fu Taiyi?*

Lu Yang could not hold back his anger as he shouted, "You're the one behind this?"

Fu Taiyi removed his mask. From high up in the air, he looked down at this group of people, and smiled.



## Chapter 1: In the Name of God, Part 1—Resurrection

Lu Yang ran with all his might toward the abandoned campus. People's lives were in danger. His running was nearly fast enough to break the world record.

Soon, he reached the abandoned campus. He glanced toward his destination; there was only a single floor lit brightly in the dark building. Lu Yang counted as he ran. It was the eighth floor. He rushed into the building. With each stride, Lu Yang was able to leap half a floor up, making it look like he was practically flying. He rushed straight to the staircase that connected the seventh floor to the eighth. A pool of black water blocked his path where the staircase turned.

The water was actually flowing backwards, with the water pooling above his head, as if the eighth floor was lower than the seventh. The water flooded the eighth floor's stairway instead of flowing down to the seventh floor. *This is completely illogical!*

Lu Yang boldly extended his hand to touch the black water. He immediately felt chilled to the bone although his fingertip had barely touched it. No matter how much of a rush he was in, he did not dare to dash directly into something like this. He immediately summoned his sword.

"Slay! Cut this thing apart!"

The ancient sword shone brightly, seemingly agitating the black water so that it surged and spun warily. However, when the sword cut into the surface of the water, it was like a ship that left no trace of its

passage. The gash made from the sword instantly sealed up, returning to its previous state.

Lu Yang's face darkened. Just as he was about to throw all caution to the wind and rush in, he abruptly remembered the legend behind the abandoned campus and how to trigger it. Perhaps he needed to follow the method detailed as he headed upstairs to be able to enter the barrier dimension.

Lu Yang frowned and abruptly stuck his left hand into the black water. When he got his hand in up to the wrist, he was only able to endure it for three seconds before he felt it was too cold to keep going. He took his hand out. His entire left hand had blackened, and there didn't seem to be much feeling in it.

He helplessly said, "All right, don't get agitated. I know I did something stupid again."

Slay raced over and abruptly stopped. The sword twisted to touch the top of Lu Yang's head, as if it was clobbering him, before returning to an upright position. Slay was trembling from tip to hilt, like it was distraught and furious.

"I'm just afraid that I won't make it in time. There are classmates who are nearly about to suffocate!"

Lu Yang explained as he went down the stairs. With a bend at the knees, he leaped up past an entire floor. If Jiang Ziya were to see this scene, he would once again lament that this was beyond human.

Lu Yang ran to the first floor and shouted “I’m heading up to the xth floor now” as he went up each floor. There weren’t any oddities along the way, making Lu Yang feel uneasy. *Don’t tell me the pathway can only be used once?*

*That would be bad.* He wasn’t adept at handling barrier dimensions. Earlier, he really should have forcefully carried Jiang Ziya over no matter what!

When he was between the fourth and fifth floor, Lu Yang suddenly heard a loud sound. He stopped in his tracks before realizing that it was a gunshot!

As if he had been shaken awake by the gunshot, Lu Yang began to hear the sound of people’s voices one by one, as well as a very familiar voice...

“In the name of the Lord, I command you to stand down. Stand down immediately!”

*Dad*— Lu Yang sped up even more. If it weren’t because the stairs in this building had no handrails, Lu Yang would have been able to grab the handrails and jump through entire flights at once.

Even if the black water had still been blocking him, Lu Yang might have rushed right into it. Fortunately, there was nothing blocking the seventh floor from the eighth this time.

With a leap, Lu Yang landed onto the eighth floor. The division down the middle was clear at a glance. One side was dark while the other

was bright, as if separated into two different worlds from within: one step to heaven and one step to hell.

The darkness crawled incessantly, wanting to encroach the territory of the light, yet it was blocked by a brimming white glow. Attempting to approach would only result in annihilation, with no room for invasion.

What was giving off the white light could be faintly made out to be in the shape of a book. The person standing behind the book was Liu Yishi. He was shouting while holding a cross in the air to put matters to a stop.

There were also a few policemen huddled in the farthest corner from the darkness. They had their guns lifted out of fear. If not for Hu Lican holding them back, there might have been several more gunshots.

Seeing that his father was fine, Lu Yang breathed a sigh of relief. He finally had the spare attention to observe the current situation.

The wide expanse of darkness was actually endlessly crawling hair. It was long and thick, and it was all over the place, from the floor to the ceiling. Lu Yang only then discovered that there was actually a woman hanging from the ceiling. She was nearly buried by the black hair, with only her face up to her chest still visible.

Her eyes were wide open, her mouth stretched to an extreme, as if it would split apart into two halves in the very next second. All of the black hair was coming from her head.

In contrast to the incessantly crawling hair, the main body was

completely still. It was like the hair was the main body instead.

The white light wavered for a moment. Liu Yishi had noticed Lu Yang's presence and couldn't help but be slightly affected.

"Xiao Yang?" However, he couldn't be sure that what was before his eyes was actually his son. It could be a mirage formed by the barrier dimension to throw him off his guard.

Slay shot out, slashing apart a strand of hair that had wanted to "sneak across" from the corner when the white light had wavered.

"Dad, quickly finish her off!"

Liu Yishi looked at the hair that had been cut apart, no longer moving on the floor after being cut short. This was so much more powerful than his book. Along with the familiarity, he could determine right away that this was indeed his own son. He had never seen anything more adept at slaying demons than Lu Yang's sword.

"I want to finish this quickly too, but I really can't. This barrier dimension isn't simple."

Earlier, he had also been unsure of his son's situation. Liu Yishi had been in a hurry and had wished he could grow wings like an angel to fly over. If he had been able to resolve this, he would not still be here.

"This hair is endless. I have used the name of the Lord to burn the filth many times. But even though it can be burned, it grows again afterwards in the blink of an eye. There is no way to clear a path to

the exit.”

Lu Yang turned to look. The stairway he had come up from was once again flooded by black water—No, it wasn’t water. It was a tight tangle of black hair that was writhing like water!

Seeing that, Lu Yang’s face nearly turned as dark as the black water.

Jiang Ziya and a bunch of students in mortal peril were waiting for him to bring reinforcements. If he was delayed too long, lives would be lost.

“What about attacking that woman?”

Right now, Lu Yang didn’t have the capacity to care about whether or not that was a college classmate. He had already helped her ascend. If he were to call that thing Li Yao, even Jiang Ziya wouldn’t believe it.

Liu Yishi was about to shake his head but stopped and said, “You might as well give it a try.”

Lu Yang tried it immediately. He used his full strength at once.

“Natural order of Heavens and Earth, disperse the foulness from the air, mighty gods of the eight cardinals, cut down demons and bind evil. Let the evil impurities dissolve away, let Taoism last for all eternity, let this imperial decree of Taishang Laojun be heard—”

As the ancient incantation was recited, the ancient sword flew up and took position, spinning several times to gather the surrounding energy

around its blade. Its power exploded to the point that even the policemen could see Slay's prowess. Hope blossomed across their faces.

"Eliminate!"

With overwhelming power behind it, Slay pierced straight at the main body of the woman on the ceiling. Lu Yang had thought that the black hair might rush forward to block it, so he had used his full strength right away, but unexpectedly, the black hair didn't come forward to block it. Instead, it retreated to the corner and allowed Slay to pierce straight through her heart, gouging a huge chasm in the woman's chest.

*I succeeded?* Lu Yang was doubtful. Even though Slay had always been powerful, his father was no amateur himself. While Liu Yishi wasn't the attacker type, a barrier dimension that could ensnare him could not be this easy to break...

A strand of black hair suddenly moved, pouncing toward the woman's chest, filling up the chasm. The black color gradually transformed into other colors and shapes; skin, the color of the shirt, and even small details like the collar of the shirt were present.

Liu Yishi sighed. *That didn't work either.*

"It was like that earlier, too." Fang Da was nearly to the point of tears. "We couldn't kill it no matter how many shots we fired. Even Mr. Liu couldn't do anything."

Hu Lican smacked Fang Da so hard that his head dipped. He scolded him, "If he wasn't able to do anything, you'd long be dead!"

Liu Yishi shook his head to indicate that he did not mind or blame Fang Da. These policemen were pretty decent. They had only taken a few shots at the female corpse despite being under the effect of this kind of high caliber barrier dimension. Hu Lican had a good eye for the people he had selected.

"I am afraid the only path left is upwards," Liu Yishi said helplessly.

He had known this, yet he had not chosen to head upstairs because this trap was entirely too obvious. Going upstairs was definitely the worst choice possible. He had his book to protect himself, so he might be able to hold on until the barrier dimension vanished, but he could not guarantee the safety of these policemen.

Although he had worried about his son, Liu Yishi still could not do something that would jeopardize the safety of these policemen.

"Even though this is the only choice, it is also a dire one. It would be best for us to wait here for the barrier dimension to disappear. A barrier dimension of this caliber won't be able to last very long. I give it an hour at most, and this is under the scenario that the black hair does not go on the offense, or else it will be even shorter."

Lu Yang knew that his father was much better at figuring out barrier dimensions than he was, but he could not follow his father's suggestion at this particular moment. Right now, it was a matter of life and death where every single second counted! He couldn't wait a



single minute, let alone an hour!

“We’ll head up immediately!”

Hearing that, Liu Yishi frowned, but he also knew that his son would not say that for no reason. There definitely had to be something even more serious outside waiting for them to solve, so they didn’t have time to wait here for the barrier dimension to disappear.

“Okay.”

Fortunately, his son was here to add to their strength. Liu Yishi was slightly more assured now.

“Open the way for us. Attack with everything you have. I’ll take up the rear and protect the others.”

Lu Yang nodded. His father’s abilities were indeed better for defense than offense.

Hearing that, Hu Lican knew that he and the others were holding them back. If he knew this would happen, he would have stood outside to keep watch, pretending he was patrolling. Why had he thought to bring some people in to observe and learn? He had wanted the convenience of having a few more people understand these kinds of matters a bit more so that when they came across these kinds of cases, they could promptly hand matters off to the right people.

But this was not just understanding a bit more. This was knowing too much!

Hu Lican felt he had really done a disservice to his fellow policemen. But now that things had come to this, all he could do was make sure that each and every one of them followed Lu Yang and Liu Yishi closely to prevent any casualties. If casualties were to happen, he would truly regret it forever.

Lu Yang rushed straight upstairs. Seeing how hurried his son was, Liu Yishi felt uneasy and quickly beckoned the policemen to follow.

Once upstairs, they all immediately discovered something wrong. They had clearly been on the eighth floor, but once they headed upstairs, they actually reached a dirt field that was rather wide. However, they could not see far into the distance because the entire world was ashen. Ash floated in the air everywhere. It appeared to be like snow at first glance, but a closer look revealed how wrong that was. The ash was dark gray and drifted super slowly, so slowly that it was nearly motionless, stretching across the entire world, dying their sight gray.

For some reason, unease seized their hearts, and they even had the desire to turn back and face the black haired corpse instead. However, when they turned to look at the stairway they had come up from, they realized it had turned into a small pond. The water of the pond was as black as ink. They did not dare to step in it at all.

This pond was a very familiar sight to Lu Yang. It was the Pond of Meditation that had the wishing corpse. Taking a closer look at his surroundings, he realized that it was the university!

Fang Da suddenly sucked in his breath and grabbed Hu Lican's arm in

fright.

Someone was floating in the Pond of Meditation, face up, eyes staring widely up at the sky above.

Lu Yang calmly took a look, his heart plummeting. This was the male student who had died without a sound at the Pond of Meditation after making his wish.

A corpse did not scare them, but what did was the fact that ever since they had stepped into the abandoned campus, none of the corpses had obediently remained still. Each and every one of them had scrambled to crawl back up, like zombies in a movie.

Lu Yang stared at the corpse in the pond without taking his eyes off of it. However, this time, it did not seem like it was about to stand back up. It merely floated in the pond serenely.

Rather, it was the surface of the pond that rippled. Water swirled and surged until it formed a great whirlpool, except it did not cave downwards. Instead, it swirled upwards to form a long entity.

“Slay!”

Lu Yang, who had plenty of experience slaying demons, was not about to wait for this thing to take form. He was definitely going to get rid of it while he had the opportunity to do so! The sword shot out, piercing apart the unknown thing in its midst.

However, a person fell out from within. She struggled in the water, but

when she discovered that it was shallow, she stood right up and walked to the shore dripping wet. She looked at the group of people in front of her with fear on her face.

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"W-Who are you?" Li Yao's eyes wandered in fright. She shouted in fear, "And where am I? What happened?"

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Li Yao ran toward Lu Yang but was stopped by the ancient sword. The tip of the sword was only a few centimeters away from her neck. Like a normal girl, she was frightened and screamed.

Tears burst out from fright, and she wailed, "I-I'm Li Yao. We met before. Have you forgotten? When we went to the infirmary, the windows of the school even shattered!"

Lu Yang grew angrier and angrier the more he heard. They had researched it so thoroughly. *Li Yao getting chosen really was my fault, wasn't it? Damn it!* He had only met her once. Was that really all it took?

Seeing such a scene, Liu Yishi knew that things were dire. Slay's glow was even beginning to turn a threatening red. Lu Yang had indeed been affected. No matter how powerful he was, he was still a young

man. Facing someone he knew would affect him after all.

Liu Yishi did not know whether he should feel worried or relieved. His son had been practicing by himself for a long time. If one day he faced an opponent and wavered, that would not be a good thing at all. However, if he never wavered at all, his heart hardening despite his young age, Liu Yishi would still worry as his father!

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Lu Yang stepped forward. He had hesitated for long enough. No matter what this thing before him was, she could not be Li Yao!

Slay hung in the air, threatening the harmless-looking female student. Lu Yang growled, "Let us out right now!"

Li Yao cried, "What? I don't understand what you're saying at all!"  
Lu Yang did not hesitate any longer. With two fingers pressed together, he pointed his sword at Li Yao's heart.

"W-What are you doing..."

Seeing the sword actually fly at her, Li Yao's eyes grew large. She shrieked, "Help, murder—!"

The sword stopped, but it was not that Lu Yang's heart had wavered. No matter if it was his classmates who were in mortal peril or the injured Jiang Ziya, neither allowed him the leisure to hesitate. Instead,

someone had intercepted and blocked Slay's attack.

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The light illuminated the masked man.



*Fu Taiyi?*

Lu Yang could not hold back his anger as he shouted, “*You’re* the one behind this?”

Fu Taiyi removed his mask. From high up in the air, he looked down at this group of people, and smiled.

## Chapter 1: In the Name of God, Part 2—Exorcism

Jiang Ziya struggled to break free, turning and immediately throwing a punch. However, the other person grabbed his hand, and he was unable to pull it back. He really was not the battle type.

“Jiang Ziya, it’s me,” the other person calmly said.

Jiang Ziya was stunned when he made out the face of the newcomer, and blurted, “House Keeper?”

House Keeper smiled faintly and said, “I am not alone.”

He gestured behind Jiang Ziya.

Jiang Ziya turned. A white figure with a compassionate expression stood among the university students collapsed across the ground.

“Hold Keeper?” Jiang Ziya was surprised.

Hold Keeper was wearing extravagant, white priest robes with a golden cross around his neck. He looked even more like a priest than the religious Liu Yishi, the kind that was high in rank, someone who was far from ordinary.

Kneeling down, Hold Keeper examined the university student with the worst condition among them. His entire neck had blackened, and he was unable to breathe, his whole face turning purple. It would most likely only take a few minutes for him to perish.

When that person saw Hold Keeper, it was like he had seen his savior. He began to thrash around again after his struggles from earlier died down due to his near suffocation.

Hold Keeper took the cross necklace off. With the cross in hand, he touched the other person's neck and comforted him with his gentle and calm gaze as he shouted, "In the name of God, I command all filth and evil to depart at once, to return to the depths of the shadows and eternally atone for your sins!"

*Whoa!* Jiang Ziya couldn't help but glance to the side at House Keeper and ask doubtfully, "Hold Keeper actually knows how to exorcise demons?"

*Isn't he a spirit himself? What's up with spirits exorcising demons? I don't get it at all!*

"No." Hold Keeper explained in more detail, "Although his attire resembles the holy type, it is only because he likes that kind of extravagant attire. He is not truly religious. That is to say, the gods he believes in do not exist in reality."

"Then, what is he doing right now?"

Jiang Ziya had originally wanted to tell them to stop playing around—people's lives were in danger—when he saw that the conditions of the students on the ground actually seemed to be improving. Limbs that had turned black were beginning to return to a normal color. Their expressions were not as pained as before either, especially that of the

student who had almost suffocated. He gave a loud cough and was actually able to breathe again, his purple face slowly recovering.

“Well...” House Keeper murmured, “according to the mistress, Hold Keeper is being a charlatan.”

Jiang Ziya was speechless. It took a lot of effort for him to form any sounds.

“But it actually seems effective?”

“Indeed.” House Keeper nodded and said, “The attacks they suffered originated from a spirit. It is difficult for spirits to actually do any damage to people, especially damage of such a wide range. There is an eighty to ninety percent chance that it was not a true attack but rather an illusion.”

*No one was actually hurt?* Jiang Ziya looked at his own foot. The black energy had already spread to his knee, the painful cold shooting straight to his bones. *Yet, House Keeper claims that I haven't actually gotten attacked?*

“Watch carefully, Jiang Ziya. Please watch carefully.”

As House Keeper's whisper sounded by Jiang Ziya's ear, House Keeper had already shot out, long nails extending from his fingers. He stabbed directly at Hold Keeper, who fortunately smacked his opponent's arm away just in time to divert the attack. He then leaped back, narrowly avoiding getting stabbed by the claws.

“Devil!” Hold Keeper’s face was stern. “As I thought, you are behind this!”

House Keeper roared in response, his mouth stretching wide open, revealing a mouthful of alarming fangs.

Jiang Ziya’s eyes widened. *What am I supposed to watch? Sibling rivalry? Besides, why has House Keeper taken on such a scary appearance?*

If House Keeper had looked like this when they had first met, Jiang Ziya would never have dared to drink the milk tea offered even if his life had depended on it!

The two of them began to fight, their skills alarmingly good. House Keeper was the one initiating most of the attacks, while Hold Keeper was on the defensive. However, Hold Keeper would occasionally attack, and his attacks always landed. On the other hand, House Keeper, who was on the offensive, had not landed a single attack, the tide slowly turning against him.

Jiang Ziya was rendered speechless by this sight. *This is even more amazing than watching a movie, but why in the world have these two started fighting? I don’t care if you want to fight, but can you not when there’s a bunch of collapsed students on the ground?* He was super worried that those students might get stepped on and spew a bunch of stuff from their mouths.

“Devil, I won’t allow your impudence to persist any further!”

After Hold Keeper shouted, the cross in his hands actually flew into the air and emitted light. The light pierced House Keeper's skin, making him cry out in pain. Seizing this opportunity, Hold Keeper knocked him off his feet.

The light from the cross grew brighter and brighter. House Keeper could not crawl back up. He could only cover his face with his hands to stop the light from directly piercing his face.

At this time, Hold Keeper lifted his hand. The cross slowly landed on it. He held the cross and drew close to House Keeper one step at a time.

"Devil, in the name of God, I command you to return to the depths of Hell, to never again wreck havoc in the living world!"

House Keeper growled and tried to stand back up. He even seemed like he wanted to pounce on Hold Keeper, but under the cross's influence, he was unable to get back on his feet. He crawled and growled like an animal before Hold Keeper. As Hold Keeper approached, it was as if House Keeper's permitted area of movement was getting limited. He could only struggle right where he was.

Finally, Hold Keeper pushed the cross against House Keeper's forehead. A sizzling sound actually came from it. House Keeper shrieked and struggled but could not move. His forehead started to char, which then spread all the way downward until his entire person burned up, turning into ash.

Eyes full of pity, Hold Keeper drew a cross before his chest.

Jiang Ziya was shocked still, his eyes wide. He did not at all understand why he had witnessed the two brothers turn against each other out of the blue. *Hold Keeper actually killed House Keeper? Or does "returning to Hell" mean he's not actually dead?*

*But, House Keeper turned into ash!*

His thoughts and feelings were all jumbled, but Jiang Ziya could only latch onto how Yu Shu would definitely feel terrible. It did not matter if it was about House Keeper's death, or the two brothers turning against each other... *And I'm dead meat!*

"Hold Keeper's appearance is very deceptive."

Jiang Ziya jumped in shock. He turned his head. Who else was there behind him but House Keeper, who had turned into ash earlier?

House Keeper's face was no longer that of a monster with a wide open mouth. He had his usual gentle handsomeness, his typical faint smile. "The mistress has praised Hold Keeper for being a natural charlatan. No matter if it is his appearance or his demeanor, he is very suited to spreading the gospel. Even if he uses the Three Character Classic<sup>1</sup> to preach, he would be able to create the religion of the Three Character Classic."

*This really doesn't sound like praise...*

Jiang Ziya stammered as he asked, "W-what were you two doing? Why did you start fighting?"

"Please look at them."

House Keeper gestured at the university students. They actually began to stand up, their limbs no longer black. They did not seem like they were on the verge of death anymore either. They all looked at Hold Keeper with gratefulness and worship. No matter if they believed in anything or not before, they would probably all believe in God after this.

"I pretended to be the devil, while Hold Keeper was on the side of justice. Since he has defeated the devil, those people have now been rescued. At least, that is what they believe."

House Keeper explained in more detail, "It is because none of this is real. Jiang Ziya, you can tell that I am not real, so why are you unable to see that the injury you have suffered is not a truthful existence either?"

*So none of this was real?* Jiang Ziya understood it now. He looked at his leg. The black portions were actually fading. It did not take long for his skin to return to its normal color.

House Keeper looked at Jiang Ziya curiously. His left eye seemed to be a bit too bright, almost like it was glowing.

"Jiang Ziya."

Jiang Ziya lifted his head and looked at House Keeper questioningly, waiting for him to speak. However, House Keeper instead pointed somewhere else. Jiang Ziya followed the finger and looked over. Hold



Keeper stood in that direction, and he was coincidentally looking back. Their eyes met.

A smile came across Hold Keeper's face. This smile was so brilliant that Jiang Ziya felt that something was very wrong. He quickly averted his gaze and turned to ask House Keeper next to him, "Hold Keeper looks fine. Did you need help with something?"

House Keeper actually smiled gratefully and said, "You have already helped."

*I helped? Jiang Ziya was confused. House Keeper and Hold Keeper were clearly the ones who had helped him a ton. Has House Keeper become even more respectful toward me? This feels really bad! Have I done something that will make Yu Shu kill me again?*

*Forget it, even if I'm going to get killed, that's in the future. Right now, the most important task at hand is to solve the current dilemma.*

Jiang Ziya pulled on House Keeper, afraid that he would fly off straightaway like last time. He asked him directly, "Can you and Hold Keeper come with me to help Lu Yang?"

House Keeper shook his head and said, "Your classmate possesses extremely strong powers. If it is something he cannot accomplish, then Hold Keeper and I would be of no help even if we were to go with you."

"Who says! Didn't you rescue us from danger that time when we were about to fall off the building? That guy might be dangling from the rooftop again!"

Hearing that, House Keeper smiled and nodded as he said, "All right, if this is your wish, then we will accompany you there. However, if your classmate plans to attack us, please prevent him from causing us harm."

"Of course!"

Jiang Ziya was overjoyed. Getting the help of these two was so much better than him heading over all by himself with no fighting power to speak of. He would have no idea how to help at all.

At this time, Hold Keeper joined them without anyone's notice. The three of them stood in the shadows beside the entrance. For some reason, no one noticed their presence.

"All done! Those people are fine now. I examined all of them. None of them have any doubts that their injuries haven't recovered."

"Good job." House Keeper nodded. "We are going to accompany Jiang Ziya to save people."

When he heard that, Hold Keeper grumbled, "There's still more to do? Yu Shu only felt that something was wrong over here, so she had us come here to just take a look. Isn't it enough that we lent our help already?"

He had been full of dissatisfaction, but once he glimpsed Jiang Ziya's beseeching expression, he actually acquiesced.

"Fine, for your sake, we'll save them."

*That was easy? I must have done something that will make Yu Shu kill me.* Jiang Ziya felt cold sweat drip down his back, but there was no time to consider what Yu Shu would do to him. It was more important to figure out Lu Yang's current situation.

Because of how worried Jiang Ziya was, the three of them rushed to the abandoned campus. Jiang Ziya ran, while House Keeper and Hold Keeper only took large strides, yet their speeds were practically the same.

Along the way, Jiang Ziya worried over how nearly all the passersby would turn their heads to observe those two, especially Hold Keeper. His attire was entirely too eye-catching. If it were not for how often people wore strange clothing, and how popular cosplay was, with the university campus regularly rented out for events, Hold Keeper would have long since been surrounded.

Even though it was very late and there were not many people out and about, there were still a few university students walking around.

Jiang Ziya couldn't help but ask nervously, "You directly showed up in front of everyone and even saved so many people. Won't you be in trouble?"

House Keeper shook his head. "It is fine. As time passes, they will regard these memories as events from a movie they have seen."

"At most, some people will go and get baptized," Hold Keeper joked.

When he heard that, Jiang Ziya began to wonder if some of the "movies" he remembered were actually real, considering how even this large of an incident could become tampered memories and considered as events from a movie—*though come to think of it, I haven't watched a lot of movies!*

*Phew!*

When this human and two familiars rushed into the abandoned campus, Jiang Ziya immediately looked toward a specific building. However, the entire abandoned campus was silent and completely still.

Jiang Ziya glanced at the two familiars beside him and regained some confidence. He hurried straight into the building.

With a "thud, thud, thud," they reached the eighth floor but did not see anything. Jiang Ziya stood rooted to the spot, uncertain of what to do. They had climbed up so easily, and there was nothing strange going on. The place was just a bit smelly, but that could be a lingering odor from the corpse that had been here before.

It should be a good thing that there was nothing strange going on, but this meant Jiang Ziya had no clue where to go to find Lu Yang. Jiang Ziya also absolutely refused to believe that Lu Yang was fine. There

was a high chance that he had been caught in a barrier dimension. Otherwise, there was no way that there would be no trace of him.

Besides, Liu Yishi and several policemen should have been here. Now, such a large group had vanished without a trace. There was no way that things were fine.

"Observe carefully." House Keeper patiently said, "If even you are unable to see any oddities, then probably no one would be capable of doing so. It would mean that the foe is too powerful. It would be best to retreat in order to prevent meaningless bloodshed."

Jiang Ziya sucked in a deep breath and avoided making the difficult decision of retreating or not retreating. *I'll look closely first.*

He reached his hand up and covered his right eye, leaving only his left eye that could see odd things uncovered. He surveyed the surroundings in a circle before he finally discovered a hint. There were several pools of blood on the floor...

Suddenly, the stench grew stronger.

Jiang Ziya froze. When he lifted his head again, the surroundings had completely changed. Pools of blood were not the only things on the floor anymore. There were even several piles of bones, as if they had been rotting away for quite a long while.

What had originally been an empty room was now filled with puddles of blood and white bones just from his "look." *Have I done something bad again?*

Jiang Ziya always felt conflicted. Even when there was nothing, if he just so much as looked at it, there would be something. Sometimes, he couldn't help but wonder if his left eye was what was causing bad things to happen, just like how Li Yao had turned into a wrathful spirit simply because he had called out to her...

"Ziya?"

Hearing the familiar voice, Jiang Ziya abruptly looked back. He shouted, "Ah Yang! Are you okay?"

Lu Yang had not thought he would see Jiang Ziya the moment they got out. If he had been alone, Lu Yang would have wondered if this was just a hallucination, but he could also see House Keeper and Hold Keeper. This made him doubt a lot less.

Lu Yang hurried straight to Jiang Ziya and carefully observed to see if he was an illusion. Then, he relaxed.

Following behind him were several people who were coming down the stairs. First came the policemen, who were all pale and shivering. Last was Liu Yishi at the end.

Liu Yishi glanced toward the staircase. Two figures departed down the stairs at lightning speed. Even though he had only glimpsed them, it was not impossible to stop them. However, they seemed to have arrived with Jiang Ziya, so Liu Yishi let them go, as he had some conjectures about their identities.

Jiang Ziya scanned up and down and confirmed that Lu Yang really was okay. He had thought that given how long it had taken, Lu Yang would definitely have been stuck in a tough battle.

"I'm fine. I'll tell you more later." Lu Yang shook his head and said, "Let's go. We'll save those students right now."

After he said that, he immediately made for the stairs. Lu Yang remembered the dire condition those students had been in. After such a long delay, their conditions had to be terrible.

Generally, practitioners would not kill people so obviously, as creating such a big incident meant that other practitioners would interfere to put a stop to things and chase after the culprit. However, considering how there were several deaths already, this practitioner's audacity was off the charts. They might truly dare to kill that many people!

Jiang Ziya quickly pulled him to a stop and said, "That side has already been taken care of. Look, even my foot is fine now."

"It's taken care of?"

Lu Yang had noticed that Jiang Ziya's leg injury was completely healed, but since Jiang Ziya had the truth-seeing eye, it was not too strange for him to see through it and break free of the injury. Therefore, when he saw Jiang Ziya appear here, he had not been overly surprised nor had he thought Jiang Ziya to be fake, even though he had been injured earlier.

He asked doubtfully, "Did you do something?"

Jiang Ziya immediately shook his head. He did not have that kind of ability in him.

"House Keeper and Hold Keeper came to help. House Keeper disguised himself as the devil, while Hold Keeper played at being a quack and burned him to ashes. Afterwards, the classmates all got better."

After saying that, Jiang Ziya felt that his explanation was too simple and absurd. *I wonder if Lu Yang can make anything out of this? But this is really how things went. I don't even understand what happened!*

"Oh?" Liu Yishi cut in and smilingly said, "It seems that those two familiars are quite capable. This kind of exorcism is indeed very suitable for that type of situation. Ziya, can you introduce me to Lady Yu Shu?"

*Why does hearing the three words "Lady Yu Shu" make my face want to twitch so much?*

Jiang Ziya could only force himself to say, "I'll have to ask her first. She doesn't have a very good temper. It's the kind of bad temper that can mean a dagger flying right at you. It's best not to go knocking on her door directly."

Liu Yishi nodded in agreement as he said, "Of course, it is polite to ask first."

However, even if he were to get turned down, it didn't mean he would not seek her out. He just might change the method. It all depended on



the situation. If necessary, something as impolite as busting her door down was not out of the question.

Lu Yang glanced at his dad. He approved of seeking her out, as he could then figure out her motives. Otherwise, he would keep on worrying whether or not it was a problem to keep letting Jiang Ziya come into contact with Yu Shu.

However, Yu Shu was not the most critical matter at hand. He walked in front of Hu Lican and said, "I didn't have time to say this earlier, but people have died."

When Hu Lican heard that, the joy he felt over escaping a calamity disappeared without a trace. Alarmed, he asked, "Aren't things fine over here?"

"It was on campus. Three lives, all students."

Hu Lican's face darkened. Lu Yang's face did not look much better either. He had originally thought that nothing would go wrong since the school was pretty lively even in the middle of the night, and they had totaled twelve people in their group. He had underestimated their foe. This practitioner, who had dared to take so many lives and create this entire fiasco, had truly taken it too far!

Hearing that three lives had been lost, Liu Yishi felt that something was really wrong.

Considering how a bird that leaves the group gets shot, practitioners always laid low, especially those committing evil. They did not wish to

rally others against them, so they all hid thoroughly. *Yet, they have committed murder out in the open so daringly?*

*Just what in the world is this practitioner trying to do?*

## Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> **“Three Character Classic”**: The Three Character Classic is a Chinese classic text written in triplets of characters for easy memorization. Used to teach children common Chinese characters, elements of Chinese history, and the basics of Confucian morality, it was a staple in early education during the Ming and Qing dynasties. For more information, see [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Three\\_Character\\_Classic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Three_Character_Classic).

## Chapter 1: In the Name of God, Part 3—Coming True

She heard the door open, but Yu Shu remained sprawled on the chair, too lazy to move.

Two tall figures walked into the study, one wearing black and one wearing white. They were so striking that she could not ignore them.

The one wearing black respectfully said, “Mistress, as you surmised, something has happened. Your deductions are astounding. You were able to tell that something was wrong simply from seeing a live feed of the fire alarm going off at Jiang Ziya’s university.”

Yu Shu felt aggrieved as she looked at her two sons, as if there was nothing left to live for. *Why the hell did I give birth to them—No! I haven’t given birth at all, b-but... Fine, this is close enough to “giving birth.”*

“Why are you acting so strange?”

Hold Keeper swept his eyes up and down to check on her condition. She was not injured, and she already had a cup of coffee next to her. She had been using her computer. *There’s nothing wrong!*

Yu Shu weakly waved her two sons over. They walked to her in confusion, only then discovering the video of Hold Keeper performing an exorcism playing on the computer.

However, this was different from the actual scene. In the video, House Keeper and Hold Keeper were two practically transparent figures, and

their voices could not be heard at all. Only the students at the scene could be heard panicking endlessly. The entire video was just like a horror film—the type without any special effects added.

“You sure performed a good exorcism, huh?” Yu Shu mocked, “Why don’t I send you to church? Let’s see if they’ll accept a familiar as an exorcist?”

Hold Keeper lowered his head and remained silent, docile for once. Instead, it was House Keeper who opened his mouth and analyzed in all seriousness, “The quality of this video is poor. Perhaps it will not be considered real.”

Yu Shu helplessly said, “The blurrier it is, the more real it appears. If it were completely clear, people might treat it as a clip from some unreleased movie. A blurry video like this appears more like something someone used their cell phone to record and personally upload to the net.”

When he heard that, House Keeper, who had turned an entire one year old this year, failed to think of a solution as well and could only fall silent.

Yu Shu sarcastically stated, “This display has likely earned the church plenty of followers. They should really award the two of you with a special service medal for familiars.”

The two sons who had caused trouble obediently stood in front of their mother without daring to say a word.

Mommy Yu held her head and continued, "I left comments to control the situation, hoping to make it look like someone used an unedited film as a prank, but someone kept getting in my way. There's something wrong with this situation. Tell me! Just what has Jiang Ziya gotten into this time?"

Even though Yu Shu had not seen Jiang Ziya in the video, she had sensed something was wrong after watching the live feed. That so-called fire alarm had rung piercingly in her ears. Then, when House Keeper had told her that it was Jiang Ziya's university, she had immediately called Jiang Ziya. As she had expected, the call had not connected. She had wondered if he had turned his phone off because he was asleep, so she had called the landline of the neighbors across, with little care that it was the middle of the night or whether or not the neighbors were asleep.

Jiang Yu, half asleep, had told her that Jiang Ziya had gone to participate in his society's night venture at the university and had yet to return.

*Hah, just who else could this mess originate from?*

After House Keeper told her everything in detail, he said, "Even though Jiang Ziya wished for our help, we saw that they had already broken free and also had an actual exorcist with them, so we dared not dally."

Although Jiang Ziya had promised that he would interfere, House Keeper still had not wished to invite unnecessary trouble. The moment he had seen that the situation was in hand, he had immediately taken Hold Keeper and left posthaste.

Yu Shu frowned. At this moment, several sounds went off from her computer. This was a notification she had set. It would go off when certain IDs left messages.

*These people just won't give up!*

Yu Shu placed both hands on her keyboard, about to fight hand-to-hand. Given the speed of her typing from her many years of experience, there was no way anyone could uncover her two sons who had played at being charlatans!

However, when she glanced at the screen, the message shocked her.

A homicide had actually occurred at the university.

The comment section of the video, which had originally almost petered out, now surged into activity once again.

**One Who Flutters: A homicide? Was it lovers?**

**Top of the World: I heard that three people have died already.**

**Proud Shut-In: For reals? That can't be!**

Yu Shu watched as more and more comments were left. The number of times the video was viewed grew exponentially. Several IDs even jumped out and claimed that they were present on campus and began to tell a colorful rendition of the entire situation.

**Top of the World: I'm not pulling your leg! This whole thing is super weird. The three of them all died in different places: bathroom, Pond of Meditation, and also the location of this video—the medical department!**

**Getting Rich on 8/8: Heh, you still dare to claim that this video is fake? "My Sons are so Freakin' Handsome," come out and face reality!**

*What are they pulling here?*

Yu Shu keenly realized something was wrong. It was not strange that a homicide had happened at the university. What was weird was that it had only just happened, yet there were already so many people posting about it and disclosing everything that had happened in great detail.

If they only knew one murder location, it was possible that they were the person who had discovered the corpse. Although they should have been warned by the police not to disclose any specifics when they contacted the police, there were so many idiots in the world. They might agree on the surface but immediately post online afterwards. That was not unusual.

*But, they know all three murder locations. Damn it, who else can this be but the murderer themselves?*

**It Has Begun: Isn't this the Seven Wonders from our school?**



Yu Shu fixed her eyes on that ID—It Has Begun. Earlier, this was the first person who had jumped out and turned the discussion back onto her two stupid sons when she had already diverted the topic. They had battled with their words for quite a while, too.

Originally, she had successfully gotten the others to treat this video as a prank from the university students. However, now that there was a homicide, all attention had been drawn back. It was no wonder that It Has Begun had not put much effort into arguing with her, only occasionally responding to push the topic up. *They probably already knew from the start what would happen next!*

*This has to be the murderer!*

**One Who Flutters: Which seven? I never knew our school had so many wonders.**

**It Has Begun: The Seven Wonders include the smiling student who jumps off the building of the literature department, the wishing corpse of the Pond of Meditation, the large mirror in the bathroom, the anatomical model in the medical department, the human head basketball at the courts, the nonexistent ninth floor of the abandoned campus, and the thirteenth bookcase in the library.**

Below, they even posted a detailed explanation of the Seven Wonders, including exactly what would occur, how to make them happen, and what cases had already happened before.

*This person is trying to stir up trouble!*

She made a phone call, dialing Jiang Ziya's number. This time, it actually connected.

"Is this Yu Shu?"

"No, it's House Keeper and Hold Keeper's mom! Hey, you have a messaging app, right? Give me your account name. I'm going to send you the link to a video. If you have connections, forward it to the police. If I'm not wrong, the person leaving comments is probably the murderer."

"You already know that there's been a homicide?"

Jiang Ziya sounded extremely shocked.

"Everyone from your university who knows how to use the net already knows!"

"How is that possible?"

"Cut the crap and give me your account name already. I'll message you the link to the video. Just take a look at the comment section below and you'll understand!"

After they exchanged their account information, not only did "Grand Duke Jiang is Fishing" appear on Yu Shu's sparse friends list, an additional two friend requests showed up—specifically from "Slay Teeth Debris" and "Detective Exorcist."

Yu Shu was taken aback. She could guess that “Slay Teeth Debris” was Lu Yang, since his code name as a practitioner was Slay, and he had made quite a name for himself. But who in the world was this Detective Exorcist?

She then saw that Detective Exorcist had written on the friend request: **Hello, I am Lu Yang’s father.** There was even an accompanying smiley face.

She speechlessly accepted the friend requests. Then, she messaged the url to Jiang Ziya, and she even went ahead and took screenshots of the suspicious accounts and comments to send over as well. With so many comments, it would be difficult to spot what was crucial at a glance.

**Grand Duke Jiang is Fishing: Thanks. The police say you’ve been a great help!**

This message rendered Yu Shu speechless. *It’s only been a few minutes, and you’re already telling me “the police say.” The police have got to be right next to you!*

Immediately after that, she received notification of another friend request. The handle was all proper. *This has to be his real name.*

**Hu Lican: I am the captain of a small police squad.**

“...” Yu Shu accepted the friend request even more sullenly than before. Ever since she got to know Jiang Ziya, her circle of acquaintances was expanding at a startling speed.

**Grand Duke Jiang is Fishing: Oh right, give my thanks to House Keeper and Hold Keeper. They saved a lot of people!**

*Hah, they sure did. They really saved a lot of people, so many that they've gone viral! My son even pretended to be an exorcist from the church. Luckily, there aren't a lot of actual exorcists in Taiwan—oh, but I should probably count that Detective Exorcist.*

*If that Detective Exorcist dares to take my son as a pupil, I'm going to choke Jiang Ziya to death!*

"Ever since meeting Jiang Ziya, I feel like I'm becoming a saint. I've helped again and again with no end."

She felt completely exasperated, but it wasn't like she could pretend she had not discovered who was likely to be the murderer. Three young lives were now gone, all because of that "It Has Begun," and who knew what they were planning!

She had the feeling that things would not end just like this.

Yu Shu frowned, a foreboding feeling in her heart. With how things were unfolding, this foreboding feeling might turn into quite the headline.

*I'm really too lazy to care. My deadline is just around the corner, and my editor Ye Luo said she's going to come live at my place if I can't turn in the manuscript—*Her editor had really been pushed to her limits. Ever since Ye Luo had come over and met House Keeper who

had just been “born,” she had never again dared to say that she would come and stay.

Yu Shu felt conflicted. However, another notification from her computer sounded.

**Top of the World: New secret info! Stuff was going wrong at the abandoned campus way before this!**

Yu Shu watched as the other person typed up a bunch of stuff about the strange deaths of the homeless and also the female student who had died on the eighth floor. Now, the number of students who had died had gone up to four. Each of the deaths involved the Seven Wonders. There were still three more wonders. Would murders continue to happen? They then began to criticize the police for not doing anything, for allowing the security of the university to be so shoddy. It was unpreventable that a bunch of others jumped in on the criticism, their fervor completely at odds with how late it was.

Seeing that, Yu Shu frowned and immediately opened a bunch of different websites. It was as she had expected. Although official news posts had not appeared yet, nearly all of the scrolling news text at the top of each website was about the serial murder case at the university.

*They’re purposely trying to blow this up?* Yu Shu was doubtful. She failed to understand what this “It Has Begun” was trying to do and began to contemplate it.

Even though hiding at home meant it should be very safe, for some reason, her sons had found a very troublesome “father” for

themselves. If she had to say whether or not they would get dragged in, Yu Shu could only respond with “hah.” *Is there even a need to make a guess?!*

“Mistress.” House Keeper carried over a delicious basil omelet and apologetically said, “Have some food first before you continue to ponder over this. It is already well past your dinner time.”

As Yu Shu gazed at her son who was so freakin’ handsome, a sudden realization came to her.

“That person wants the Seven Wonders to come true!”

*But why?*

Yu Shu felt it very unfair that she was the only one expending brainpower. She immediately tidied up the information and tossed it all at student Jiang Ziya. Then, she asked if her conjectures were correct.

It was too painful to only have guesses and no answers. Yu Shu said as much.

The response she received was an address. Yu Shu was familiar with it. It was the address to a well-established 24-hour café.

*I hate going out.*

## Chapter 2: Xiang Shui Pan, Part 1—From Liuqing to Tea to Coffee Today

“Yu Shu says that her hair hurts today, so she can’t come.”

Jiang Ziya held his cell phone up to show everyone. They could only bark with laughter at such a reason.

Liu Yishi wasn’t frustrated, and smilingly said, “Please reply to her and say that I can give her two certificates from the church guaranteeing no harm to her two familiars. Practitioners will refrain from harming them on behalf of the church.”

Jiang Ziya was shocked. *You can do that?*

“The church is actually willing to protect familiars?”

Lu Yang helplessly said, “Of course not. It will just be my dad’s written promise.”

Jiang Ziya scrunched up his face at that and said, “Do we have to trick Yu Shu?” If she found them out, his neighbor would instantly transform into the demon king!

He hadn’t forgotten how Yu Shu had cleaved a cargo container in half the last time with a single strike. Even though she had flown off right after, claiming that she had used up her powers, she had *actually* cleaved it in half. It wasn’t some illusion!

Jiang Ziya felt that he shouldn't rile up a woman who could cleave a cargo container with a sword.

"My dad will stamp it." Lu Yang honestly admitted, "It will still have some use, at least on the western side. It likely won't be very useful in Taiwan currently, but if I stamp it too, then there won't be any problems."

Liu Yishi, who couldn't compare to his son in Taiwan, felt as if his heart had been stabbed.

"You're willing to stamp it?"

Jiang Ziya was a bit surprised. Lu Yang had clearly been against Xiao Xue and House Keeper. He kept saying that he was going to burn them, yet now he had changed his tune and was willing to protect House Keeper and Hold Keeper, these two illusory familiars.

Lu Yang sighed and honestly divulged, "Last time, one of them saved me. This time, both of them saved a whole bunch of classmates together. Do you really think I have a heart of stone? I was just worried that they'd endanger you."

Hearing this, classmate Jiang Ziya felt particularly sorry for classmate Lu Yang—as if! *Just which one of us was saved by illusory familiars?*

He lowered his head and sent over Liu Yishi's message. After receiving a reply, he lifted his head and said, "She said, 'You won. I'll be there ASAP.'"



"Then, let us hurry to the meeting location."

After saying that, Liu Yishi looked at Hu Lican with an apologetic smile. That location was one where they could not bring the police squad captain. Well, perhaps it was more accurate to say that he could go, but not as an invited participant.

Hu Lican immediately said, "I'll meet up with my fellow policemen who are on campus first and take a look at the three homicide locations. I'll wait for news from you guys for everything else."

He had already dismissed the other policemen before this. They had really had too much excitement today. All Hu Lican could do was have his comrades hurry home to wash up and sleep. It was best to follow what Lu Yang always said. After a bit of time passed, witnesses would come up with their own logical reasons to explain things, such as thinking of it as a particularly scary movie they had seen.

Otherwise, Hu Lican felt he was soon going to have no comrades anymore.

"I am very sorry I was unable to prevent the culprit from committing this crime." Liu Yishi quietly said, "I did not expect that he would be so daring. Now that we know, we also know how to proceed. Please do not worry."

Hu Lican shivered and quickly nodded. He hurriedly left to return to the real world to do realistic stuff, such as investigating a homicide.

Lu Yang and Jiang Ziya's hearts were both heavy at the mention of those three homicides, especially Lu Yang. He hadn't expected that a mere night venture would get so serious that homicides would occur. He had not been careful enough from the start. Since homicides had occurred at the abandoned campus, he had joined the night venture out of curiosity about the Seven Wonders.

"Don't think too much about it." Liu Yishi patted his son on the shoulder. "The culprit deliberately targeted your inattention. It's unavoidable that he caught you unaware. Let's meet up first. I believe 'that person' should be able to provide us with a lot of answers."

Lu Yang nodded. Even though he felt guilty, he had been taking on missions for a long time already, and failure wasn't anything new. He wouldn't succumb to guilt and be unable to continue.

However, Jiang Ziya was a newbie. When he thought of the three classmates and how they had lost their lives just like that, he still felt very troubled. He didn't know two of the victims very well, but Jian Zhi was the one who had invited him to join the club. He really couldn't easily recover from seeing someone he had known end up in such a terrible state that even the angel guarding Jian Zhi had become so frightening.

"Let's go."

A taxi was waiting outside of the university. Once the three of them got in, the driver didn't even turn his head as he greeted them.

"Long time no see, Mr. Liu."

Liu Yishi smiled faintly. "Long time no see, Mr. Driver. Please take us to Xiang Shui Pan."<sup>1</sup>

Lu Yang introduced, "This is Mr. Driver, who has worked with us for a long time. You can call him Driver."

After he finished speaking, he then told Driver, "You don't need to pretend to be a quiet driver. Jiang Ziya is my assistant. Give him a business card so he can call you for your services in the future, too."

*A taxi driver that they know?* Jiang Ziya was a little surprised. He couldn't help but take a peek at the person in the front, who looked like a normal guy about twenty years old. He didn't look like he was old enough to have "worked with them for a long time," especially given how he even knew Liu Yishi. According to Lu Yang, his dad hadn't been very active in Taiwan for more than ten years.

As Jiang Ziya secretly made his observations, Driver's head abruptly turned one hundred and eighty degrees, and Driver stared directly at him.

"..."

"So you're Mr. Assistant! My bad, my bad!" Driver smiled widely. In addition to how he had abruptly turned his head and scared him without any warning, he seemed pretty flippant in personality.

"Um, hello, I'm Jiang Ziya."

Fortunately, after an entire night of chaos, Jiang Ziya's reaction was a bit slow. At the moment, he was only thinking: *The car is already moving, and your head is still backwards. Is that okay?*

"This is my business card. Please make use of this one's humble services."

*You even stuck a hand out to give me a card! Can you focus on driving?*

Jiang Ziya snuck a glance at Lu Yang, wanting him to remind Driver, but Lu Yang had his head bowed and was looking at his cell phone. What was displayed on his screen was the webpage with the video that Yu Shu had sent over. He was clearly focusing on business, so Jiang Ziya didn't dare to disrupt him. He could only quickly take the business card and hope that Driver would focus on driving!

After he took the business card, Jiang Ziya lowered his head to look at it. Only "Driver" and a phone number were written on it.

Jiang Ziya felt that this naming sense could give Yu Shu a run for her money.

Fortunately, Driver's driving skills were completely different from his flippant personality and his naming sense. His driving was smooth, and he followed traffic laws obediently. His speed was even a little slow. He was obediently following the speed limit.

Jiang Ziya relaxed. He had really been afraid that Driver would act out a speeding scene, as if they were running for their lives. They weren't

in a hurry at the moment, so there was no need to give his heart a test.

Lu Yang frowned and said, "I asked someone to look up the IP addresses, but we were unable to figure out the location of 'It Has Begun.' He was prepared for it. We even looked up the IPs of the people who were talking back against Yu Shu. We couldn't determine the locations of those either. These people are probably all in on it, or they're all the same person, that 'It Has Begun.'"

"Investigate the people in the society." Liu Yishi reminded from the front seat, "The club's activity of investigating the Seven Wonders came from that society. They likely have a huge connection."

This reminder made Lu Yang recall how the medical students had told him about the legend behind the anatomical model. The legend they knew only had the anatomical model chasing after someone, and you would only need to run around the medical department once to escape. No lives were involved.

Then, did this mean that the other legends had also been warped?

Lu Yang immediately began searching about the true legends, yet the results he got were all the bloody versions from the society. Even the anatomical model of the medical department was no exception. He only found one where no one died, and it was the legend behind the Pond of Meditation.

If you threw a coin into the Pond of Meditation and made a wish, and did this for an entire year, your wish would come true.

There was absolutely no mention of corpses. Even though the content of this legend was completely different from the Pond of Meditation's wishing corpse, Lu Yang felt that this should be the original legend behind the Pond of Meditation. People often tossed coins into ponds. It wasn't strange for a legend to arise about making wishes.

But now, it didn't matter anymore which was the real version. Everyone's memory would only hold the new, bloody version. Violent matters always had more impact and were easier to remember. Now, with homicides involved, these Seven Wonders were probably going to become infamous. *This is terrible!*

"How's your research going?" Jiang Ziya asked in concern.

Lu Yang's head hurt as he replied, "No matter whether the Seven Wonders are real or not, they will all replace the original legends and become our university's Seven Wonders. What bites is that the content all leads to death, and fearless students will definitely want to test them out with no care for their safety."

Jiang Ziya paled and blurted, "Don't tell me that someone will die every time?"

"No." Liu Yishi explained, "This time, it's because the opponent created a powerful barrier dimension and forced you to step in without any preparation whatsoever. For the sake of solving this case, I also entered the barrier dimension through the pathway. We are all practitioners. It is easier for us to enter barrier dimensions compared to normal people. Now that we are aware, it is not so easy to make us

fall for it again, while normal people won't easily end up in a barrier dimension."

Lu Yang suddenly said, "If all seven result in homicides, creating a huge uproar, and more and more people believe in these legends, then would it become easier for normal people to enter the barrier dimension? If so, once they end up in the barrier dimension, new deaths might occur."

Then, more and more people would believe in it, and it would become even easier to enter the barrier dimension. It was a vicious cycle that they couldn't break free of.

Hearing that, Liu Yishi's face darkened.

"I will contact Hu Lican to see if they have any way of destroying some of the legends, such as filling in the Pond of Meditation."

"Won't destroying them make them even more believable?"

If it were Jiang Ziya, he would grow more suspicious about it. Right after a homicide, the pond gets filled up. If the case involved drowning, sure, it would make sense to fill the pond up, but the Pond of Meditation was so shallow that no one could drown in it! It would be obvious that something was wrong about the entire case.

Jiang Ziya was indeed right. If there were only one legend involved, they could just fill in the pond. However, there were seven of them, and it wasn't like they could destroy them all. That would truly be quite the cover up. Besides, there were some that they couldn't

destroy, such as the smiling student falling past the window. It wasn't like they could demolish the entire building.

Liu Yishi and Lu Yang both frowned. They could seal off the scene, but everyone knew that sealing it off would make some people want to sneak in even more. Not just students, but even reporters would want to investigate!

"We've arrived at Xiang Shui Pan!" Driver pointed out with a smile.

Jiang Ziya glanced at Driver. Before Lu Yang mentioned that Jiang Ziya was his assistant, Driver had no expression, appearing just like a solemn taxi driver. But after Lu Yang told him, Driver's face turned into a smiling one, and he hadn't stopped smiling since. *He smiled so much that I'm getting goose bumps!*

"I'm going to stop thinking!" Lu Yang said in frustration, got out of the car, and shouted, "Let's head in and hear what your boss has to say first! If he can't convince me, he better be aware of my Slay!"

Seeing that Lu Yang was actually addressing him, Jiang Ziya was utterly confused.

"Huh? You mean my boss? Fu Taiyi? What does this have to do with him?"

Liu Yishi smiled and said, "We met him in the barrier dimension at the abandoned campus. We even came to an agreement."

"What agreement?"



*So, coming to the coffee shop wasn't specifically to meet Yu Shu? Jiang Ziya suddenly felt that things were very wrong. Why did Boss go to the barrier dimension at the abandoned campus?*

*Wait, don't tell me he's the mastermind behind this entire case?!*

Lu Yang replied with an ugly face, "As long as we don't kill that 'Li Yao,' he'll lead us out of the barrier dimension. I thought that you and those classmates were in danger and we couldn't dally any further, so I agreed."

"But I also had a condition, and that was for us to meet somewhere for more information."

Liu Yishi smilingly raised his index finger and pointed at the store next to them. The sign was written in golden characters with an aged appearance. As Jiang Ziya majored in foreign languages and not Chinese, you had to excuse him for not recognizing these words. They almost looked more like pictures than words.

Given how the sign couldn't even be read, this store couldn't be doing well in business, right?

But they were clearly still in business.

"Xiang Shui Pan." Liu Yishi lifted his head and looked at the sign. "This name truly fits Jiu Ge. Even the font is from the Chunqiu period from the scripts of the six states."

"You can read writing from the Chunqiu period?"<sup>2</sup>

Jiang Ziya was impressed. Then, he recalled information that he had previously researched. Jiu Ge did indeed have two legends among them that had to do with the word "xiang"—*Wait a minute, come to think of it, Boss has a friend that often comes to the store, and the friend's name includes the word "xiang"!*

Lu Yang exposed his father without any hesitation, "How is it possible for my dad to recognize these words? He knows because I just sent him the information on the net that I found."

"Neither of you can read the words, so how do you expect a foreigner to read it?"

Liu Yishi didn't feel awkward being exposed. He followed the two youngsters out of the car and walked up to the door. He praised, "This coffee smells divine."

"Thank you for your praise."

A woman slowly pushed the door open and walked out. Even though her age was difficult to determine, she did seem like she was probably around thirty. She was rather graceful, with a classical demeanor. She wore loose, oriental attire with a long dress. Her lilac colored outfit had a few lotuses embroidered on it. With her hair held up by a hair stick, her entire person gave off a classical feel.

"Chen-yí!"<sup>3</sup> Jiang Ziya blurted. He was too familiar with this woman before them. She was the boss's friend, Chen Xiang!

Even though she was such a classical lady, she read all sorts genres. Even if it were manhua or light novels that youngsters liked, she read them all. As a result, she was a frequent customer at the bookstore. Jiang Ziya often ordered and held books for her.

"Sigh!" Chen Xiang responded with a smile. She looked at Jiang Ziya and said with worry, "Ziya, this is the first time you have visited my store, right? You better let Chen-yí serve you well. Just look at you. You got skinnier again!"

*Uh, Chen-yí nearly always says I've gotten skinnier each time she visits the bookstore.* Jiang Ziya really doubted that he got skinnier every time. If that was the case, he would be all bones by now!

"Come on in." Chen Xiang smiled at the other two customers and straightforwardly said, "Taiyi has already arrived. He is waiting for you in a private booth. I won't take up any more of your time to discuss important matters. Is coffee all right? Are the two children hungry? How about I prepare some food?"

Jiang Ziya nodded. Even though he was embarrassed, he didn't dare say he wasn't hungry. After running about for an entire night, he really was hungry. If he said he wasn't hungry and then his stomach growled, then Chen-yí would bring over so much food that he would explode! It wasn't like this hadn't happened at Jiu Ge before!

"Hungry." Lu Yang admitted. "Very hungry."

Hearing that, Chen Xiang smiled even wider. "I'll cook some noodles for you."

Lu Yang nodded and said, "Thank you."

Chen Xiang led them into the coffee shop. Even though it was only almost dawn, there were already some customers in the shop. It was just that the shop was expertly divided using walls, windows, and dividers, so other than the tables near the entrance, the rest were all rather private, and no one could be seen.

However, they did not remain on the first floor and directly headed up to the second. When they set foot on the stairs, Jiang Ziya jolted and looked at Lu Yang, who narrowed his eyes, his anger rising.

He had already told Jiang Ziya to be 120% alert once they arrived at their destination, to be aware of any barrier dimensions. Even if they couldn't figure out the barrier dimension's weakness, as long as they knew of its existence, then they would be prepared. That was enough.

Before Lu Yang could summon Slay, Chen Xiang smiled and explained, "This staircase has an entrance to a barrier dimension. The private booth upstairs is usually not open to customers and is only used when Jiu Ge meets. As for what it is used for, you will understand soon. There is no need to explain more."

Lu Yang frowned. He couldn't ask Jiang Ziya if she was telling the truth or not. He could barely even be considered a newbie and wouldn't know how to tell. Therefore, he turned and looked at his father to see if he could tell whether these words were true or not.

Liu Yishi seemed rather unperturbed. This confused Lu Yang a lot. When they were in the barrier dimension earlier, his father was also the one who had instructed him to accept the agreement.

"Then, let's head upstairs." Liu Yishi smilingly said, "I must greet the God of the Eastern Sky, Dong Huang Taiyi. When Master Ah Lu heard that I was coming here, he made sure to remind me to give him his greetings."

Chen Xiang smiled. "Then, Taiyi will definitely be pleased. He greatly admires Master Ah Lu."

The two of them crossed words, each word holding hidden meaning. Lu Yang only understood a little of it. His father probably meant that he had already told Gramps, so if they were to be harmed, Qing Wei Gong wouldn't overlook this matter, while Chen Xiang's response probably meant that they didn't plan to be antagonistic.

As they climbed up the stairs step by step, Chen Xiang's outfit gradually began to change. Her lilac shenyi<sup>4</sup> was embroidered with a few lotuses, and her black skirt likewise had a dark lotus pattern on it. Her hair was pulled up in a loose bun. When she turned around to face everyone again, Chen Xiang had turned into a graceful lady of ancient times.

Jiang Ziya felt that this appearance suited Chen-yí a lot more, complementing her personality.

"Jiu Ge has always played it safe," Liu Yishi began to ask, "but has recently partaken in matters one after another. What is the reason behind this? I ask on behalf of Qing Wei Gong's Master Ah Lu."

Chen Xiang pulled open the door to the booth, her lips pursed in a smile. "Please direct this inquiry to the God of the Eastern Sky. I am merely a coffee seller."

*A classical lady claiming to be a coffee seller. Jiang Ziya felt it was too incongruous. Shouldn't it be tea?*

Behind the door, a person wearing a mottled mask and black robes with gold trim sat kneeling at the table. He waved them over.

"Please sit."

Jiang Ziya's eyes widened. *Is this person really Boss?* Even though he had seen Fu Taiyi with this appearance before, it hadn't been up close like this. Now that the other person was sitting right in front of him, he could truly sense his elegance and grandeur. He and Fu Taiyi were completely different kinds of people!

"Quite interesting guardian spirits you have there." The God of the Eastern Sky, Dong Huang Taiyi, tilted his head to look at Liu Yishi and Lu Yang. "The father has a book, while the son has a sword, brains and brawn both present."

Only then did Jiang Ziya notice that Slay had already materialized at some point, while a book floated beside Liu Yishi. Jiang Ziya looked over with curiosity.

“The Bible?”

Liu Yishi jolted. He looked at Jiang Ziya. Even though he had already heard from his son that Jiang Ziya’s left eye was powerful, experiencing it firsthand was completely different.

To most people, this book was transparent and even shone with light. It was impossible to perceive what kind of book it was. It would already be quite a feat to be able to tell that it had the shape of a book, especially when the book was closed like it was now. The boxy shape it currently had made it much more difficult to tell that it was a book compared to when it was open.

Yet Jiang Ziya had directly said that it was the Bible.

“The Bible?” Dong Huang Taiyi playfully said, “Ziya, in your eyes, what do I look like?”

“You’re wearing black robes with gold trim. What else?” He looked toward Lu Yang apprehensively, and the latter nodded, greatly calming his nerves.

Fu Taiyi removed his mask and placed it on the low table. He smiled. “I thought you would be able to see more clearly.”

Jiang Ziya was a little confused. *See more clearly? Does he mean the pattern on his clothes?* He could indeed see that pretty clearly. The outfit looked super expensive. Even though it was mostly black, even he could tell that the quality was superb!

At the low squared table, Liu Yishi sat across from Dong Huang Taiyi, and Lu Yang sat to the right of his father. Just as Jiang Ziya was about to sit in the remaining spot, Lu Yang waved him over.

"I almost forgot that Yu Shu is going to join us later. She's taking so long." As Jiang Ziya sat down, he quietly spoke with Lu Yang, "Do you think she'll bring House Keeper and Hold Keeper with her? We won't have enough seats."

Lu Yang shook his head and said, "Relax, she treats those two illusory familiars like sons. She won't bring them with her. After all, we don't pose any threat to her life, but it's hard to say when it comes to her sons."

*I see!* Jiang Ziya came to a realization.

The wooden door to the booth was pulled open. Chen Xiang held two platters full of food. Jiang Ziya couldn't figure out how she had been able to open the door.

As she put the food down, she told Lu Yang and Jiang Ziya, "Have some drinks and appetizers first. I'll make some noodles for you two children. Be good and finish your food. Leave everything else to the adults."

After she finished speaking, she even rubbed the two "children's" heads, as if the two people in front of her were three year old toddlers instead of tall university guys.



Although Jiang Ziya felt embarrassed, Lu Yang was used to such treatment. Without hesitation, he said, "Thanks, Chen-yí," and then began to eat.

As someone who had grown up surrounded by Qing Wei Gong's elders, it was no big deal getting his head rubbed like a kid.

To the side, the adults conversed as if they were close friends.

Liu Yishi held his coffee and curiously looked at the other person's drink.

"Your drink looks quite unique."

"This is called liuqing,<sup>5</sup> made through a combination of water, rice pulp, thin wine, cold broth, medical congee, and sweet wine. None still partake in it now."

"A drink from the Chunqiu period?" Liu Yishi smilingly lifted his cup of coffee and said, "Whichever era one is from, one's drink matches."

Hearing that, Dong Huang Taiyi smiled as well. "From liuqing to tea, from tea to coffee, which era have I not experienced?"

Jiang Ziya quietly ate his food. The content of their conversation gave him a strange feeling. Also, since when has his boss spoken in such a genteel fashion?

He lifted his head. That was his boss's face all right, even though such a serious expression didn't suit his personality at all. With his glasses

removed, a serious expression, and a set of ancient clothes, he truly did look like a handsome, ancient deity. The more Jiang Ziya looked, the more that face stopped looking like Fu Taiyi...

Dong Huang Taiyi looked over, his speech coming to a halt.

"Ziya!" Lu Yang clasped him on the shoulder and scolded, "Stop looking! Keep your head down and eat your food!"

Jiang Ziya was shaken and immediately dropped his head to stuff his mouth with food. He could eat without a care, but he couldn't look carelessly!

At this time, the door was suddenly pulled open, and Chen Xiang said with a smile, "The last guest has arrived."

## Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> **“Xiang Shui Pan (湘水畔)”**: Xiang Shui is the name of a river, while “Pan” means riverside. Xiang Shui Pan can be translated as “By the riverside of Xiang” or “Xiang riverside.” The Xiang River is the largest river in the Hunan Province in China.

<sup>2</sup> **“Chunqiu period”**: The Chunqiu period, also known as the Spring and Autumn period, was a period in Chinese history from around 771 to 476 BC.

<sup>3</sup> **“yí (姨)”**: Yí means aunt or auntie, and can be used to address older women someone is close to.

<sup>4</sup> **“shenyi (深衣)”**: A historical, robe-like Chinese outfit with wide sleeves and a wide sash. The blouse and skirt are sewn together. Originally made from ramie fabric

<sup>5</sup> **“Liuqing (六清)”**: A drink from the Chunqiu period. No tea involved. Liu means six.

There was also a [2020 April Fool's version](#) of this chapter.

## Chapter 2: Xiang Shui Pan, Part 2—Dustfall

“Dear head honchos, if you all want to divvy up your territories, you don’t need to include my humble self. I’m content with my hermit shell of an apartment. Oh, and don’t you dare lay a hand on my sons!”

Yu Shu stood by the door, frowning as she took in the sight of the room.

A priest, a Taoist, and a deity were all present. *What the hell?!*

Since ancient times, there were only ever two underlying reasons for war: religion or pillage, or both of them together, spreading the gospel and plundering at the same time.

*Shit, I should have brought my sword, not because I’m in danger, but because I feel like I’ve lost against them.*

Yu Shu walked up to the remaining spot at the low table. After she sat down, she glared at the neighbor across from her.

“Um, I got you involved again. I’m really sorry,” Jiang Ziya could only apologize awkwardly.

Ever since he had hidden at this neighbor’s place to hide from Xiao Xue, he had been getting Yu Shu involved again and again. He had even leveled up her son without her permission.

Yu Shu said with an ugly expression, "You can totally show more sincerity by deleting both my number and my messaging info and swear that you'll never knock on my door again!"

Jiang Ziya really did not dare to do any of that. If not for House Keeper and Hold Keeper this time, a lot of their classmates would probably have died!

"Don't blame Ziya." Lu Yang frowned and declared, "Blame what happened this time on me. It has nothing to do with him."

Yu Shu rolled her eyes and snapped, "I'm blaming both of you, okay? You're both at fault! Remember this: you all owe me a lot of favors!"

Owing favors was no small matter to a practitioner; however, Lu Yang gave it some consideration. Last time when Jiang Ziya owed her a favor, it had only resulted in errands, and this had been despite the fact that Yu Shu had known that Jiang Ziya possessed the truth-seeing eye. *I don't think we need to worry too much about owing her favors?*

"Lady Yu Shu." Liu Yishi diverted the topic, not wishing for his son to owe more and more favors. "My utmost gratitude for your time."

"Ugh, getting called 'lady' makes my head hurt. Just call me Yu Shu."

*So, I'm not the only one whose face twitches involuntarily from hearing that!* Jiang Ziya inwardly agreed.

Liu Yishi nodded. "Then, call me Liu Yishi. Let's head into the main topic. Why don't you start us off?"

He looked at Fu Taiyi with a smile.

“Perhaps you can explain to us why you were in that barrier dimension.”

The God of the Eastern Sky, Dong Huang Taiyi, put his cup down and lifted his head with a smile. Jiang Ziya abruptly felt that this was a super familiar sight. *Isn't this the smile the boss has every time he's about to run away?*

Fu Taiyi smilingly replied, “I actually feel that I should be the one asking you two why you both appeared in that barrier dimension. Why you were even slaying spirits in there? Are you not aware that the barrier dimension in question belongs to spirits?”

*We really didn't know!* Three faces paled.

“What barrier dimension?” Yu Shu was entirely confused.

Jiang Ziya explained in detail to her, “It's a barrier dimension that closely resembles the actual world, but a lot of ash falls in there, making the entire barrier dimension foggy and dusty.”

“The Dustfall World?” Yu Shu's expression changed. She faced Fu Taiyi with a wry smile and asked, “Since when did that barrier dimension belong to spirits? Just because you say so?”

Seeing someone who seemed to be in the know, Fu Taiyi was shocked and immediately backtracked. “Fine, that barrier dimension does not

belong to spirits, and I, of course, cannot decide that either. However, that barrier dimension has existed for a long time. Ziya and Lu Yang have entered it before. I was there that time, too. This time was much the same in that I felt an entrance being used, so I headed inside to take a look.”

When she heard that, Yu Shu snorted and looked smugly toward Lu Yang and Jiang Ziya, her face indicating that they owed her another favor.

Lu Yang rubbed his nose and accepted it. If Yu Shu weren’t present, they really could only let Fu Taiyi pull one over them.

“Then, why did you stop us from killing that female student?” Liu Yishi pressed further, “It goes without saying that she was definitely an imposter because the real her has long since been murdered.”

“Then, why did you so easily allow me to stop you?”

Both of them wore bright smiles, making Jiang Ziya and Lu Yang itch to rush forward and punch the smiles off of their boss’s and dad’s faces respectively.

*Crunch, crunch...*

Everyone looked at the source of that sound. Yu Shu was currently crunching on potato chips. Her eyes shone as she watched the duel between a present day priest and an ancient deity. *How can I not gather material from such a rare sight that only happens once in a thousand years?*

"Where'd your chips come from?"

Jiang Ziya's eyes widened. Chen-yí wouldn't serve something like potato chips.

"I bought some when I passed by the supermarket on my way here."

Yu Shu continued crunching, her action just as annoying as the smiling faces.

"Do continue on, don't stop there. I have some new characters who I could base off of you two, the smiling tiger and sly fox types. Hurry and continue facing off. Whether or not I can finish my manuscripts depends on the two of you!"

"Shall we strive to be forthright?" suggested the smiling tiger father, Liu Yishi.

The sly fox, Fu Taiyi, nodded expressionlessly and directly stated, "Although she has the appearance of a female student, she is actually an illusory familiar who was only just born but is already a lie. This is not common. I have a connection with spirits and cannot bear for innocent spirits to be harmed. Of course, if she bears harm to humans, that is a different case, but has she?"

Liu Yishi shook his head. He had personally seen her "birth." She of course had not had any chance to harm anyone.



"So, why were you inside the barrier dimension?" Fu Taiyi asked in incomprehension. "Although there are many entrances to the barrier dimension, it is still not an easy matter to enter it." After saying so, he glanced at Yu Shu. This woman seemed to know quite a bit about Dustfall.

It was a long story, but Liu Yishi still retold it quickly. After all, of the four sides around the low table, two sides did not know the entire story. It would be difficult to advance without being in the know.

After listening to the entire story, Fu Taiyi grew so furious that he laughed.

"Each and every one hungers to take advantage of this ancient barrier dimension to commit evil, without ever considering how and why such an immense and realistic barrier dimension came to be. If by mistake a taboo is broken, not only will one be unable to stop the oncoming car and perish in the blink of an eye, but the collateral damage will also be extensive!"

Jiang Ziya looked at his boss. He was not certain if it was because of his boss's serious expression, but Jiang Ziya felt that whenever his boss spoke in such a genteel fashion, he really did not look like himself.

Liu Yishi sighed. "That is indeed so. Although as a mere world of drifting dust, that barrier dimension does not appear particularly dangerous, it gives people an extremely unsettling feeling. I am afraid that the culprit won't just exploit it one time. This time, he created the illusory familiar 'Li Yao.' I believe that this isn't his main goal."

"Indeed," Fu Taiyi agreed. "I just do not know why he created 'Li Yao.' He expended so much effort to create her yet left her untended. Just in case, I have hidden her away already. I guarantee that he won't be able to find her."

At the same time, these words were a statement to Liu Yishi that he had no intentions of handing Li Yao over. Fortunately, Liu Yishi did not care about that. Even though she was an illusory familiar that was already a lie, there were plenty of other spirits in the world that were more dangerous than her. He had no need to clash with Jiu Ge over her.

Master Ah Lu had instructed him regarding this. Although Jiu Ge consisted of plenty of strange people, they were mostly trustworthy. If unnecessary, one should not clash with them.

"I bet it was an experiment."

Yu Shu chewed on the sweet peas pudding, completely unladylike as she squeezed words out through her teeth. She had long since given up on the potato chips. This Chinese dessert was just too yummy! She really should not have underestimated the desserts on the low table. It was just that she had stepped on too many mines in the past. Finding Chinese desserts that tasted good was hard. She bet that many authentic desserts had been lost over time.

Fortunately, Jiang Ziya had told her that these tasted awesome. *Good for him!*

The two men turned and stared at her.

“What’s with that expression? Don’t underestimate me. I’m an author. I’ve thought of thousands and millions of plots. I can tell right off the bat that this is an experiment!”

Yu Shu was not going to tell these two in front of her that before she had properly created her two sons, she had also done experiments. Of course, her experimental subjects were small insects. It wasn’t like she had no conscience to speak of.

“Earlier, you texted us saying that the culprit wishes to make the Seven Wonders come true?” Liu Yishi asked in detail, “I feel that this is highly possible. Could you elaborate more on your conjectures? Such as why he wishes to do so?”

“After hearing you all tell me what has been going on, I do have some guesses.”

Yu Shu hesitated for a moment, but she still continued, “If Li Yao really is an experiment, going by how she was created, I’m guessing that he wants to use that to ‘revive’ someone else, and not to create a fake illusory familiar. I mean, even a lie cannot walk around in broad daylight.”

The moment she said this, everyone present felt blood drain from their face. At first, they thought it was absurd, but once they considered everything that had happened, they discovered that what Yu Shu had said could actually be right!

"What's stranger is the legend behind the abandoned campus. The content only details that going up floor by floor will reveal the nonexistent ninth floor, but we're not told that there's anything on the ninth floor. What's more, resurrection is not mentioned at all. I don't know if it's because it happened too suddenly, so it was too difficult to fit it in with the other legends, or if there's some other reason for it."

Yu Shu scratched her head, as if there was still something wrong with the plot.

"Besides, there's currently a legend that hasn't happened at all."

Lu Yang and Jiang Ziya exchanged a glance and simultaneously chimed, "The thirteenth bookcase of forbidden books in the library!"

Yu Shu nodded. "Resurrection, a fallen angel turning into a devil, and forbidden books. I feel that these phrases have a huge connection. As for what is actually going on, you guys should look into it yourselves. I'm only responsible for making guesses, not for proving them."

"That is enough." Liu Yishi sincerely said, "You have helped us tremendously!"

"My two certificates?"

Yu Shu extended a hand for her payment. This was top priority for her, or she would not have touched this huge mess at all otherwise. The culprit clearly wanted to blow things up, while House Keeper and Hold Keeper had disrupted things for them. No matter how she thought

about it, it was highly possible that the culprit would want revenge! It was best that she keep her sons close and hide at home to stay safe.

Liu Yishi was naturally going to keep his promise. Debts must be paid. He immediately asked for paper from Fu Taiyi to put his guarantee in writing.

Fu Taiyi thought it over for a moment. The paper he got for them was not plain white paper, but rather aged parchment. It spanned roughly the size of two hands, and on it archaic characters in black ink were already stamped.

"This is Jiu Ge's stamp," he explained.

Yu Shu received her certificate. Although it was something that Liu Yishi had penned on the spot, there were three stamps on it: "Lewis Hunter" in fancy English script, "Slay" in simple Chinese, and "Jiu Ge" in archaic Chinese. Western, Eastern, and even ancient gods; this guarantee could not be any more thorough.

Yu Shu was satisfied. She finally decided to say more.

"You'd best think of some way to control the internet. Don't try to conceal things. Several lives were lost, so it's completely impossible to hide information. You might as well post about random legends and serial murders, mix the real and fake together, and mess the legends up completely. Don't let anyone remember the Seven Wonders too clearly."

Lu Yang felt that this was doable. He immediately noted it down. Not only did he send a message to Hu Lican, he even asked a few of his computer savvy friends to help out.

"Amazing! As expected of an author." Fu Taiyi's smile returned. "Add me to your friends list? I'm a fan!"

Yu Shu was speechless as she stared at the deity in front of her decked in ancient robes. *The reach of my readership is truly far and wide!*

After a nod, a bunch of people appeared on her lackluster friends list: The God of the Eastern Sky, The Lord of the East, Master of Fate, and Lady Xiang.

*I didn't get all nine. Do they not want to reveal their actual numbers, or are the rest simply uninterested in becoming friends?* Yu Shu, who was terminally ill with the writing bug, chewed on her lotus seed paste cake as she pondered over the "plot." Suddenly, a notification sounded from her phone.

**Master of Fate: Pleased to meet you. I greatly enjoy your books. Has Taiyi asked for your autograph for me yet?**

Yu Shu decided to become good friends with Master of Fate.



Two people were inside the booth. Chen Xiang was preparing liuqing. This drink did not have a very pleasant taste; there was a reason the

drink had failed to stand the testament of time. However, to Jiu Ge, drinking it proved particularly nostalgic.

“Just who is Yu Shu?” Fu Taiyi wondered as he drank liuqing. “She even showed a great understanding of Dustfall.”

“Perhaps an even greater understanding than ours.”

Chen Xiang softly said, “She was clearly very curious about the school wonders incident, yet she did not ask a single question about Dustfall, nor did she say anything more about it, purposely dodging the topic.”

When he heard that, Fu Taiyi remained quiet for a long time.

“Should we stay far away from her, or should we approach closer?”

## Chapter 2: Xiang Shui Pan, Part 3—Returning Home

“Come in!”

Yu Shu gestured for Jiang Ziya to enter her apartment. The latter froze before following her in.

With all that had happened, Jiang Ziya should have felt sleepy. Yet he did not despite the fact that he had spent the entire night running around and it was already bright outside. Listening to what Yu Shu had to say was not a bad choice. Perhaps she had some things she wanted to tell him that she couldn't in front of the others, so she wanted to meet him alone.

The moment she entered, Yu Shu saw a shadow flee into a room, gorgeous white sleeves lined with gold brushing past her.

Meanwhile, House Keeper stood in the living room, his back to the entrance. He soon turned around. As he was about to greet his mistress, he saw Jiang Ziya and stilled for a moment before he said with a smile, “Jiang Ziya, welcome.”

Yu Shu yelled across the room, “Hold Keeper, why are you hiding? Come out!”

Normally, using such a tone to speak to Hold Keeper would result in a hundred quips back from him, but now, he timidly walked out from the study and didn't dare to say a single word.



Jiang Ziya couldn't help but feel that there was something off about Hold Keeper. His appearance had not changed, but he felt more like a normal person who could appear in real life beside them, as opposed to being previously like a magazine model who had been edited so much that he might as well be some deity.

This change had happened with House Keeper before, too. Thinking back to what had happened the night before, Jiang Ziya had a bad premonition. His eyes widened as he turned toward Yu Shu.

"Exactly, behold your handiwork."

Yu Shu couldn't muster any more energy to mock him. She lazily clapped her hands and said, "Amazing, so amazing. I only sent my two sons over to observe the situation. Who knew that he would return as a lie? This success rate is so high that I can only laugh..."

Hearing that, both House Keeper and Hold Keeper paled. Their heads drooped, and they were even more fearful of saying anything than before.

"Did you two really think I hadn't noticed?"

Yu Shu's reaction to the discovery was exasperation, but she knew that Hold Keeper would eventually become a lie, so she was not too shocked. She was just awed by her neighbor's abilities. *Why not open a cram school for "How to Level Up Your Illusion to a Lie with One Hundred Percent Success"? You'll become filthy rich!*

"I'm really sorry!"

Jiang Ziya also felt helpless over how he had successively leveled up her sons, but he couldn't say that it had not been on purpose, as each time he had done so was to save someone he knew. It was the truth that it had not been intentional though.

"Whatever." Yu Shu waved her hand, not planning to dither over what would have been an eventuality.

She doubtfully said, "There is something I feel suspicious about, but it's just conjecture on my part. I didn't hear anything from the events that could be used as proof, so I'm only bringing it up to you. You decide what you want to do with this information!"

Jiang Ziya nodded.

"That society just happened to get you to join their club right before investigating the school wonders. I feel that it's too much of a coincidence and too unbelievable. It's possible that someone already discovered your peculiarity and wanted to take advantage of it."

Considering how Hold Keeper had also turned into a lie, Jiang Ziya already understood before she finished speaking.

He most likely had a hand in the school wonders coming true one after another.

"Uh, I'm just guessing! You don't need to look so pained." Yu Shu hurriedly said, "Besides, the mastermind had so many gimmicks prepared. Even without you, success would have been around the

corner. I'm just bringing this to your attention so you can be more aware of it in the future. Don't let anyone take advantage of you so easily."

Thinking of how the homicides could have been partially his fault made Jiang Ziya's heart feel heavy. He said in despair, "Is there a way to get rid of this power? Such as digging out my left eye—"

"Don't be so foolish!" The two familiars were even more alarmed than Yu Shu.

"Listen to my sons. Don't be stupid." Yu Shu frowned. "You may not be able to get rid of your power even if you dig your eyes out. And don't you underestimate the craziness of many practitioners. They might target your sister instead, or they might kidnap you and make you have tons of kids, betting on you having a kid that would inherit your truth-seeing eye. After all, special abilities often get passed down."

When he heard that, Jiang Ziya's face darkened. *Why so crazy?!*  
"Then, what should I do?"

Yu Shu thought it over. Most people who learned of the truth-seeing eye would not blab about it, or else there would be too many people fighting over it with them.

"As long as we find the mastermind, we can leave everything else to Lu Yang's dad. While there are a bunch of conspicuous spirits that have turned into lies around you, it's not like people will assume you are the cause even if they discovered this phenomenon. Your Xiao Xue

rarely leaves the apartment, and the others don't have significant connections with you, such as my sons and that Li Yao."

Jiang Ziya felt she was right. That "Li Yao" had nothing to do with him. He had only learned of what had happened from Lu Yang after the fact.

"Go home and sleep it off." Yu Shu said seriously, "After you wake up, there will be a hard battle ahead."

When Jiang Ziya considered that the deadly wonders could possibly happen again, he felt his scalp itch. He could only hope that muddying the truth with rumors like Yu Shu had suggested would work.

"Okay, I'll head back now."

After Jiang Ziya waved to House Keeper and Hold Keeper, he turned and dragged his heavy feet, planning to go to bed for a bit. Once he woke up, he would take another look at the situation.

"Wait..."

When he was called, Jiang Ziya turned around to look at Yu Shu. The latter dryly said, "Jiang Ziya, don't ever step foot into Dustfall again."

He had not expected to be requested of this, but Jiang Ziya really could not promise her that it would not happen. It was not like it was his choice to enter whatever barrier dimensions he ended up in each time! Either he entered them mysteriously, or he was forced inside. He too wished he could stay on Earth properly!

"I'll do my best."

Yu Shu frowned. Jiang Ziya was a little confused and wanted to ask for clarification, but she waved her hands at him in dismissal, hinting for him to "scram."

*Gosh, her eyes ooze with disdain.* Jiang Ziya felt that if he stayed any longer, he would die from infuriation. He should just follow the flow and scram home to sleep!

Once she saw Jiang Ziya leave, Yu Shu dropped her scornful look, her gaze turning worried instead.

"What is Dustfall?" Hold Keeper could not help but ask in curiosity.

Yu Shu shut him down right away. "There is no such world. You heard wrong! I'm heading to bed. Help me keep an eye on my cell phone for any updates from the others. Also, gather all popular discussions related to this incident that the two of you see online or on the news. I'll go over them when I wake up."

"Mistress, you plan to keep an eye on this situation?" House Keeper was a little surprised. Wasn't Yu Shu always unwilling to interfere?

Yu Shu was a bit bummed as she replied, "The person behind this has gone too far. I have a bad premonition. It's better if I keep an eye on it to prevent the fire outside my home from burning so much that it can't be extinguished. Especially now that Dustfall is involved, who knows how far this fire will burn? No one would be able to escape."

Hold Keeper glanced at Yu Shu out of the corner of his eye, about to mock her about how she had said “there is no such world,” but House Keeper discreetly jabbed him in the side and made him shut up.

“Before you go to sleep, there is something I must tell you.”

Yu Shu had a terribly bad feeling. She momentarily did not even dare to listen. She immediately covered her ears to escape the great calamity...

House Keeper raised his voice. “Editor Ye Luo wishes for me to relay to you that if you do not hand in your manuscript by next week, she will come and take over your bed, since your only choice would be to sit in your chair and write. You won’t need your bed at all.”

“... I can’t hear anything!”



Jiang Ziya returned home. His sister, Jiang Yu, was feeding the two children. The moment he walked in, the two girls shouted, “Gēge!”  
“Gēge, you’re back!”

Jiang Yu sighed in relief when she turned and saw Jiang Ziya.

“I can’t believe homicides happened at your school. It has blown up over the news. If I hadn’t seen your text about eating breakfast with Lu Yang, I would have been frantic with worry.”

Jiang Ziya quickly said, "I'm fine. Lu Yang was with me. That guy has trained with his gramps since he was a kid. He is super skilled. If a criminal dares to seek us out, they'd get pummeled black and blue!"

Jiang Yu muttered, "No matter how skilled he is, he can't win against a knife or gun. Why don't you take some time off from the university for now? Having so many people die at once is too frightening!"

Jiang Ziya thought about it. Taking some time off wasn't a bad idea. "How about I take a week off? The homicides are such a big deal that I bet the professor won't have an easy time teaching the class either. Everyone will probably be talking about what happened the entire time. I might as well go to Jiu Ge for work and read on my own."

Despite what he said, what he would actually do after taking time off was most likely not going to be up to him.

Jiang Yu was very much in agreement. She had never had to worry about her brother's academics. Her only concern was that Jiang Ziya would refuse to go to graduate school in consideration of their financial situation. *I have two years to do my best and persuade him to go!*

"Where is Jiěfū?"

Jiang Ziya was a little surprised not to see his brother-in-law, Jiang Qibing, around. He had his own office and normally did not have to go to work so early. Now that Jiang Ziya had discovered the truth behind the "office," Jiang Qibing did not even have a need to cover it up anymore. After all, Jiang Yu believed everything her husband said. She never ever doubted him.

Jiang Ziya felt fortunate that his brother-in-law was a good person. Otherwise, considering his sister's nature, jerks would lead her around in circles.

"He left bright and early." Jiang Yu really did not seem to think anything of it. "He seems to have a particularly difficult client this time."

Xiao Xue gulped down the spoonful of food Jiang Yu gave her and extended her hands to Jiang Ziya. "Gēge, I need to pee pee!"

Jiang Ziya didn't at all think that Xiao Xue, who was a doll, needed to pee, but he lifted the girl up and walked toward the bathroom.

"Gēge, did you do something again?"

Xiao Xue's eyes were wide and round. Her indignant look was quite cute.

Jiang Ziya rubbed his nose and asked, "Why are you asking?"

"The news showed a video! Those two were clearly the two big brothers who live across from us, and the shrieking before they showed up was so scary. Even Jiang Jiang got scared!"

Jiang Ziya could only admit, "Someone took advantage of the school wonders to kill people. I seem to have gotten involved."



"You got in trouble again just like I thought. I'll go out with you for the next few days." Jiang Xue pouted in anger, "Just leave a fake me at home. Jiang Jiang won't expose me."

However, she uneasily added, "At least, she won't for now. I feel like Jiang Jiang sometimes doesn't recognize me, but that's good. She is becoming more and more like a real child."

Hearing that, Jiang Ziya actually felt relieved. Even though he felt sorry for Xiao Xue, it was a good thing for Jiang Jiang to become more normal.

Xiao Xue put her arms around Jiang Ziya's neck and pouted. "Bàba said that when Jiang Jiang starts kindergarten, I'll pretend to be sick and stay home. But once she starts elementary school, there's nothing he can do."

Jiang Ziya comforted her, "That is still several years away. Even if you don't become a truth by then, we'll definitely be able to think of something else."

"Yeah!" Xiao Xue nodded hard. Then, she buried her head against Jiang Ziya's shoulder and shyly said, "I want to sleep with Gēge!"

*Xiao Xue seems to be more like a child now, too! Jiang Ziya suddenly felt a lot more relieved. Maybe one day, we really will have a true pair of twins in our family?*

After telling Jiang Yu, Jiang Ziya carried Xiao Xue to his room and got in bed. Even though she didn't feel soft or warm like hugging an actual kid, he somehow felt a strange sense of comfort.

If anyone had told Jiang Ziya a few months ago that he would feel relaxed hugging a talking doll to sleep, he would have thought the other person to be a lunatic.

Now, he felt that the whole world had gone crazy. Just thinking about it gave him a headache. *Let's just sleep!*

***Yaya...***

Jiang Ziya vaguely heard a name. *Are they calling me? But no one calls me Yaya.* That kind of nickname was only suitable for using on a kid!

If Lu Yang dared to call him that, Jiang Ziya would immediately break off their friendship.

He turned. A woman was looking down at him, her black hair dangling down with a few strands falling by his ear, tickling Jiang Ziya's face.

Yet he could not make out her appearance, as if there were a layer of mist obscuring her face. He just felt that she was beautiful. But for some reason, her smile was pained. She nudged Jiang Ziya.

"Yaya, don't go to sleep. Chat with Mommy!"

Jiang Ziya jolted. *This is Mom?*

He struggled to keep his eyes open to make out her face. They had a few photos of his mother at home, but they were yellowed with age, and none of them were close-ups. He could only approximate her appearance from those and could not truly tell what she looked like.

“Mom?”

The woman’s eyes brightened. In that instant, it was as if the mist concealing her face had been lifted. Her appearance grew clear. She was truly a gentle woman full of smiles. He didn’t know if it was because she was his own mother, but Jiang Ziya felt that she was particularly beautiful!

***Yaya, if you’re awake, it’s time to get up—***

“Get up!”

A shout by his ear nearly deafened Jiang Ziya. He shot up in shock, his sleepiness vanishing in an instant. He looked up and didn’t see anyone, just the ceiling. Ever since he had hit puberty, there were few people he had to look up to see.

He quickly lowered his head. Xiao Xue was next to him. Her eyes were wide as she said, “Gēge, you were so sound asleep. I called you so many times, but you wouldn’t get up. Your cell phone rang earlier. Mommy told me to wake you up to take the call, but you wouldn’t wake up. Mommy said to let you sleep more and that you could call back later. Then, it rang again, and Mommy told me to wake you up to answer it, and that you could get up and eat after.”

Jiang Ziya rubbed his face and asked, "How long did I sleep for?"

Xiao Xue answered, "It's time for dinner!"

*What?* Jiang Ziya was shocked. He looked at his clock. It was indeed six. *I slept so long!*

He rushed to his desk and picked up his phone. There were a total of five missed calls displayed on the screen. The first four were all from Lu Yang, while the last one was from Liu Yishi.

In the messaging app, Lu Yang even sent a message: **I'm coming over.**

This was a message from one and a half hours ago. To get from Qing Wei Gong to Jiang Ziya's residence, it would at most take half an hour by car.

Jiang Ziya returned Lu Yang's call first, but no one picked up the entire time. In the end, he could only switch to calling Liu Yishi.

"Is this Ziya?"

When the call connected, Liu Yishi's anxious voice came over the line.

"Is Lu Yang with you? I can't get in contact with him."

Jiang Ziya's face paled.

*Lu Yang has gone missing?*

### Chapter 3: It Has Begun, Part 1—Trouble Arises

At first, Liu Yishi hadn't noticed that his son had gone missing. Both father and son were capable of solo operations. Dividing up the work was much more efficient.

Lu Yang had many resources in Taiwan. He was responsible for connecting them with support for their online operations, while Liu Yishi was responsible for going over what they knew with Hu Lican.

Liu Yishi had Hu Lican focus on the society. That society was extremely suspicious; looking into them was definitely the first priority of the investigation.

Their suspicions had proven correct. Club president Xu Xikai was a transfer student who had only just transferred over during the previous school year. He and Jian Zhi were classmates in the same department. When Xu Xikai first started the society, Jian Zhi was the first member.

Xu Xikai must have approached Jian Zhi because of his guardian spirit, the angel. Liu Yishi did not believe that Xu Xikai could be without any guilt. He had started the society and had personally directed the night venture—*he is definitely involved!*

*But is he the mastermind?* Liu Yishi frowned. He had not met Xu Xikai before, but Lu Yang had mentioned that Xu Xikai looked around his age. Even if he was not actually a university student, he definitely could not be over thirty. This was even a conservative guess. In fact,

Lu Yang did not feel that Xu Xikai could be a single day over twenty-five.

*Could such a youth possibly be the one responsible for this incident?*

"We can't apprehend him." Hu Lican honestly divulged over the phone, "Even though we know what's up, he hasn't done anything on the surface. Even if he was the one who killed Li Yao, we don't have any evidence at all. We can't apprehend him based on that."

Liu Yishi understood it well. If this were overseas, he at least had some connections he could use, even if it were in the name of "cooperating with the investigation" to have the suspect taken to a black room first. Yet, he did not have such means in Taiwan. More accurately, he was not acquainted with anyone who had such means.

On top of that, he highly doubted that they could still find "Xu Xikai."

"Help me investigate Xu Xikai's background more, such as who he was in contact with. I believe that he might not be the mastermind. It would not have been easy to carry out what was done. I don't believe this was a crime he could have committed by himself."

Hu Lican answered with a "roger" and hung up.

Liu Yishi placed Jian Zhi's information aside and flipped through the next set of information. The first page showed Lin Zhixiang's student photograph.

He gave a low hum as he pondered if it was a coincidence that this female student, who possessed the power of curses, had joined the society, or if this was another calculated event.

*But this female student also knew Li Yao.* Liu Yishi did not believe that there could be so many coincidences in this world. *Lin Zhixiang must be involved with everything.*

At this time, his father-in-law rushed inside, scaring Liu Yishi so much that he immediately stood up and properly greeted him.

However, Master Ah Lu said, "Ah Shi, go find Xiao Yang."

"Xiao Yang is with Jiang Ziya."

Even though he had been neck-deep in research, Liu Yishi could recall that Lu Yang had run over agitatedly not long ago to tell him that Jiang Ziya wasn't picking up his phone, and that he was going to head over to take a look.

Liu Yishi had thought that it was very possible that Jiang Ziya was either dead to the world from exhaustion due to their late night, or it could be that he had forgotten to charge his phone before sleeping. However, when Liu Yishi considered that Jiang Ziya had the truth-seeing eye, he could not be certain either, so he had not stopped his son from heading over.

"Just now, when I passed by Laojun, the large stick of incense sudden'y broke! Xiao Yang was the one who placed the incense this



mornin'." Master Ah Lu frowned and said, "I sense somethin' big. Go find him."

Liu Yishi also grew nervous. Even though there was only one Lord, he could not deny that he had indeed directly and indirectly felt Laojun's existence several times, and Laojun even deeply adored his son!

When he was young, Lu Yang had wanted to remain in Taiwan, and one of the reasons was because he wanted to stay by Laojun's side.

Besides his parents-in-law, he also had to fight over his son with Taishang Laojun. Liu Yishi felt that being a father was truly difficult.

Liu Yishi quickly picked up his phone and dialed Lu Yang's number. No one picked up still, but he wasn't too nervous yet. He could be riding his motorcycle. After he called two more times without receiving a call back, then he truly got nervous!

Lu Yang had always paid close attention to his phone, practically to the point that he would never miss the ringing of his phone no matter when or where. After all, with their profession, it could be a matter of life and death. One or two calls could be explained away as his being unable to pick up the call on his motorcycle. But with the third call, even if Lu Yang was currently on his motorcycle, he would stop to look at his phone.

Liu Yishi decisively began to call Jiang Ziya's phone but couldn't reach him either. He was really nervous now. He stood up, about to go searching.

However, Master Ah Lu instead pushed him down on his shoulder, and it was with quite some strength. Then, the phone rang. Liu Yishi looked down to see that it was Jiang Ziya returning his call. He quickly picked up and asked if Lu Yang was with him.

"Lu Yang isn't with me. I saw his text saying that he was going to come find me, but he still hasn't gotten here!"

Liu Yishi's heart fell, and he said, "Don't worry, and don't leave. Stay at home. Wait for an update from me. I don't want you to go missing, too. Then, I really wouldn't know where to start searching."

A helpless and frustrated response sounded over the phone.

"Yuèfù, could you help search for Xiao Yang?"

Master Ah Lu put his fingers together and said, "It ain't that nothin's wrong, but I reckon it ain't life threatenin' either. It will be fine. You should look for him on your own."

Liu Yishi wanted to cry but had no tears. He knew that Master Ah Lu actually cared a lot about Xiao Yang, his only grandchild, but he was just too lax with him, as evident in how Lu Yang had become an assistant when he was only in middle school. In the end, he was only an assistant for half a year before Master Ah Lu kicked his assistant out and had him work full time. Just from that, this grandfather was really too easygoing!

*There are too many cases to finish. I'll make sure to pick easy ones for Xiao Yang.* Those were Master Ah Lu's exact words.

However, hearing that Lu Yang's life wasn't in danger, Liu Yishi still felt a bit of relief. Master Ah Lu did not impart wisdom often. Whatever he did say was trustworthy.

As if proving his words true, Liu Yishi's phone rang, and the display indicated it was from Lu Yang.

Liu Yishi quickly picked up. "Sweetheart, where are you? Why didn't you answer earlier?"

"..." The other end stayed silent for a while before asking, "Is this Lu Yang's family? This is the hospital."

Liu Yishi jolted but did not waste any time. He immediately replied, "Yes, I am his father."

"Your son was in a car accident. He is currently in the hospital."

Although his hand shook, Liu Yishi still calmly asked, "Is his life in danger?"

"His exact condition is unclear for now. Please hurry and come to the hospital."

Liu Yishi replied with, "I'm on my way," and hung up right after. He lifted his head to see Master Ah Lu knowingly say, "Somethin' happened after all?"

"A car accident." Liu Yishi was now extremely thankful that his father-in-law had already told him it wasn't "life threatening." Otherwise, he would have been scared out of his wits by this news.

Hearing that it was a car accident, Master Ah Lu frowned and said, "Xiao Yang is very vigilant and skilled. He rides his motorcycle properly. He shouldn't have been caught in an accident. You should look into how this happened."

Liu Yishi nodded. Even though he knew Lu Yang's life wasn't in danger, he was still worried as his father. He indicated that he was going to head over to the hospital right away.

"I'll take you there."

Master Ah Lu looked at this foreign son-in-law and knew that he was only putting on a brave front. If he were to drive himself, he might get careless and get injured even more than Lu Yang. Master Ah Lu's son-in-law wasn't as nimble as his grandson.

When they arrived at the hospital, Lu Yang was still in the operating room. His frantic father and calm grandfather waited outside. In order to divert his attention to stop himself from panicking, Liu Yishi made several calls in succession to get things in order.

"Call that child over."

Liu Yishi stilled before he understood that the child Master Ah Lu meant should be Jiang Ziya. He quickly called Jiang Ziya and told him

that Lu Yang had gotten into a car accident, scaring him so much that he said he would come over right away.

Liu Yishi immediately understood why Master Ah Lu had wanted to drive him over. *Can Jiang Ziya drive when his voice sounds so frantic?* He could only warn him again: drive slowly, don't worry, Ah Yang is okay, he's still in the operating room, so even if you get here, you can't see him.

After consoling him for a good long while, only then was he reassured enough to let Jiang Ziya come over.

Ending the call, Liu Yishi asked in confusion, "Yuèfù, why do you suddenly want to see Jiang Ziya?"

"To see if there is any change in whether it's a good thing or a bad thing that he and Lu Yang are friends."

That worried and relieved Liu Yishi at once. It was a good thing that Master Ah Lu was willing to take a look. No matter if it turned out to be good or bad, at least they would know. What worried him was that if Master Ah Lu was willing to take a look, then that meant it had to be something huge...

While feeling conflicted, Liu Yishi did not have to wait long for Jiang Ziya to arrive. He was out of breath. It was easy to tell how frantic he was.

When Jiang Ziya saw Liu Yishi, he immediately asked, "How is Lu Yang?"

"He is fine. The nurse said the injuries were mostly on his limbs. His life is not in danger."

Jiang Ziya breathed a huge sigh of relief. Only then did he notice the old guy next to Liu Yishi. His eyes widened, and he immediately greeted, "Grandpa, hello!"

Master Ah Lu merely looked Jiang Ziya up and down in observation. Finally, his gaze honed in on Jiang Ziya's left eye. Master Ah Lu's forehead, which was perpetually wrinkled, furrowed even more deeply.

"How strange."

Jiang Ziya froze. He did not know how to react to those two words and could only look toward Liu Yishi.

Liu Yishi indicated for him not to worry and to stand there patiently to allow Master Ah Lu a look. *Countless people wish he would take a look at them!*

Jiang Ziya could only stand there patiently to be scrutinized. He occasionally glanced in the direction of the operating room, only not as frantically as earlier. Lu Yang's father and grandpa were both calmly observing him, so Lu Yang shouldn't be in grave danger.

The awkwardness of standing there to be observed didn't persist for long. The light of the operating room dimmed, and a handful of medical staff soon walked out. Liu Yishi immediately stood up and walked up to the doctor.

"Don't worry." The doctor smiled. "His upper left arm is not fractured too badly. The patient is very healthy and also youthful. Although he lost some blood, he will be fine after taking some supplements."

Liu Yishi and Jiang Ziya relaxed and quickly thanked the doctor. Soon, they saw Lu Yang being wheeled out. Perhaps it was because he had been wearing a helmet that his face didn't have any injuries. His condition did not seem all that bad. He practically looked like he was just sleeping.

"Ziya, keep Lu Yang company." Liu Yishi glanced at his phone. "I'm going to investigate what happened. Xiao Yang rides his motorcycle very properly, and he has fast reflexes. He shouldn't get involved in an accident for no reason."

Jiang Ziya listened and blurted, "You think someone purposely hit him?"

"I just feel that something is wrong." Liu Yishi clasped Jiang Ziya on the shoulder. "Don't think too much about it. Just help me look after Xiao Yang."

After that, he looked at Master Ah Lu. Before he could ask, the latter said, "I'll take you."

Liu Yishi immediately knew that his father-in-law wanted to tell him something. His father-in-law taking him to the hospital to see Lu Yang was already uncharacteristic of him. Now, he even wanted to drive him to his investigation? *I can barely imagine it!*

Jiang Ziya blankly watched Liu Yishi and Master Ah Lu leave with quickened steps. He felt that something was off, but then he figured that watching over Lu Yang was more important. He bowed his head and followed the hospital bed.

The nurse pushing the bed asked curiously, "Are you his brother? You don't look alike."

Jiang Ziya quickly clarified, "I'm just a friend."

"Oh, then where is his family?"

"...They just left."

Jiang Ziya suddenly realized what was off. *Hey, I'm not a relative! Is it right to throw Lu Yang at me for me to look after?*

*The father and the grandfather, aren't the two of you way too lax?*



"Yuèfù..."

Liu Yishi was a bit uneasy.

His father-in-law's "how strange" from earlier had scared him. Seeing that his son's condition was fine—with a complexion that was even healthier than Jiang Ziya's—he wanted an excuse to leave and ask Master Ah Lu just what was strange. He just hoped it wasn't something that could not be divulged again.



In the end, Master Ah Lu said he would drive him, and he clearly wanted to tell Liu Yishi something without any prompting—this was even scarier!

Liu Yishi was inwardly shaking. He stutteringly asked, “Y-you once said that Xiao Yang and Jiang Ziya’s closeness, with their rare abilities, could result in great fortune or great misfortune. Could it be that...”

He did not dare to give voice to it. The spoken word at times could be a power in and of itself. It could be that only a slight push was needed for the direction to veer toward good or bad with no end in sight. *That’s why I can’t say something negative!*

“This has nothin’ to do with it!” Master Ah Lu denied in a single breath.

Liu Yishi felt his face redden, but the person before him was his father-in-law. He could not blow his top at him, not even at death’s door, so he forcefully held in his frustration.

Master Ah Lu glanced at his son-in-law and seemed to feel that his own behavior was unreasonable. He clarified what he meant with an explanation.

“Good or bad is yet to be decided. There are many changin’ factors. It is still too unpredictable even now.”

Liu Yishi did not feel comforted.

"That child's power has just improved too quickly. It ain't right. It normally shouldn't improve at this speed. You should be wary."

Liu Yishi asked doubtfully, "Maybe it's because he has stepped foot into the innerworld and has seen too much lately?"

Master Ah Lu just shook his head. This made Liu Yishi begin to contemplate if this had anything to do with his own son. After all, the person Jiang Ziya interacted with the most was Lu Yang.

"Where to?"

"Huh?" Liu Yishi was not able to react right away.

Master Ah Lu clobbered his son-in-law on the back of his head. "Where are you headin'? I said I'll take you, so I'm takin' you. Do you take me for a liar?"

Liu Yishi quickly said, "No! To the police station."

"Let's go!"

Liu Yishi could only obediently get in his father-in-law's... sports car, a bright red model.

Then, he drove it extremely slowly, not at all like a sports car. According to Xiao Chun-são, when Master Ah Lu was young, he was the sort who floored the gas pedal and whatever the top speed was, was the speed he went at. But once they had their daughter, he no longer dared to do so. He was deathly afraid that his daughter would

emulate him. If that happened, Xiao Chun-sǎo would have her husband's hide, no condiments needed.

Once his daughter had been taken overseas by his son-in-law, Master Ah Lu had returned to his bad habits, the speedometer going haywire, earning him tickets and nagging from Xiao Chun-sǎo all the time.

Then, Xiao Lu Yang had returned to the country to live with his gramps and grandma. Master Ah Lu's driving speed had once again dropped and stayed like that the entire time. Even though Lu Yang had already grown up and would not emulate him, he and Xiao Chun-sǎo were in cahoots. They warned Master Ah Lu that however fast Gramps dared to drive, his grandson would drive even faster!

A despondent grandpa used a sluggishly slow driving speed to take revenge on his grandson, but who knew that the grandson would not feel the need to rebel at all? However slow Gramps drove, he would drive just as slowly. He did not have a single word of complaint.

Once they reached the police station and Liu Yishi got out, he did not even have time to turn his head to say anything before the sports car drove off.

There was nothing Liu Yishi could do about his father-in-law, who had such a unique character.

He turned around and entered the police station. Hu Lican was already waiting for him.

"I've already gotten a hold of the security footage you wanted." Hu Lican asked in concern, "Is Lu Yang okay?"

Liu Yishi nodded and said, "He fractured his left arm. The other injuries are all minor."

Hearing that Lu Yang's injuries were minor, Hu Lican breathed a sigh of relief. He had already watched the security footage. Coming out of that with only minor injuries was lucky of him—no, he should say, it was amazing of him!

"Come watch over here." Hu Lican waved Liu Yishi over.

The computer screen showed the footage of the accident. The angle was great. The entire accident was clearly shown.

Liu Yishi's face darkened at what he saw in the security footage. Lu Yang was driving his motorcycle properly through a green light when a car hurtled through a red light and rammed into him, sending him flying. Then, the car sped away without any intention of remaining.

The video ended in mere seconds, but Hu Lican tinkered with it and the scene replayed. This time, the playback was in slow motion, only for them to see that not only had the car not braked before impact, it had even sped up.

Fortunately, the moment before collision, Lu Yang seemed to have noticed the car, and with a twist of his motorcycle, he avoided a frontal collision but was unable to avoid being clipped. Then, he flew out.

It was also fortunate that Lu Yang was wearing a professional grade helmet. When he flew out, he immediately hugged his knees with his arms, and he landed in a roll that lessened the impact. Otherwise, the impact would have killed him or left him half dead. That was why Hu Lican had said that Lu Yang was amazing.

"It was done on purpose?" Liu Yishi quietly asked.

Hu Lican nodded and said, "It should be. The license plate was also modified. The license plate number doesn't match the car."

Liu Yishi said in consideration, "Lu Yang hasn't taken all that many cases related to practitioners. Even if any bad blood has resulted, it shouldn't come to the point of someone driving a car into him."

"As I thought, it has to do with this case, right?!"

Hu Lican was not surprised. When he got the text from Liu Yishi saying that Lu Yang was in an accident, he reflexively felt that this had to be related to the case. Otherwise, the timing would be way too coincidental. That was why he had even left the scene of the crime and hurried directly to the location of the car accident to search for the security footage nearby.

"How about I assign a police officer to protect Lu Yang?"

Liu Yishi frowned. At first, he wanted to say there was no need, but then he considered how ridiculous this practitioner was. They might even dare to shoot someone dead.

"Send over that officer who was always the first to react on scene."

"You mean Fang Da? No problem."

Hu Lican turned his head and called Fang Da to have him head over to the hospital right away. Then, he held up a paper bag and took out a bunch of photographs to scatter over the table.

"These are photographs of the homicide locations at the university. There were a bunch of random sigils at the scenes again. Don't tell me that these are actually magic circles used overseas to curse people?"

Liu Yishi scrutinized the "magic circles used to curse people," a deep frown on his face. These illustrations weren't without a source. The sigils were clearly based on the seven deadly sins. However, they had little to do with curses. On top of that, the homicides themselves had little to do with the seven deadly sins. With an angel involved, as well as school wonders, it was practically a huge mishmash of legends.

Seeing Liu Yishi deep in thought, Hu Lican did not dare to interrupt him. He waited patiently, but a phone call made his face lose all color.

Liu Yishi knew something must be wrong.

After hanging up, Hu Lican bitterly laughed. "The photos from the homicide scenes have been leaked. They've hit the news along with the seven school wonders."

Liu Yishi paled. "Why didn't you contact the media first?"

Hu Lican rubbed his face and said, "We did. But it's everywhere on the net. With photos of the homicide scenes included, it's a sensational story. Some small news channels have already been airing the story and causing an uproar. There's no way that the big news channels wouldn't follow suit."

Liu Yishi frowned. He recalled Yu Shu's guess, that the culprit wanted the Seven Wonders to come true.

*It seems that it is no longer a guess.*

### Chapter 3: It Has Begun, Part 2—Club President

**“Lad, be more careful. Look closely.”**

Hearing a familiar voice warn him, Lu Yang immediately opened his eyes. He didn't even have any confusion from just waking up. Two fingers on his right hand closed together as he planned to summon Slay.

Jiang Ziya originally had his head lowered as he peeled an apple. When he noticed the movement, he lifted his head to look at Lu Yang. He asked in confusion, “Why is your right hand raised?”

Lu Yang frowned. There was absolutely no sign of Slay appearing.

“Where is my Slay?”

Jiang Ziya was completely confused as he asked, “What Slay? Did you get a concussion? The doctor clearly said you only injured your hand.”

Lu Yang jolted and growled, “Stop fooling around. Do you think I'd get trapped by a mere barrier dimension? You actually believe that a hallucination can prevent me from summoning Slay? The bond between me and Slay can't be stopped by any barrier!”

Lu Yang proceeded to chant, “Natural order of Heavens and Earth, disperse the foulness from the air, mighty gods of the eight cardinals, cut down demons and bind evil. Let the evil impurities dissolve away, let Taoism last for all eternity, let this imperial decree of Taishang Laojun be heard. Obey—”



This time, there was movement. The airflow whirled above. The range of the whirlwind grew larger and larger, almost as if the entire hospital room was about to get engulfed. The distorted room became rather eerie and dark.

A light suddenly flashed in the center of the vortex. An ancient sword appeared out of thin air.

Lu Yang sternly warned, "You dare impersonate someone close to me? Slay, cut him down."

Jiang Ziya shouted in disbelief, "Lu Yang, you're actually going to kill me?!"

Lu Yang coldly said, "The kind of thing you are has never been alive in the first place. What right do you have to die?"

Slay shot out, piercing directly through "Jiang Ziya's" chest and out through his back. Jiang Ziya shattered into a bunch of pieces that scattered across the floor. The entire room began to twist and distort further. Lu Yang called Slay back to his side for protection. No spirit could get past Slay!

When he opened his eyes again, Lu Yang saw at a glance that there was actually another Jiang Ziya peeling an apple by his bedside. Lu Yang's expression immediately changed. *Am I still in the barrier dimension?*

This Jiang Ziya slowly lifted his head... and froze. He helplessly said, "You're up already? You just got out of the operating room, and I only just started peeling this apple, yet you're already up. But I should have expected this. After all, you've pretty much left the boundaries of what's considered human."

Lu Yang snorted and relaxed, leaning back and lazily saying, "If I can't be considered human, then what am I?"

Jiang Ziya gave it some thought. "A perverted human."

"That still has the word human!"

Jiang Ziya stuffed two slices of apples into Lu Yang's mouth and snapped, "Superman has the word man in it, but can he be considered human?"

"Yes!" Lu Yang chewed and asked in a garbled voice, "How come you're the only one around? Where's my dad?"

"Ah, he and your grandpa waited outside the operating room for you. They left to investigate after they saw you were fine."

*This father and grandpa are way too lax.*

Jiang Ziya could not help but speak up for them, "Too many lives have been lost. It's better to investigate quickly to prevent another homicide from happening."

Lu Yang thought it over. "My dad probably isn't investigating the case, but rather my crash instead. It wasn't an accident. The other person definitely ran into me on purpose."

Jiang Ziya cried out in shock, "What?"

Lu Yang looked at his left arm and asked, "How are my injuries?"

Jiang Ziya answered in a stupor, "Just a fracture in your left arm and excessive blood loss. The doctor said it's not serious. You'll be fine after taking some supplements." That was why he had gone downstairs to buy some things to help Lu Yang recover.

Looking at his left arm, Lu Yang sighed. "When I landed, I had no choice but to sacrifice my left arm. It would be even more of a pain if I had injured other areas. Only injuring my left arm means I can at least still walk."

*...Just where do you, a patient who was just in a crash, plan to go?*

Jiang Ziya continued to stuff apples into Lu Yang's mouth and unhappily declared, "Don't you think of going anywhere. Behave and get better!"

Lu Yang obediently chewed on the apple. "That's too hard."

Jiang Ziya rolled his eyes exaggeratedly, but Lu Yang cut in before he could speak to say, "If people keep dying, do you really plan on keeping me here, only to watch the students at our university get turned into sacrifices for the school wonders one after another?"

Jiang Ziya froze. He frowned and said, "Your dad is already investigating, and your grandpa is around, too. It doesn't have to be you, right?"

"My gramps doesn't get involved much lately." Lu Yang despondently said, "He knows too much. Interfering would shorten his life."

Jiang Ziya's eyes widened. "You won't get in trouble if you interfere, will you?"

Lu Yang shook his head. "It's not like I know anything."

Jiang Ziya heaved a sigh of relief. "That's true. You only know how to slay."

"Who says?! I know how to stab, too!"

Jiang Ziya rolled his eyes. He stuffed the remaining slice of apple into Lu Yang's mouth. Then, he picked up the remote control and turned on the television in the hospital room.

When the television turned on, it was shockingly broadcasting the headlining news of the university homicides. The seven school wonders were explained in depth, with photographs in the background even. Although the photographs were blurred with mosaics, the two of them could tell that those images were all of the homicide scenes. They could not believe that the news even had photographs of those!

"Ziya, change the channel." Lu Yang's face darkened.

Jiang Ziya immediately changed the channel from one big news channel to the next, but no matter which channel he switched to, they were all reporting on the same news.

"I thought the police would have sealed away this information."

"They should have." Lu Yang frowned. "They would have at least spoken with the media and instructed them not to report on the details."

But the news was detailed to the point of including photographs. Something was obviously wrong. It could have been that the culprit had released so much information that no one could keep it under wraps.

"Huh?" Jiang Ziya gestured at the television screen oddly. "Lu Yang, look at that. This is a video that the society filmed, right? It's from the legend of the smiling student who jumped off of the building. The society got the falling black figure on video. This is that video, right?"

"Make a call." Lu Yang opened his mouth to ask, "Ziya, you have the president's phone number, right? Call him!"

"I don't have it! I've only communicated through Jian Zhi, but he's..." Jiang Ziya suddenly thought of something. "Lin Zhixiang might have his number. I'll try calling her."

Lu Yang froze. *Lin Zhixiang?* A thought abruptly came to him, and his face paled, but he did not say anything, quietly waiting for Jiang Ziya to call her. He already had a premonition.

Jiang Ziya hung up and frowned. "No answer."

"That night, did she call you after?"

Jiang Ziya reflexively said, "No..." With just that single word, his expression immediately changed.

*Something so big had happened. How could Lin Zhixiang not have made any contact after?!*

Jiang Ziya frantically looked toward Lu Yang, who said with a heavy heart, "She was probably captured. To a practitioner, her ability is very strong and very useful, too. Call my dad right now. Tell him about this."

Jiang Ziya quickly made the call.

Lu Yang frowned. That Jian Zhi and Lin Zhixiang had both joined the Supernatural Phenomena Studies Society was likely not a coincidence but rather a calculated occurrence. Lin Zhixiang believed herself to be existence's bane. As long as preparations were made, it would not have been a hard feat to lure her into joining the type of society that the Supernatural Phenomena Studies Society was.

Jian Zhi's guardian spirit was powerful. There had no doubt been plenty of small, inexplicable occurrences in his life. Along with his

introverted and docile personality, getting him to join must have likewise not been difficult.

Lu Yang and Liu Yishi had the same conjecture: the president Xu Xikai was definitely problematic!

Jiang Ziya puffed out a breath. "Your dad says he got it. He'll continue to text us about the progress of the investigation. He wants me to message this stuff to Yu Shu and think of a way to get her to make some guesses."

Lu Yang approved of this immediately. "This is a good plan. Call her right away. Even if you annoy her to death, get her agreement to come up with conjectures. Don't worry. I'll take care of all communication expenses!"

"... I really wish you guys lived across from Yu Shu instead of me!"

Jiang Ziya could only force himself to send over the information from the investigation and give her a call.

"Do you really want to become vampire food or what?"

Yu Shu's voice clearly indicated she had just been woken up.

Jiang Ziya quickly explained, "I'm not bothering you on purpose. My classmate has gone missing. If we don't quickly find her, she might get taken away! Yu Shu, lend us a hand!"

"A hundred thousand... No, this kind of thing that can result in death, you owe me a million!"

Jiang Ziya looked at Lu Yang, who straightforwardly made an OK sign. With a twitching face, Jiang Ziya answered, "Okay, one million it is."

"...Who's next to you?"

"Lu Yang."

"No wonder. There's no way you could have so readily agreed to paying one million. I should have said five million. I hate rich big shots!"

"So you'll help now, right?" Jiang Ziya relaxed. It was fortunate that he hadn't mentioned that Lu Yang was beside him from the start, or they would be unnecessarily down by four million!

"No way, one million isn't worth it. I don't want money anymore, but you'll have to do something for me in the future."

That made Jiang Ziya wonder, *Haven't I been doing various menial tasks for her all this time?*

Lu Yang, who only had one hand left to use, neatly swiped away the phone and hollered, "Take your five million! Jiang Ziya won't help you do anything!"

Laughter came over the phone. "Classmate Lu Yang, don't tell me you've forgotten that you still owe me a favor? Jiang Ziya owes me



even more favors. I don't even know how to have him repay them all. If you don't want to agree to it, then forget it. In any case, I can just call in a favor and get the same result. I dare you to not repay the favor! Just try it, hmph!"

The phone was hung up on them.

Jiang Ziya rubbed his nose and said, "Why did you argue with her? It's just doing something for her. There shouldn't be a problem."

Lu Yang said with a scowl, "She hasn't clarified what she wants you to do. When the time comes, you won't be able to turn down whatever she wants you to do. Agreeing to an invitation with such a weird person like her is extremely dangerous! What if she wants you to turn those two spirits of hers into truths?"

"Uh, I wouldn't be able to do that anyway."

Jiang Ziya responded in some embarrassment. He had somehow mysteriously leveled up both of her sons, yet he wasn't able to level up his family's Xiao Xue. They were clearly together this entire time, so he really didn't understand the requirements! He needed to believe that she was real, but he knew that she was real!

Lu Yang said in worry, "You need to think of how to repay the favors you owe her."

Jiang Ziya thought about it. Yu Shu rarely ever left her apartment, House Keeper always made and brought over all sorts of delicacies all the time, and Hold Keeper could even pretend to be a charlatan. Also,

with how Jiang Ziya constantly sought her out for help, he felt that he would never be able to repay the debt he owed her.

Seeing how Lu Yang was so worried that he was about to pull his hair out, Jiang Ziya could only agree for now. After all, he wasn't worried about accruing too much debt. He would just have to slowly repay it.

Jiang Ziya tapped on countless files on his cell phone to send over. "I'm sending over all the data to her. She could get inspiration from them, so she won't be able to resist opening them to take a look. If her deductions lead her to a conclusion that involves people's lives, she won't keep it to herself."

Lu Yang's face twitched. Jiang Ziya had only just promised to think of ways to repay his debt, and now he was already creating another chance to owe more.

"Send it," Lu Yang said helplessly.

Knocking suddenly sounded on his door.

Lu Yang frowned and asked, "Who is it?"

His hospital room was a single patient room. No outsiders should be coming or going.

"T-this is Fang Da. Captain Hu sent me over to protect you guys."

"Come on in." Jiang Ziya already knew of this. Because Lu Yang was injured, Liu Yishi had been sending all the information to Jiang Ziya instead.

A young policeman walked in. His clothes were neat, and even his policeman cap was worn snugly on his head. He looked pale.

The two of them turned to look at him. The policeman actually backed up two steps in fright.

"You're going to protect me?" Lu Yang felt exasperated. This guy who looked like he was scared out of his wits made Lu Yang doubt just who was going to do the protecting.

"Yes." Fang Da took in a deep breath and slowly walked over. "Sorry, watching that corpse come back to life right before our eyes yesterday night was really too scary. I'm so glad that you and Mr. Liu were there to take her out..."

Lu Yang lifted his head and said, "Ziya, come here and help me take a look to see if the IV is working properly. I feel like my hand hurts a bit."

Jiang Ziya gave an affirmative and stood up to take a look. "It seems fine?"

"Really?" Lu Yang said doubtfully, "It still hurts. Help me call the doctor!"

"Okay..."

"I'll help you take a look." Fang Da quickly walked over.

"Then, I'll have to trouble you."

Lu Yang's expression was slightly pained, but right at that moment, an ancient sword suddenly shot out with a whirl, slashing toward where Fang Da's head was.

Jiang Ziya's eyes widened. He absolutely did not understand why Lu Yang was using Slay to cut someone. However, he remembered that Lu Yang said that Slay could not kill a normal person, so he didn't put a stop to it.

Seeing that the sword was about to touch his neck, Fang Da could not help but take a large step backward.

Lu Yang shouted, "You really can see Slay. Who are you?"

"How did you find out?"

A curious smile stretched across Fang Da's pale face.

"Taishang Laojun warned me to look carefully," Lu Yang coldly replied.

Laojun's warning had helped him take notice of Fang Da's use of "take her out." *Hmph, we never took care of Li Yao. Fu Taiyi took that spirit away. Fang Da clearly knows this.*

Only then did Jiang Ziya return to his senses and cry out, “He’s not Fang Da?”

“He’s not!” Lu Yang scoffed, “The barrier dimension in this hospital room and a bit of makeup made him look like Fang Da.”

Jiang Ziya’s eyes widened. He had not known this was possible. What was also strange was that after Lu Yang exposed the other person’s disguise, he really looked less and less like Fang Da, and more like...

“Xu Xikai!” Lu Yang shouted the other person’s identity before Jiang Ziya, afraid that Jiang Ziya would see through it and shout it.

“Fang Da” smiled and rubbed his face. It really was president Xu Xikai’s face.

Xu Xikai praised, “You really are strong. Even though I planned for you not to die from the car crash, as it wouldn’t be worth it to have Master Ah Lu interfere because of his grandson’s death, I hadn’t expected that your injuries would be so mild. To think you were able to dodge in such a situation and protect yourself to the greatest degree—as expected of ‘Slay’!”

Lu Yang had no plans to waste words on him. He already had Slay blocking horizontally across the door, getting rid of any possibility of escape.

Even though Slay could not kill a person, a practitioner who could see Slay would definitely hurt so much from getting stabbed in the vitals by the sword that they would fall to the ground.

“Wait , don’t you or that sword come close to me!” Xu Xikai pulled a police gun from his waist. “This isn’t a fake gun. Test it out, if you dare.”

Lu Yang narrowed his eyes.

Xu Xikai chuckled. “I know that to a person of your skill level, a short distance like this might not make it impossible for you to predict where I would shoot, dodge the bullet, and have the sword cut into me—”

He pointed the gun at Jiang Ziya and said, “But he definitely can’t dodge it! You may be able to subdue me, but in the time it takes to do that, whether or not Jiang Ziya would get shot would be difficult to predict.”

Lu Yang remained still. He calmly asked, “What in the world do you want?”

“You all know about the seven wonders now, right? They aren’t false at all. It’s just that they took place overseas. I merely changed them up a bit so that these legends would fit the university you’re studying at—what a university with hidden talents, don’t you agree?”

Lu Yang’s eyes flashed, and he said with certainty, “You kidnapped Lin Zhixiang?”

“Calling it kidnapping is too rude. She willingly came with me, for the sake of this.”

As he spoke, Xu Xikai tossed down an enlarged photograph of a black book. A complicated, circular sigil was outlined in gold on the book cover.

"The library's thirteenth bookcase, a bookcase filled with forbidden books—I want one of those books."

Lu Yang frowned.

Xu Xikai said with grave seriousness, "The book in the photograph is 'Resurrection.'"

### Chapter 3: It Has Begun, Part 3—The Bookcase

Lin Zhixiang anxiously rushed to the guys' dormitory. Along the way, plenty of boys gave her dubious looks, but she couldn't pay them any mind. The moment she grabbed someone, she pressed, "Do you know where Jian Zhi is?" She grabbed several guys in succession for answers. When she learned the correct location of his room, she immediately headed over and pounded on his door thunderously.

"Jian Zhi? Jian Zhi!"

The door opened. A guy stared in bewilderment at Lin Zhixiang, confused over why this woman was crazed to this degree.

Lin Zhixiang pushed the guy aside and ran into the room. It was empty. She immediately spun around, grabbed the guy's collar, and demanded, "Where is Jian Zhi? Where is he?"

The guy frantically said, "Jian Zhi went to participate in a club activity. He isn't back yet. He should be back soon. You can just wait for him. Aren't you overreacting?"

Lin Zhixiang ignored him. She took out her phone and called Jiang Ziya, only for no one to pick up after three consecutive tries. She paled but remembered that she also had Lu Yang's number. She quickly called Lu Yang and told him everything, including how Jiang Ziya wanted her to find Jian Zhi, but she couldn't find him. Now, even Jiang Ziya's number was not connecting.



Lu Yang told her he would search for Jiang Ziya and hung up on her. He did not instruct her on what to do next.

Lin Zhixiang stared at her cell phone. She could not help but call Jiang Ziya's number several times more, but it never connected. The unease she felt grew stronger and stronger... *I really am existence's bane!*

She should never have dreamed of academics, of joining this club, of approaching Jiang Ziya and Lu Yang. In fact, she should have firmly embarrassed Jian Zhi long ago and made him give up on her...

"Hey, you okay? Jian Zhi will be back soon!"

The guy beside her felt uneasy. *This girl looks like she's about to cry. What in the world has Jian Zhi done?* He took some tissues from the desk to give her in case the tears in her eyes overflowed.

"Don't come near me!"

Lin Zhixiang shrieked, scaring the guy so much that he jumped back. She turned and ran off.

However, once she exited the dormitory, she fell into a daze and had no clue where to go. She stood blankly at the entrance until someone grabbed her and pulled her away.

Lin Zhixiang screamed, "Let go of me! Don't touch me. You'll die because of me!"

"Lin Zhixiang, it's me."

Lin Zhixiang stilled. Only then did she see who had come.

“President?”

Xu Xikai smiled at the few surrounding onlookers that had started to pay attention to them and said, “I’m sorry, my girlfriend was just bickering with me.”

After observing that Lin Zhixiang was neither struggling nor crying for help, those people smiled to indicate that they understood and left.

“Come!” Xu Xikai pulled Lin Zhixiang away.

“No, you can’t. You have to leave. You don’t understand!” Lin Zhixiang began to resist again. She cried out, “I-I’m the bane of all existence. Anyone who comes near me will be endangered!”

“Jian Zhi died.”

A single sentence from Xu Xikai put a stop to Lin Zhixiang’s struggling. She stared at him blankly and asked, “He’s really dead?”

Xu Xikai nodded, his eyes tearful. After he dragged Lin Zhixiang to a deserted location, he then cried out in frustration, “It was all my fault. I shouldn’t have planned something like a night venture. It was all me!”

"No, it's not your fault." Lin Zhixiang mumbled dispiritedly, "It's mine. It has always been my fault. My parents died, and even my brother became crippled because of me. Has even Jian Zhi died now?"

"Two other club members also died. One drowned in the Pond of Meditation. The other died in the bathroom."

Lin Zhixiang froze. She lifted her head in disbelief at Xu Xikai.

"I just learned from Lu Yang and the others that it wasn't just our club members who died either."

Xu Xikai said with some confusion, "There was even a female student who died at the abandoned campus that we didn't go to. Just what is going on? Could it be that our venture put the school wonders in motion, and even uninvolved people got dragged in?"

"A f-female student?" Lin Zhixiang suddenly thought of something. A chill seized her heart, and she shook all over. "Do you know h-her name?"

"Yes." Xu Xikai nodded. "Li Yao."

Lin Zhixiang fell to the floor, her face as white as paper.

"What's the matter?" Xu Xikai frowned. "What is this bane of all existence thing you keep talking about?"

Lin Zhixiang shook her head and kept mumbling over and over, "Get away from me."

"I won't leave if you don't tell me!"

In order to get rid of Xu Xikai sooner, Lin Zhixiang had no more reservations. It did not matter even if the president choked her to death after hearing her out. She divulged her identity as "existence's bane" in full detail, and even revealed that Li Yao had been a classmate of hers from the same major. They had done a small group project together before.

After divulging all of this, she lifted her head and gazed at Xu Xikai with a frightful but expectant expression.

Xu Xikai remained silent for a long while before he said, "No matter if this is your fault or mine, you and I both only have one chance at atonement."

Lin Zhixiang's eyes widened. *I still have a chance?*

"Since the school wonders have come true one after another, then that means that the thirteenth bookcase of forbidden books must also be real!"

Lin Zhixiang looked at Xu Xikai in confusion. *So what if it's real?*

Xu Xikai explained, "The legend of the forbidden bookcase is the reason I started this society in the first place. I planned this activity because I knew that the forbidden bookcase has a specific book, one that can bring the deceased back to life: 'Resurrection.'"

Lin Zhixiang retorted without a second thought, "Bring a dead person back to life? That's impossible."

"Look at this."

Xu Xikai took out his cell phone and played a video. The video astonishingly showed Li Yao turning from a corpse back into a human step by step. In it, Li Yao asked in confusion, "Where am I," "What's going on," before the video ended.

"Is L-Li Yao not dead?"

Lin Zhixiang grabbed the cell phone, nearly about to cry out of joy.

"No..." Xu Xikai's complexion was ashen. He quietly said, "Lu Yang and his father believed the resurrected Li Yao to be a monster and cut her down again."

Lin Zhixiang froze.

Xu Xikai quickly explained, "But you can't blame them. I'm sure that anyone who saw a corpse come back to life would believe them to be a monster. He didn't know that resurrection was part of the school wonders either. As long as we acquire that book, we can resurrect her again."

Lin Zhixiang gazed at the Li Yao in the video and asked in a daze, "As long as we get that book, we can resurrect her?"

“Not just Li Yao. As long as we get the book ‘Resurrection,’ everyone can come back to life: Li Yao, Jian Zhi, the other club members, and even...”

Xu Xikai leaned forward, his voice softly enticing. “Even your parents who died because of you can come back to life.”

Lin Zhixiang’s eyes widened.

Xu Xikai pulled the cell phone away and took out an enlarged photograph. He placed it in her hands.

“Look at this. This book is Resurrection. It took me a lot of effort to discover it.”

Lin Zhixiang lowered her head to look at the photograph. She mumbled, “This is Resurrection? Resurre—”

Xu Xikai gently held Lin Zhixiang and glanced at the photograph. His lips curled up.

This was completely out of his expectations. He had thought the book of Resurrection would be white.

Xu Xikai pulled Lin Zhixiang up and forcefully said, “Come, it’s almost dawn. We don’t have much time left. We can’t just let our club members die because of our mistakes. They still have family waiting for them to return!”

Hearing the word “family,” Lin Zhixiang jolted and finally stepped forward and followed Xu Xikai away.



The library was obviously closed in the middle of the night, but this was not a problem at all for Xu Xikai. It didn’t matter either that the school had not agreed to lend the library to him. Why would the university lend the library to a club in the middle of the night?

Xu Xikai had never requested permission to borrow the library in the first place. In any case, these foolish students would never overly wonder about the possibility of such a matter to begin with.

Xu Xikai led Lin Zhixiang straight up to the second floor with assured strides, as if he were in his own home. Upon reaching the entrance, he carefully told her, “Count the bookcases with me one by one, all the way until we reach the thirteenth one.”

Lin Zhixiang nodded, forcefully squashing down the anxiety in her heart and the logic that held on by a thread. One by one, she counted with Xu Xikai. As the number went up, the unease in her heart also rose.

*Resurrecting everyone should be okay, right?*

*They won’t become possessed by the devil like in the movies, right?*

*But Li Yao looked very normal, and... Lu Yang was able to cut her down! Even if they really are devils, Lu Yang can take care of them.*

After making her decision, she sucked in a deep breath and counted the bookcases.

“One... two... seven... eleven...”

“Twelve!”

After counting up to twelve, Lin Zhixiang saw between the gaps of the books on the twelfth bookcase—the thirteenth bookcase!

A black bookcase with a wooden frame.

*The thirteenth bookcase actually exists! Lin Zhixiang trembled. Does Resurrection really exist? What if it doesn't? But what if... it does?*

“Lin Zhixiang, let's go!”

Xu Xikai waited for her to step over. Only then would the dust settle.

Trembling, Lin Zhixiang slowly moved her feet. She walked around the twelfth bookcase, toward the thirteenth.

Standing before the bookcase, she lifted her head to search for the book, Resurrection. However, out of her expectations, she saw a humongous mound of black perched on the bookcase, and it pounced down at her.

“Ah—”



Lin Zhixiang fell against the floor, the impact and the fright she had suffered over the course of the night directly rendering her unconscious.

“Stand down!”

Xu Xikai rushed forward and used the large cross he had prepared ahead of time to thrash the mound of black. Each strike caused the thing to shriek with pain, yet it refused to retreat and used both hands to hold onto Lin Zhixiang tightly without letting go.

“Don’t you want to resurrect Jian Zhi?”

Hearing Jian Zhi’s name, the mound of black hesitated and finally released its hold. It retreated back to the corner and huddled down, both arms hugging the mud below its feet. Tears of blood accompanied endless cries of “Jian Zhi,” “girl he liked”...

“It seems that Lin Zhixiang and the angel are not enough.”

Xu Xikai paid no attention to the unconscious Lin Zhixiang. He walked up to the forbidden black bookcase and casually looked through the books, which mostly consisted of all sorts of curses, yet Resurrection was not among them. *There aren’t even any healing spells!*

“As expected, Resurrection isn’t something that can easily be made to appear. As for Lin Zhixiang...”

Xu Xikai lowered his head to look at the unconscious Lin Zhixiang.  
“She has been so unfortunate, yet her morals are unexpectedly

proper. How troublesome. This must be the fault of her crippled brother.”

Even though he complained, Xu Xikai’s mood was quite good. His plan was unfolding step by step, and the forbidden bookcase had already appeared. The only thing left to do now was continue to increase the strength behind the “belief.”

*Up until Resurrection appears.*

## Chapter 4: Do You Believe, Part 1—That Book

“Resurrection?”

Jiang Ziya was shocked. Although he had already heard of the key word “resurrection” from Yu Shu, he had not thought there would be a book of it. *If something like that really does exist, does that mean no one has to die anymore?*

He looked at the photograph on the floor. It was of a black book lined with gold, resembling some sort of magic tome. But even then, it was a big stretch to claim that this book was a resurrection spell.

Xu Xikai glanced at the photograph and discovered that it hadn’t changed. This situation displeased him.

“You don’t believe in it?”

Jiang Ziya nervously stared at the dark muzzle of the gun. He blurted, “How could there possibly be something like resurrection?”

Xu Xikai laughed. “Why not? Didn’t Li Yao get brought back to life? It was a pity that the people of this world could not accept her. She had to die again.”

Lu Yang opened his mouth to retort, “Stop spreading lies over there! That wasn’t Li Yao!”

Jiang Ziya nodded imperceptibly. Even Fu Taiyi had said that it was a spirit. It definitely was not Li Yao. If it was, then his boss’s action of

hiding the spirit would instead mean that he had kidnapped a female university student! If he had done something like that, Fu Jun would kill him.

Xu Xikai frowned and mocked, "How can you be certain it wasn't Li Yao? You killed her, after all. Of course you would claim that she wasn't Li Yao. Otherwise, you would be a murderer!"

*But Lu Yang didn't cut Li Yao down. Boss took her away!* Jiang Ziya only dared to say this to himself. Faced with a gun, he chose to stay immobile and quietly wait for Lu Yang to solve this problem.

Lu Yang coldly warned, "Do you really think that these words could shake me up?"

Xu Xikai laughed mockingly. "What is real? What is fake? Slay, do you really think you are able to tell? Look at that sword of yours. It is so distinct that it is nearly a real sword. Would you really consider that sword fake? If something like a flying sword could exist, then why must resurrection be fake and completely impossible?"

Lu Yang kept his lips tightly pressed together, his heart uneasy. These words affected even him a bit. Now that the words were out, would Jiang Ziya believe in what was being said? If someone who possessed the truth-seeing eye were to believe in resurre—no, Lu Yang could not allow this guy to keep talking!

Xu Xikai seemed to have noticed that Lu Yang was about to strike. He shouted, "Get that sword of yours away from the door! Since you figured out that there is a barrier dimension in this room, you must

know that this gun isn't the only card up my sleeve. You may not be able to detain me, but I am definitely able to shoot Jiang Ziya at least once."

Jiang Ziya froze. He began to wonder what his odds were of not getting any bullets stuck in him if he were to leap under the bed.

Seeing how the muzzle was right in front of him, and how there was no chance that Xu Xikai was a novice at a gun with how familiarly he held it, Jiang Ziya could not help but accept that he was unlikely to be able to dodge. It was better for him to stand still. He did not want to make his dear sister cry her eyes out.

Lu Yang had also been able to tell that Xu Xikai handled the gun very professionally. He could only compromise. After he called out to Slay, the sword flew from the door to Jiang Ziya's side.

Xu Xikai backed up to the entrance. He smiled to show his sincerity and lowered the gun, but it remained gripped in his hand so he would be ready at any time.

Lu Yang warned, "Xu Xikai, just what are you planning? You have taken so many lives. Do you really believe you can escape unscathed?"

Xu Xikai responded rather nonchalantly, "Whether or not I can retreat isn't important. As long as this book can be made to appear, can you imagine just how many dearly departed could be brought back to life? If we have resurrection, then all the people who have died this time, including Li Yao, Jian Zhi, and the others, could all be revived. We

would even get a resurrection spell book out of it. What can you have against this?"

Lu Yang frowned. He quickly shot Jiang Ziya a glance. He knew that Ziya had been harboring feelings of guilt, blaming himself for not figuring out sooner that something was wrong. If Ziya were to be influenced by Xu Xikai's words, they would be in trouble.

However, Lu Yang was unable to determine what Jiang Ziya's opinion on all this was. There did not seem to be anything odd about Ziya's expression either. Rather, he seemed hesitant to speak.

Unsettled, Jiang Ziya asked, "Is there someone you want to resurrect?"

Faced with such a question, Xu Xikai's expression changed. He dropped his nonchalant smile and coldly said, "So, you guys don't believe me? Slay, if the deceased come back to life one after another, would you still dare to cut them down in front of their family, claiming that they are just spirits?"

After saying that, Xu Xikai pulled open the door and closed it heavily.

Jiang Ziya immediately twisted his head to look at Lu Yang, who actually did not seem like he was about to give chase. He had thought that Lu Yang was someone who acted so recklessly that he would rush out to chase the killer down despite getting hit by a car just recently.

Moving his body that had stiffened from staying immobile for too long, Jiang Ziya slowly walked to the door. Seeing that Lu Yang was not

stopping him, Jiang Ziya pulled open the door and looked outside. People came and went in the hallway, completely unaware of the commotion that had occurred in the room earlier.

This time, Jiang Ziya was finally able to tell where the problem was. Right across from the room hung a mirror. It was clearly opposing the room, yet the sight reflected within was a white wall.

He walked over, took out a tissue, and used it to wipe the surface of the mirror. He came away with a layer of some unknown powder. The door to the room was finally reflected in the mirror.

Jiang Ziya was a bit perplexed. He had not noticed in the least the situation outside the room. He had clearly been able to tell that the stairway of Xiang Shui Pan was problematic, but the moment he had dropped his vigilance, he had not been able to see through anything. *It seems that I still have a long way to go before I can become Lu Yang's eyes.*

As he walked back inside the room, he saw the photograph on the floor. He bent to pick it up.

"Don't touch it!" Lu Yang immediately yelled.

"Is there something wrong with this photo?" Jiang Ziya stilled and nervously asked, "Is there poison on it?"

"You're overthinking it." Lu Yang helplessly said, "That guy left so easily. His goal definitely wasn't to kill us. It's most likely that he came to deliver this photo. He then talked about resurrection in detail,

probably for the goal of making us believe in the existence of resurrection. Now, my worry is whether or not he knows that you have the truth-seeing eye, or if he merely wants to persuade practitioners to believe in the existence of resurrection.”

Jiang Ziya looked at Lu Yang nervously. He had been told of the danger of the truth-seeing eye way more than once, and how it could easily lead to his whole family’s death.

“Don’t worry. Even if he knows, we just have to capture him. Going by his reckless methods, few practitioners would cooperate closely with him.”

After Lu Yang consoled him, he added, “But no matter what, you shouldn’t look at what’s in the photograph. That would help that guy manifest the Book of Resurrection.”

Jiang Ziya gave an “oh.” He kept his head raised and felt around to pick up the photograph without looking at it. Then, he placed it face down on the table, doing everything he could to squash his curiosity.

Jiang Ziya asked in confusion, “Why did you let him go so easily?”

Lu Yang explained, “Since Xu Xikai dared to appear here, then he must have made thorough preparations. He was here for quite a while, and we made a pretty big commotion, yet no one came the entire time. I had a hunch that the barrier dimension extended outside of the hospital room, or he might even have had a partner with him. Chasing him down while injured is too disadvantageous.”



Jiang Ziya thought this made sense. Even though it had been a rare chance for Xu Xikai to show up on his own, Lu Yang had only just been in a traffic accident. It was best for him to recuperate and not chance it.

"Call my dad right away to explain the situation to him. Have him find Fang Da." Lu Yang frowned. "The best case scenario would be that Fang Da was only delayed."

Hearing that, Jiang Ziya quickly made the call.

"Your dad was so worried when he heard that we ran into trouble. Fortunately, he found out that Fang Da was just dealing with his car breaking down. He'll come over immediately."

"Great." Lu Yang let out a sigh of relief. It was fortunate that Xu Xikai was not crazy enough to go as far as killing a policeman for the sake of throwing a photograph at them.

After relaxing, he instead saw Jiang Ziya frown. Lu Yang pointed out with no other choice, "If you have something to say, say it. Don't keep it to yourself. Your situation isn't one where you can let your thoughts wander."

This was not a therapy session. Unlike other people, if Jiang Ziya were to let his thoughts wander, the results could be disastrous. A single moment of carelessness, and his random thoughts would no longer be mere thoughts anymore.

Jiang Ziya already clearly understood his eye's capability of causing trouble. He rubbed his nose and asked, "Oh, then I'm gonna throw this out there. Does resurrection really exist?"

Lu Yang denied it right away. "There's no such thing. Have you ever seen anyone get resurrected?"

"I've never seen a sword fly in the air before this either..."

Lu Yang jolted. He firmly stressed, "He's purposely trying to make us believe in the existence of resurrection!"

"Then, if enough people believe that the book exists"—Jiang Ziya could not help but ask— "does that mean resurrection really will appear?"

Lu Yang froze. Matters had gotten too serious. He suddenly felt glad that when he had wanted to cut down the "Li Yao" who had appeared in the barrier dimension, Fu Taiyi had appeared in the nick of time to stop him. *It is likely due to a number of people claiming that Li Yao is just a spirit that Jiang Ziya has not been swayed by Xu Xikai's words.*

"Do you really believe that book exists?"

Jiang Ziya gave it some thought. He shook his head and said, "No, something like resurrection is way too ridiculous. If it truly existed, no one has to die. Then, the apocalypse wouldn't be too far away!"

Lu Yang relaxed a bit at those words. Jiang Ziya's left eye was too powerful. He could not randomly believe in things.

“Hand me the photo Xu Xikai left behind so I can take a look.”

With the photograph face down, Jiang Ziya was not worried that he would see what was on it. He passed it over to Lu Yang.

Lu Yang scrutinized the photograph. A black book was placed on an old, wooden table. The leather cover of the book contained a magic circle outlined in gold.

“How does it look?” Jiang Ziya asked curiously.

“Pretty fake, like a movie prop, and one that wasn’t made to be particularly realistic.”

Lu Yang pursed his lips. As he had thought, a resurrection spell book sounded unbelievable in the first place. This kind of photograph would only be able to trick ordinary people. *No, even an ordinary person wouldn’t believe it!*

Wanting people to believe in something like resurrection was almost an impossible task from the start. It was no wonder that Xu Xikai had caused such a huge commotion...

Lu Yang froze. Jiang Ziya’s words from earlier came to mind.

*If enough people believed in it, would resurrection come true?*

“Ziya, give Driver a call. Tell him to come to the hospital right away.”  
As Lu Yang spoke, he removed the IV drip from his hand.

Jiang Ziya's eyes widened. "What are you doing?"

"I'm heading to the university." Lu Yang frowned as he said, "I feel like something will happen there. Since Xu Xikai's goal is to make everyone believe in the school wonders, leading to the belief that the forbidden bookcase contains resurrection, he will strike while the iron is hot and keep causing incidents in succession."

Jiang Ziya hurriedly said, "Your dad and Captain Hu already sent people over to patrol. You were only just in a traffic accident. Don't overdo it!"

Lu Yang shook his head and said, "Why do you think Xu Xikai deliberately drove a car into me? He must have some kind of setup that Slay is able to forcefully destroy, so he had to land me in the hospital."

Jiang Ziya was stunned at that.

"I'm afraid he'll blow this up, sky high even!" Lu Yang frowned and said, "You asked the right question earlier. If a lot of people believed in resurrection, would that book come true? But the real problem isn't whether or not it will come true, but rather just how many people must believe in resurrection for Xu Xikai to be satisfied. And to make people believe in something like resurrection..."

*Then someone must die!* Jiang Ziya understood now.

“Lin Zhixiang seems to be in his hands. My gramps took a look at her before. She’s like you and me, with an innate talent. Her talent lies in her words, and it’s super powerful.”

Lu Yang grabbed Jiang Ziya’s jacket and pulled it on, or else his white hospital clothes would be too conspicuous.

However, Lu Yang’s left arm was still encased in plaster. Jiang Ziya could not make himself overlook it. He tried to persuade him some more.

“There are policemen patrolling the campus right now. Xu Xikai can’t possibly walk right into a trap, right?”

“He definitely set up a barrier dimension well in advance. Even you and I were ensnared by the barrier dimension. Those policemen might actually be exactly Xu Xikai’s target! Do you want them to end up with the same fate as Jian Zhi?”

Thinking of Jian Zhi and the two club members who would never be able to return home again, Jiang Ziya could not say anything more to persuade Lu Yang not to overdo it.

Lu Yang glanced at the clock. It was almost nine. If he did not head over now, it may be too late.

Jiang Ziya powerlessly said, “But is your body really okay? You’re not pushing yourself?”

Lu Yang jokingly replied, "Of course I can't say that I'm fine. My fractured left arm is even still encased in plaster, so I probably can't move it. But it's not like I have to hold Slay. All I have to do is point with my right hand. There won't be any problems."

Jiang Ziya could only nod at that and pray that Lu Yang left human boundaries well in the dust, the more perversely strong, the better!

"Let's go!"

Before leaving, Jiang Ziya reflexively picked up the remote to turn off the television. At this time, the photograph of the black book suddenly appeared on the television. Jiang Ziya froze. He had not thought that Xu Xikai had put that online too, and that the media would make it public just like everything else. Fortunately, the caption by it only detailed that this was a forbidden book from the legend of the library and did not mention resurrection.

Upon taking a closer look, the book did not seem as fake as Lu Yang had claimed. At least, there was no problem using it as a movie prop. The sigil on it was even very familiar, like the seven deadly s—

"Ziya?"

Jiang Ziya called out, "Coming."

He turned the television off and did not think anything more of it. After all, as long as they caught Xu Xikai, the book naturally would not appear.



Lu Yang utilized the strategy of act first, ask for permission later. Only after he got in Driver's car and reached the university with great speed, did he call Liu Yishi.

And got in response one furious father.

Lu Yang held the phone at a slight distance from his ear. Then, he revealed his conjecture about why Xu Xikai had landed him in the hospital. Their operation this time would very likely require his Slay.

However, the roaring still went on for a long while. With a sullen face, Lu Yang replied, "Fine, I'll wait at the school entrance for you to come get me. I definitely won't head in by myself. I promise!"

After reaffirming his promise several times and hanging up, Lu Yang rubbed his ear. He felt like he had almost gone deaf.

Jiang Ziya snickered. "See, you should have obediently stayed at the hospital."

Lu Yang scratched his face. "I didn't think my dad would get so upset. If it were Gramps, he would definitely say that this injury is nothing big. Taking on easy jobs after a night of rest would be no problem either, so why stay in bed?"

"Your gramps sure has an easygoing attitude..."

"An attitude as ridiculous as the size of the Pacific Ocean! You'll never guess what age I was when he let me go off on my own to slay

demons. When the clients saw a middle school student answer their requests, their faces never failed to darken! It took me no longer than thirty seconds to get rid of those weak illusory familiars, yet it would take me three hours to explain to the clients that I had the ability to get rid of the spirits for them!”

“I really can’t hold it against them...”

Jiang Ziya eagerly listened to stories of Lu Yang’s childhood. It was even more incredible than the plots of movies. However, the longer he listened, the more unsettled he grew.

In the end, the two of them looked at each other silently.

“How long has it been?” Lu Yang took in a deep breath.

“Twenty five minutes.” Jiang Ziya was full of worry. Even though the campus was not small, they were not far from the location of the library.

Lu Yang immediately made a phone call. However, no one picked up in the end.



## Chapter 4: Do You Believe, Part 2—Father

“That damn son of mine is going to be the death of me!”

Liu Yishi ended the call and once again regretted leaving his son behind for his parents-in-law to raise, leading him to growing up with an attitude as ridiculous as the Pacific Ocean was vast. He had only just been hit by a car, resulting in an arm fracture, and gotten held at gunpoint by Xu Xikai, yet he had the audacity to leave the hospital.

Hearing that Lu Yang had come over, Hu Lican was greatly taken aback. “Didn’t he just get hit by a car? Were his injuries that light?”

“He got a fracture! He was only just wheeled out from the operating room this afternoon!”

That left Hu Lican speechless. Since Lu Yang had helped him a lot, Hu Lican could only speak up on his behalf, “Youngsters can recover quickly...”

He was only able to get part of his words out before he could not continue any further. Hu Lican really couldn’t lie straight to Liu Yishi’s face. No matter how quickly Lu Yang was able to recover, it couldn’t have been *that* quickly. Hu Lican had seen with his own eyes the video of the collision sending Lu Yang flying into the air. Even if a regular person didn’t die from that, they would still be at death’s door, yet Lu Yang had immediately run about recklessly. Hu Lican really had to suspect if Lu Yang was actually like what Jiang Ziya always claimed—he couldn’t be considered human!

Liu Yishi tried his utmost to squash the unease he felt and said, "I'll go get Lu Yang. All of you, stay here and keep watch. Before I return, don't take any impulsive actions. Even if you have a lot of people, it still won't necessarily be safe."

Hu Lican nodded.

They were currently keeping an eye on the library, while policemen patrolled the other locations. Hu Lican nearly had to put his life on the line to get the chief to agree to send out approximately seventy police officers. Squads of ten officers guarded each location of the school wonders.

Liu Yishi had called his father-in-law for assistance with guarding the library. With so many lives involved, having his father-in-law lend a hand would not be asking for too much. This way, Liu Yishi would be able to go to each of the other locations to keep watch. If something were to occur, he could prevent the policemen from having no way to solve it.

However, his father-in-law had simply said, "Hold your horses." Liu Yishi had waited nervously with his cell phone to his ear and no response for half an hour, afraid to hang up on his father-in-law yet in the dark about what was going on. In the end, he received the words, "No can do."

Liu Yishi had been stunned, having not thought that his father-in-law would turn him down. This was such a big incident. Logically speaking, Master Ah Lu should be lending a hand.

“Ah Shi, you best be careful now.”

Liu Yishi had jolted. He had not thought that his aloof father-in-law would go out of his way to express this. He quickly gave an affirmative. Only then did he worriedly end the call. Just as he was feeling glad that his son was in the hospital and could not come over, allowing him to completely avoid the danger this time, Liu Yishi received the news that Lu Yang was already at the entrance to the university.

*I can't get any angrier than this!*

However, his son's conjectures made a lot of sense. Lu Yang's Slay was pretty much unrivalled and could forcefully break through all obstacles. In the past, Lu Yang would often be unable to see through a barrier dimension, too confused to figure out what he should strike down, but Lu Yang had even brought Jiang Ziya over this time... No matter how worried he was, he had to go get his son instead of yelling for him to obediently return to the hospital to lie down. In any case, his son would not listen so obediently.

Liu Yishi smiled bitterly and pushed his many worries aside to go to the entrance to pick his son.

Hu Lican suggested, “How about I send two policemen with you? Didn't Lu Yang say that guy has a gun?”

Liu Yishi gave an “okay.” Because of the difference in laws, he had indeed not brought a gun back with him. Now that he had learned that

the other person held no such qualms about guns, then he must also make his own preparations.

Because of this arrangement, Hu Lican would only have eight officers left with him. Liu Yishi frowned and reminded him again, "Don't enter the library. Just keep watch outside and make sure that no one sneaks in. Even if someone ignores your warning and forces their way in, don't follow. At most, it will only take me half an hour to return."

"No problem. We definitely won't enter!"

After the abandoned campus experience, Hu Lican was 100% willing to follow the rule of "never entering the library."

Taking along the two policemen, Liu Yishi quickly headed toward the entrance of the university, wishing to return to the library within twenty minutes. To reach the university entrance, he remembered that he would only need to turn at the basketball courts after walking along the red brick road. Covering that distance in ten minutes would require brisk strides.

However, he had no choice but to halt his steps and turn to survey his surroundings. He and the two policemen were the only ones present. The only other movement came from the shadows of the swaying trees to each side of the brick road.

"How come no one is around?"

Liu Yishi frowned. Although his school years were well in the past, he often frequented schools for casework. Even though it was already

past ten, university students would not sleep so early. Besides, this red brick road was the school's largest road. There should at least be some students around.

The police immediately explained, "We advised for students not to roam about tonight and for all club activities to be temporarily suspended. We have expressly forbidden for them to hang around in the vicinity of the crime scene. Violators will be punished."

*Is that so?* Liu Yishi thought about how numerous the police were tonight. It should be enough to scare the students away. The reporters were the ones they had to pay more attention to.

*I should get my son first!* He did not know if it was because of the anxiousness thrumming inside him, but Liu Yishi felt like he had walked for a long time. However, when he lifted his watch to take a look, it clearly showed that ten minutes had yet to pass.

After finally walking the entirety of the red brick road to arrive at the basketball courts, he actually heard the sounds of basketball being played. There were still students playing basketball after all.

"There are a lot of basketball courts on campus," the police helplessly said. "It is difficult to forbid the students from playing basketball."

Liu Yishi nodded to indicate his understanding. He actually felt relieved. Even though a ban had been given, the campus should not be entirely empty, or else he would suspect whether or not he had entered a barrier dimension.

After taking a turn at the basketball courts, Liu Yishi gave a glance at the group of students playing basketball. He did not discover anything strange. There were ten or so students. They were currently playing three on three, with the rest of them observing the match while sitting or standing as they drank their beverages.

At this time, one student's jump shot missed. The ball slammed into the rim and ricocheted off the hoop.

The ball flew at Liu Yishi and the others. The policemen jumped aside in alarm. The ball struck a tree and landed on the ground, rolling for a distance before coming to a stop. After taking a close look, they ascertained that it was indeed a basketball. Only then did the two police officers breathe a sigh of relief. One of them bent down to pick up the ball, throwing it back toward the courts.

One of the students who had walked over to pick up the ball caught it head on. He held the ball in his arms and asked with a smile, "Want to play basketball with us?"

Hearing these words, the two policemen's faces paled. How could anyone not know the contents of the school wonders now?

Liu Yishi narrowed his eyes. The spotlights at the basketball courts were too bright. Facing the lights, he was unable to clearly see the person who had walked over. However, this voice was exceptionally familiar...

"This ball is almost falling apart anyway." The student's face gradually became clearer. He smiled as he said, "Liu-shūshu, you're just in time to take Lu Yang's place as the ball."

Liu Yishi's lips tightened. Whose face was this but Jiang Ziya's? And the "basketball" that he held in his hands had a head of brown hair with bruises all over a face originally of mixed descent. The eyes were tightly shut, but that was his son, Lu Yang's head!

"Ah!" The policemen shrieked and drew their guns.

"Don't shoot!" Liu Yishi shouted. Opening fire in a barrier dimension was a dangerous action to take. The inability to tell apart what was true or false could easily lead to friendly fire.

"In the name of the Lord—"

Liu Yishi began his words of prayer. A shining book descended from the sky. Like what Jiang Ziya had seen, it was the Bible.

"Are you unwilling to die in your son's place?"

After the light shone on him, Jiang Ziya's face actually began to melt. His crooked mouth opened wide to holler, "You tossed him behind in hotels and amusement parks since he was a child, forcing him to be all by himself. In the end, you even completely abandoned him in Taiwan. Now, you, as his father, aren't even willing to sacrifice yourself for your son's sake? What kind of father are you?"

Undeterred, Liu Yishi continued to recite his prayer. "Let all filth, let all evil have nowhere to hide before the Lord. In the name of the Lord, I command you to show your true visage right this moment!"

As he completed his prayer, the pages in the floating Bible began to flip rapidly, eventually stopping at one of the pages. Light burst forth.

"Jiang Ziya" had already melted like a used up candle. A smile split across his distorted face. He mocked, "Liu-shūshu, you clearly know this. You knew from the start. One day, Lu Yang will definitely die by my hands."

The basketball fell to the ground. It was still a basketball. It was not a human head in the least.

The brightness of the spotlights shone down upon basketball courts empty of all people.

Liu Yishi put away the Bible, his lips tightening. He calmed his somewhat turbulent emotions.

"Mr. L-Liu, what should we do now?"

The two policemen were trembling all over. Even though they had been warned about situations like this, seeing it for themselves was a whole different story!

Their reactions made Liu Yishi abruptly feel that placing so many police officers at the university, which would mean coming into contact with



the locations of the school wonders, was not a good thing. However, they also had no choice but to do so.

He frowned and said, "Put away your guns first. Don't fire randomly. It's easy to mistakenly hit an ally due to hallucinations."

"Was that a hallucination?" The policemen's eyes lit up, as if they had finally received a reasonable explanation.

Liu Yishi immediately confirmed it. "Yes, the effect is similar to hypnosis. As we walked here, there were many suggestions used on us along the way. That is how this incident has been unfolding. The culprit is someone who is skilled at doing this kind of thing. I also have experience with this, so Captain Hu asked for me to deal with the culprit."

Realization dawned upon the policemen. No matter whether or not this explanation had a lot of holes in it, they would explain it away themselves in the future.

"Let's quickly head to the university entrance."

Liu Yishi felt very uneasy. Even though many cases took advantage of one's family, Liu Yishi had not come across such cases in a long time. After all, he operated overseas, while his son was located in Taiwan. Few people had ever met his and Lu Le's son. Most used Lu Le to influence him.

Liu Yishi jogged to the entrance. Fortunately, Lu Yang and Jiang Ziya were both waiting there. Both of them were tall and easy to spot. He could see them at a glance.

When Lu Yang saw Liu Yishi, he shouted with a smile, "Daddy!"

Hearing his son call him with the name he used as a child, Liu Yishi almost began to smile. However, he soon remembered that Lu Yang had haphazardly run out of the hospital. He hardened his face. This time, he must show the severity of a father and discipline his son!

Light suddenly flashed before his eyes. Before Liu Yishi understood what was going on, he had already blurted reflexively, "Careful—"

That moment played out as if in slow motion. Lu Yang turned with widened eyes. He used his shoulders to knock Jiang Ziya aside, but he himself was unable to dodge in time. A speeding car rammed directly into him, sending his entire person flying to slam against the half-open gates. A heart-rending crack accompanied the impact. He then fell to the ground.

Liu Yishi felt like his chest was about to explode. He rushed to kneel by his son's side but forced his trembling hands to keep away from his son. Lu Yang's injuries were too severe. He could not be carelessly moved, or else his injuries would worsen...

"Lu Yang? Lu Yang!"

Jiang Ziya crawled back up. He was stunned the moment he saw Lu Yang's condition and powerlessly collapsed back to the ground.

"Call the ambulance!" Someone seemed to shout near them.

Liu Yishi gazed at his son and still could not help but extend his hand out to lightly touch his son's shoulder. He softly called out, "Xiao Yang? Xiao Yang? Speak to Daddy. Don't worry your daddy like this."

But anyone could tell that Lu Yang's condition was grave. His neck weakly hung to the side, and his eyes were wide open, their beautiful emerald color completely spiritless...

"He did it on purpose!"

Liu Yishi looked toward Jiang Ziya.

"Xu Xikai purposely drove into Lu Yang to kill him!" Jiang Ziya's face was pale as he spoke with a choked voice, "Only by doing this would we believe in what he's been talking about, resurrection. W-We have no choice but to believe in it! Or else Lu Yang, h-he would really... really be dead!"

Jiang Ziya cried so much he could barely breathe. He muttered, "It's all my fault that he wasn't able to dodge... He definitely could have dodged that..."

Liu Yishi moved his gaze away from Jiang Ziya, lowering his head to stare at his silent son.

*No choice but to believe...*



"Are you really not goin' to participate?"

Xiao Chun-são steeped the tea. Even though she worried about her grandson and wished to visit him at the hospital, Master Ah Lu had stopped her. The big event was not over yet. She was not to head over and stir up more trouble.

"The big event is lookin' huge, yet you ain't interferin' now. Then, when will you?"

Xiao Chun-são was a little angry. Ever since she had married into this family, she had never stopped worrying. When she was young, she worried over her husband. After giving birth to her daughter, she worried over her daughter's recklessness. After the birth of her grandson, she worried over something happening to him. She had never had a moment of peace!

Seeing how angry his wife was and how she put down the tea cup particularly forcefully, Master Ah Lu's expression did not change, but he explained, "I divined that mah interference will be resultin' in the greatest misfortune among all misfortune. When I asked Lao Jun, I got six negative throws in a row."

Xiao Chun-são was greatly taken aback. She knew that her husband's words were very accurate, so accurate that he could not randomly speak up. Letting slip the future and interfering with big events often led to worse results.

Master Ah Lu picked up his tea cup. The only person he could tell a few things to was Xiao Chun-são. His wife did not have a single bit of power and was situated outside of events. After their long marriage, she also knew the severity of matters and would not randomly gossip about things.

“So, if you aren’t lendin’ a hand, the big event will successfully resolve?” Xiao Chun-são asked with anticipation.

Master Ah Lu placed the tea cup down. The cup that he had used for many years was suddenly unable to withstand the heat. A crack appeared in the cup, extending from the rim all the way to the bottom.

Both elders stared at the cup, their hearts sinking.

“Ah Lu, please tell me that nothin’ serious will happen to Xiao Yang!”

Tears welled in Xiao Chun-são’s eyes. Even though she had worried for so many years already, just the mere thought that something might happen to her grandson made her heart feel like it was about to explode.

“Don’t be runnin’ your mouth like that! Go and apologize to Lao Jun for your folly. You only know how to wag your tongue!”

After Master Ah Lu scolded her, he pinched his fingers and calculated again. The result was the same. His interference would lead to misfortune among misfortune. It made him feel even more frustrated.

Xiao Chun-sǎo jolted. Even though her husband appeared gruff and was rather strict toward his daughter, son-in-law, and grandson, it was because their family business was too dangerous. A single accident could capsize the ship. His attitude toward his wife was usually a lot less severe.

Master Ah Lu scolded, "Hurry and apologize already. What are you still sittin' there for?"

"I'm goin' now!"

Xiao Chun-sǎo quickly wiped away her tears and rushed into the hall. She had to have a good chat with Lao Jun. He had watched Xiao Yang grow up. There was no way He could just stand by and do nothing.

Her daughter Lu Le was also a child that He had watched grow up. Lele's husband was also someone to watch over. And, and, Ziya was such a good kid. *He never forgets to place incense for Lao Jun whenever he visits. He can't be left out either.*

## Chapter 4: Do You Believe, Part 3—Son

“Hu Lican didn’t pick up either.”

Jiang Ziya hung up, almost unable to bear seeing how terrible Lu Yang’s expression might be.

Lu Yang made a shushing motion at him. His call had gotten though, which was a relief.

“Gramps, Dad and I made arrangements to meet by the school gates. He said he would come pick me up, but still hasn’t yet. Can you come ov—”

He was interrupted before he finished speaking. “I have nothin’ much to say. You have to solve this big matter by yourselves.”

Lu Yang frowned. It would be understandable for Gramps to lend a hand in a case as big as this one, yet Gramps wanted Lu Yang and his dad to solve it on their own. *Could Lao Jun have given some sort of directive?*

“Xiao Yang!”

As Lu Yang pondered over the reason, the person on the other side of the line switched. This was his grandma’s voice.

“Lao Jun stressed several times. Somethin’ impossible is impossible. Don’t you go believin’ in it.”

Lu Yang jolted. "Okay, I got it."

*Like I thought, Lao Jun must have indicated that Gramps can't interfere. Gramps even needed to have Grandma relay the hint instead.*

This something that was "impossible"... Lu Yang only had to think for a moment to understand that she must be referring to "Resurrection."

Lu Yang frowned and told Jiang Ziya, "We'll head in directly."

"Is your gramps really not coming?" Jiang Ziya could not wrap his head around it at all. The grandson had just gotten in a traffic accident and the son-in-law had gone missing, yet he still was not coming. *It's too ridiculous to even call this being easygoing!*

"No." Lu Yang was still frowning as he said, "Gramps probably calculated that his interference would worsen the situation and got the same result by asking Taishang Laojun, so he can't interfere."

Only then did Jiang Ziya understand. He gave an "oh" and asked, "Then, what should we do now? Should we search for the number of the other policemen?"

Lu Yang summoned Slay to his side, ready at any moment.

"No, since we won't be able to get through to them either. I'm afraid that this entire campus is a barrier dimension. Creating such a huge and stable barrier dimension isn't something that can be easily accomplished just by placing down a few tools. It requires a much



more complete set up, as well as sufficient time for the barrier dimension to take shape. My guess is that there must be someone behind Xu Xikai. This isn't something he can do by himself; he's too young. It isn't like he could have started doing this when he was ten."

Lu Yang breathed in deeply and resolutely said, "We'll head in directly, Ziya. From now on, you have to be alert. We're going to destroy every barrier dimension on the way!"

Jiang Ziya immediately readied 120% of his attention.

The two of them stepped onto campus. There weren't a lot of students walking around, but the ones who were did not appear odd.

Lu Yang glanced at the trees lining both sides of the path. The leaves fluttered along with the gentle wind, which felt about the same as how it had outside the campus.

Jiang Ziya turned a full circle and felt troubled. There was absolutely nothing wrong with the campus. Even though there were fewer people than usual, several homicides had just occurred, so it was normal for people not to want to linger at school.

"Where are the police and your dad?"

The basketball courts were right next to them. This was one of the locations of the school wonders, but weren't there even any policemen patrolling it?

Lu Yang's complexion was terrible as he said, "They must be in the barrier dimension. Their target might be the policemen, while we haven't entered the barrier dimension at all. We're heading back! We have to return to the school gates and search for how to enter the barrier dimension."

The two of them rushed back to the entrance. Jiang Ziya searched carefully but did not discover anything strange. Out of the corner of his eye, he glimpsed Lu Yang tightening his lips. Even though Lu Yang was worried, he was enduring it and did not rush Ziya.

Jiang Ziya opened his eyes wider, wanting even more to find the entrance to the barrier dimension. Finally, he saw something odd on the ground before the gates. There were a few curved, dark lines that appeared systematic and unlike scratches.

He backed up a few steps and hopped onto the short stone pillar by the gates. Lowering his head, he observed for a while before saying, "There are seven sigils on the ground, forming a larger sigil. Even though they're very blurry, they should be the sigils of the seven deadly sins we saw before."

"The seven deadly sins, huh?"

After Jiang Ziya said so, Lu Yang focused his eyes to look. The sigils on the ground gradually appeared until the entire sigil formed a clear, round magic circle. With a few quick steps, he rushed right into the school and immediately took stock of his surroundings. However, nothing was wrong like before. He had not entered the barrier dimension.

“Lu Yang!”

Jiang Ziya worriedly rushed into the school. He only relaxed when he saw Lu Yang standing in front of him. He was really afraid that this guy would ditch him to do something dangerous even while sporting injuries.

Lu Yang turned his head. In that instance, he saw a blue light glow in Jiang Ziya’s eye. At once, he rushed over to grab Ziya’s head and observe his left eye.

“What’s wrong?” Jiang Ziya was taken aback. Not knowing what had happened, he didn’t even dare to move.

“Nothing.”

Even though he had said it was nothing, Lu Yang was frowning to himself. He did not know if it was an optical illusion, but he felt like the blue patch in Jiang Ziya’s left eye had become more obvious. Perhaps also larger?

However, he was uncertain. Irises weren’t large in the first place, and it wasn’t like he usually plastered himself against Jiang Ziya to look at it. He was unable to ascertain just how big that patch of blue was.

Lu Yang frowned. “Go back to the gates and try stepping on or touching the sigil. See if you can activate the barrier dimension so we can enter.”

Jiang Ziya walked to the gates and did as told. Nothing happened even after that.

“Why can’t we enter?”

As someone who always randomly ended up in barrier dimensions, Jiang Ziya hadn’t yet met a situation where he couldn’t enter one.

“There might be a condition.” Lu Yang was a bit impatient. He wanted to use Slay to blast the entrance open but was afraid that he could destroy it completely.

“Wait, there seems to be a line of words running along the large circle formed by the sigils.”

Jiang Ziya hopped on the stone pillar to scrutinize it. The words were not large and were also written in an ornate script. He had to squint his eyes to be able to somewhat make them out.

*His left eye is glowing again!* Lu Yang stared at this sight with wide eyes. He had a foreboding feeling, yet could not put a stop to this. They could only rely on Jiang Ziya’s left eye now to enter the barrier dimension. When his left eye glowed, his power clearly increased.

“In the name of God, the devil seals here. Common folk retreat, except God’s servant. He who wields the Holy Bible may enter.”

After listening to those words, Lu Yang snapped furiously, “This condition for entering the barrier dimension targets my dad! That guy must have been planning this ever since learning that my dad has

returned to the country, so he dug up all this stuff on the seven deadly sins to force a connection with him!”

Jiang Ziya said in confusion, “But didn’t you just say that this barrier dimension requires a lot of time to set up?”

“The barrier dimension for the entire school takes preparation, but setting a condition for the entrance at the last minute doesn’t take a lot of time. Shit! Where are we supposed to find a servant of God now?”

Lu Yang impatiently stalked back and forth but could not come up with a solution. They could not ask for a normal priest to come, since they could not even fulfill the requirement of “wielding the Holy Bible.” A normal Bible was not the same as wielding the Holy Bible, but it was impossible to find an actual exorcist in Taiwan. Even if he asked the papacy to send someone over on behalf of Liu Yishi, it would at least take two days. Even stir-fry daylilies would have cooled by then!

“Um, what about Hold Keeper?” Jiang Ziya thought about it and suggested, “Even though the god he believes in his book is not a god in reality, he looks just like a priest. On top of that, when he played at being a charlatan to save those people, he actually used a cross to defeat the devil. I don’t think it would be difficult to have him manifest the Holy Bible?”

Lu Yang stilled. At first, he wanted to say that it was impossible, but with Jiang Ziya and that left eye of his, glowing with blue light, around...

He shook his head and said, "No, a mere illusory familiar does not have the ability to trick a barrier dimension."

"Um, when we returned last time, Hold Keeper had already become a lie..."

"..."

Lu Yang held back his discontent as he looked at Jiang Ziya's left eye. With the help of this eye, they might actually be able to trick the barrier dimension. Even though he was uneasy about Jiang Ziya's truth-seeing eye growing stronger and stronger, the people by his father's side were possibly in danger right now...

"Then, let's have Hold Keeper come over and give it a try. Doesn't matter if it works or not."

Jiang Ziya saw that Lu Yang could not make up his mind, so he decided to just call Yu Shu directly.

"...You want to borrow Hold Keeper? Haha, it would be no problem for me to send House Keeper over to suck you dry instead!"

Yu Shu shouted furiously, "Jiang Ziya, do you think I'm your mom or what? Every time you run into trouble, you come and cry for your mommy? Maybe you want to be a big baby, but I don't want to be your mom!"

Jiang Ziya's ear was about to be blown off, but he could only beg, "Please, we need Hold Keeper to save people. It's extremely dire. Any later, and we'll be in trouble!"

"You're in trouble all the time anyway! Go find that God of the Eastern Sky, Dong Huang Taiyi. Why are you seeking out a shut-in when you have a god you can pray to?!"

"We need a servant of God, and he even needs to have the Bible..."

Yu Shu gave a dry laugh. Her family's holy knight had truly switched professions. She really didn't know if she had failed in creating the illusory familiar, or if the bastard Jiang Ziya was the one dragging her child in a sprint on the unstoppable path of a career change.

"Qing Wei Gong will owe you one." Lu Yang snatched the cell phone over and said, "Lend that familiar to me. As long as your request is within my power, I won't turn it down."

"My only wish for life is to plant myself at home and never have to go out!"

Lu Yang quickly said, "No matter how strong your two familiars become in the future, whether or not they become truths, I will not do anything about it, as long as they don't harm anyone."

Hearing that, Yu Shu was not tempted by the stipulation, just shocked that Lu Yang was willing to make such a promise. It meant that matters were very serious. She calmly said, "Quickly summarize everything for me."

"There's no time..."

"I'll have Hold Keeper head over now. He needs some time to arrive."  
Yu Shu impatiently said, "But whether or not he will help when he arrives is still up in the air! Take this chance to tell me what's going on."

Since Hold Keeper was already on his way, Lu Yang was happy to tell Yu Shu about what was going on and have her analyze it.

After Yu Shu heard about everything that had happened, she praised, "He actually drove a car into you to land you in the hospital? What a pro move!"

Lu Yang's lips twitched. Yu Shu's words could really land someone in their grave from anger.

"Since you were in the hospital, Jiang Ziya must have gone to the hospital to take care of you. With how dangerous this case is along with the risk of dying, your dad, as an elder, would not have asked for Jiang Ziya to follow him. Am I right?"

Lu Yang froze. She was correct.

"No Jiang Ziya means no truth-seeing eye. It would be much easier to sabotage your dad. If it were me, I would create hallucinations of you dying. Tell me, would your dad, who loves you more than his own life, end up helping the enemy manifest the Book of Resurrection?"



Lu Yang's eyes widened. He was nearly unable to hold onto the cell phone. Yu Shu's words following that sounded like they were coming from a great distance—he could not grasp them.

"You know, I feel like the enemy must know your dad. He is clearly very familiar with your dad's personality.

"Fortunately, he is still wary of Master Ah Lu. In order not to mobilize your grandpa, he didn't kill you off directly, instead choosing such a complicated detour to create a mirage of your death.

"But what's unfortunate is that Master Ah Lu really can't interfere. If the opponent had seen that Master Ah Lu would join in anyway, he might directly kill both you and your father, placing his bets on Master Ah Lu and your mom trying to manifest Resurrection as a result. Both of them are super powerful people!"

Hearing all of that, Lu Yang returned to his senses and shouted with a strangled voice, "Yu Shu, help me! I won't interfere even if your son drinks blood from people in the future. As long as he does his best not to suck them dry!"

The call disconnected. Lu Yang quickly called back, but Jiang Ziya tugged on his sleeve and gestured at the sky. Lu Yang lifted his head.

In the dark of the night, a gigantic pair of bat wings blocked the moon, turning the full moon into a quarter moon.

Empty black wings stayed in the air, but the one who descended from them was actually a priest glowing with gentle white light, in

possession of golden hair, blue eyes, and fair skin, pure as an angel of lore. The only thing missing was a pair of white wings.

"You wanted the Holy Bible?"

Hold Keeper held his hand out. A pure white Bible with a golden cross etched on it floated above his palm. He had done a superb job with the special effects. The book looked even more striking than Liu Yishi's.

Hold Keeper smiled as he said, "Jiang Ziya, what do you think of this Bible of mine?"

Jiang Ziya sincerely answered, "It looks pretty powerful."

Hold Keeper watched in satisfaction as the glow of the Bible turned gentle, and the cross that was depicted on it transformed from a mere drawing into an embossment.

"Then, I hope that this book is powerful enough to aid the two of you."

"It definitely is!"

At this time, House Keeper retracted the black wings and landed on the ground in a single breath. However, he maintained a great distance from Hold Keeper. In fact, he could not even look his way. The book was so bright that it was about to blind him.

Hold Keeper glanced at House Keeper, who was standing so far away, and angled his body a bit to block the Bible.

“So, what do you want me to do?”

Hold Keeper asked cheerfully. He was in a good mood. All he had been doing was sitting around at home when the book dropped out of thin air . Even though he did not know what he could do with this book, and he could not really become an exorcist either, he was happy to get some use out of this!

He hadn’t even done anything yet, yet had already gotten rewarded for it. That was why Hold Keeper had turned pliant.

Lu Yang gestured at the ground and said, “Stand in this magic circle and recite words of prayer. Use the book to illuminate the true appearance of the entrance. The school gate is such an obvious flag. My dad must have used his book to investigate it, and probably discovered that something was wrong, so he didn’t notice the problem under his feet.”

As instructed, Hold Keeper stood inside the sigil. He turned to look at Lu Yang and asked, “What kind of prayer? Even though I can make a bunch of stuff up, it’s probably better to directly use the prayers your dad uses?”

Lu Yang nodded and recited a prayer that his father often used.

After hearing it, Hold Keeper relaxed his smile. He had the “Bible” float in front of him. His voice was soft yet steady. Listening to it was calming.

“In the name of the Lord...”

The more he spoke, the more serious he became. In the end, he finished it with a sharp chant.

“Let all filth, let all evil have nowhere to hide before the Lord. In the name of the Lord, I command you to show your true visage right this moment!”

*Pretty good acting. This familiar resembles an exorcist even more than my dad!* Lu Yang’s face was twitching. His conduct might even be grander than a lot of exorcists’ from the papacy.

After he finished chanting, sigils of the seven deadly sins appeared on the pillars to each side of the school gate, but nothing happened to the magic circle below their feet.

Jiang Ziya immediately looked at Lu Yang. *What if it didn’t work? Then, we have no other solution! Will it be any use to ask the boss for help?*

Lu Yang, however, was calm. He indicated for Jiang Ziya to follow along. The two of them entered the school together.

It was a completely silent campus, void of sound and students, in which even the trees seemed afraid to sway and with the murky, dark night pressing down upon them so they were unable to be at ease.

They glanced at each other.

*We actually succeeded in entering!*

## Chapter 5: Library, Part 1—Devil

“Ziya, make sure to look carefully. What I should or shouldn’t slay all depends on your eye.”

Hearing such a request from Lu Yang made Jiang Ziya nervous. He nodded solemnly.

“Don’t worry, my Slay can’t kill a living person.”

Lu Yang suddenly felt that getting his request out there wasn’t ideal and would only put more pressure on Jiang Ziya; however, he had no choice but to remind him. He could only remedy it by adding the last part.

“I won’t let you cut down anyone who is alive.” Jiang Ziya resolutely promised he would not make a mistake.

Seeing Jiang Ziya’s determination, Lu Yang relaxed a bit without realizing it and said, “Then, I’m depending on you to see clearly.”

Jiang Ziya nodded and did his best to analyze their surroundings. He did not know whether or not it was because he was nervous, but he felt as if something was off. Just the fact that no one was on campus was already super strange.

He asked with some incredulity, “There is obviously something wrong about this campus. Wouldn’t your dad have been able to tell?”



Lu Yang frowned and said, "The barrier dimension might not have been so crude in the beginning. My dad has been here a while. The size of this barrier dimension is so large. Maintaining it for a lengthy period can't be easy. At first, it could have been kept up meticulously, but later on only with minimal effort. After all, my dad most likely headed straight to one of the school wonders to lay an ambush."

"Which one would he have gone to?"

"The library." Lu Yang said plainly, "Since we know that Xu Xikai's goal is the forbidden bookshelf, and my dad would definitely protect the most crucial location, he would for sure be at the library."

Jiang Ziya felt this made sense. Besides, the library was not far. On the way, they would even pass by the basketball courts, the location of one of the school wonders.

Speaking of the basketball courts, they could already see them, having taken a brisk pace since they entered the school. Even though the light beside the courts was off, so the courts were rather dark, Lu Yang perceptively discovered a white shadow in the middle of the court. He quickly waved Jiang Ziya over to take a look.

*A white cloth propped up by a simple frame and a basketball?* Lu Yang knelt down to push the ball and did not discover anything strange. It was simply a basketball. He turned and asked, "Ziya, is this the school wonder with the human head basketball? Can you tell whose head it is?"

"It is." Jiang Ziya averted his eyes from the basketball, feeling extremely uncomfortable as he said, "It's your head. Yu Shu was spot on. Xu Xikai really does intend to use you to trick your dad."

Lu Yang frowned and said, "This can't possibly trick my dad. When we could still contact him, I called him. He knows I was at the school entrance, and I told him I wouldn't enter the school. He was prepared. He wouldn't easily be tricked by the legend of the basketball courts."

Jiang Ziya hesitantly said, "Also, the propped up white cloth seems to resemble me."

Lu Yang stilled. With a scowl, he said, "Let's go. When we find Xu Xikai, even with only one hand left, I'll beat him up!"

Jiang Ziya felt that if this scene really was of him handing Lu Yang's head to Liu Yishi, then he was willing to lend both hands to Lu Yang to beat Xu Xikai up!

The two of them did not meet a lot of obstacles before arriving at the library. There was no movement, and no one was around either, not even a single policeman.

Lu Yang looked toward Jiang Ziya and asked, "Was there anything wrong along the way?"

Jiang Ziya shook his head and made a guess. "Maybe he didn't expect we would come over?"

Lu Yang frowned and felt that wasn't right. Xu Xikai had come to the hospital and seen his injuries. He would know that it wasn't serious, and that Lu Yang would come over if communications with his father failed for too long.

"Pay close attention. He definitely knows that we would come here. It could be that the main setup is all in the library. That's where the forbidden bookcase is located, and it's also an enclosed space. I'm certain it will be even more powerful than the barrier dimension enveloping the entire school!"

"Will do."

As they approached the library, they immediately discovered something wrong. It was actually bright inside. After exchanging a glance, they immediately rushed forward.

They merely opened the door and the scenery changed completely. What used to be a hallway was now an endlessly twisting whirl. Human faces twisted with pain were stuck within, unable to escape, only able to reach out with countless hands that were scorched black, trying to grab onto anything they could to pull themselves out of this painful eddy.

*What in the world is this? The hallway looks like it connects right to Hell!* Jiang Ziya stared with wide eyes. Lu Yang was about to ask if Ziya was seeing the same thing, but he already had his answer from Ziya's expression.



Jiang Ziya asked with a stutter, "Lu Yang, is it normal for it to look like Hell? Isn't this too ridiculous?"

*Am I just too sheltered, or is this sight that looks like the scene of a movie really overdoing it?*

Lu Yang calmly said, "Very ridiculous, especially within the country. Our main beliefs are different from Western ones. It's much easier to create spiritual monsters instead of a scene like Hell from Western beliefs."

Jiang Ziya came to a realization and said, "Do you think it's for the sake of manifesting 'Resurrection,' so creating 'Hell' is necessary?"

Lu Yang nodded. "That's right. Myths about something like resurrection have actually appeared among stories from all over the world. However, it is more well-known among Western religious mythology."

"But even Western religions don't actually have resurrection, right?"

Jiang Ziya felt that if someone wanted something like resurrection, they would have to seek the religion from Hold Keeper's book to believe in.

"The Bible actually doesn't mention the seven deadly sins either. My dad has emphasized to me many times before that there's nothing like that, but many seemingly plausible rumors have been passed around, while movies and novels keep bringing it up. In the end, everyone feels like there's such a thing. Overseas, my dad often deals with a bunch of unorthodox spirits."

Lu Yang gestured at the hallway and said, "Instead of claiming this to be Hell from religion, it is more like the Hell depicted in movies. It's not real at all. Ziya, you have to keep this in mind. Everything here is a setup from Xu Xikai!"

Lu Yang had no choice but to keep his worry for his father at bay. He had to clarify these things for Jiang Ziya, afraid that his left eye would instead assist the foe.

"Don't worry, I know this is all fake." Jiang Ziya understood Lu Yang's intentions. He firmly said, "We are walking into the library, not some other place. I won't forget this fact. Right now, the most important thing is to find your dad."

Lu Yang nodded and looked toward the hallway. It was still a frightening, whirling hallway of human faces; however, the charred arms that had originally packed the hallway vanished after Jiang Ziya spoke. *He dismantled this barrier dimension so quickly. Anyone who worked hard at making barrier dimensions would really be angered to death by him.*

"Let's go!"

They walked into the hallway. Jiang Ziya tried his best not to look at the floor. It wasn't just the walls; even the floor was covered in human faces. Walking across it felt squishy and unsettled him a lot.

They hadn't walked for long when booming sounds came from nearby. Both of them halted simultaneously. After hearing the sound again, Lu

Yang couldn't help but frown. He felt that they sounded familiar, but under the influence of the barrier dimension, even sounds had distorted. Not only could he not discern what the sound originally was, he felt as if it sounded like the howling of a devil...

"Gunshots!" Jiang Ziya cried out.

That word abruptly shook Lu Yang awake. This was not the howling of a devil. These "bang bang" sounds were gunshots!

He could also faintly make out the sound of a person shouting, "Don't shoot!" Only after that did the gunshots stop.

Jiang Ziya grabbed Lu Yang's hand and ran in the direction the sounds had originated. As he focused his entire attention on running toward his destination, the pained faces surrounding them gradually sank into the walls and disappeared. The whirling walls also slowly stopped, finally changing back into normal walls. Exquisite wooden walls appeared, with glazed metal lamps adorning them, appearing rather old-fashioned and gorgeous.

The sight brought about a thread of doubt in Lu Yang. He was unfamiliar with the library, having only come by two or three times, and each time was for the sake of finding Jiang Ziya. He always left after finding him, so he had never stayed for long. But from what he recalled, the library wasn't built like this.

However, he did not have time to ponder over his suspicions. Jiang Ziya was already leading them down.

Lu Yang asked, "What was the basement originally?"

"Audiovisual and research section. The great hall had dozens of single movie theater seats for watching films, while the surrounding area was all small private booths where many people could gather together to review audiovisual materials. Graduate students would also book them."

*Many small separated areas, what a troublesome setup.* Lu Yang felt it was a great bother.

However, when they were still on the stairway and could only see part of the hall, they could already see Liu Yishi and the ten or so policemen behind him. They appeared apprehensive, as if they walked among the depths of Hell, while in reality, they were just standing in the hall of the basement.

"Dad!"

Liu Yishi froze.

*We found my father so easily.* Even though Lu Yang could not spot anything off, he still felt uneasy. He turned to look at Jiang Ziya. *Is this really my dad?*

Jiang Ziya looked up and down but did not find anything wrong. He nodded.

Unexpectedly, he had only just nodded when Liu Yishi lifted the gun in his hand, aiming it right at his son.

Lu Yang's eyes widened. He immediately had Slay block horizontally before him, and shouted, "Dad, I'm Lu Yang. Look carefully. This is my Slay!"

In a barrier dimension, people saw hallucinations and could perceive people they knew as someone else or even the devil. That was why no one should fire a gun in a barrier dimension. It was too easy to be led astray, resulting in killing one's own. But no matter what kind of barrier dimension it was, it was very difficult to explain away an existence like Slay. Slay was a huge weak point for a barrier dimension.

Liu Yishi possessed many years of experience as an exorcist. He should know this fact better than anyone else. Lu Yang did not understand why he would raise his gun in a barrier dimension.

"Slay..." Liu Yishi panted and roared, "don't touch my son!"

A gunshot sounded. Lu Yang had not expected that Liu Yishi would actually fire in a barrier dimension. He immediately pushed Jiang Ziya down. Fortunately, Liu Yishi's target wasn't them—it was Slay who was floating in the air!

With this shot of his, all of the policemen gained a target. They began firing crazily at Slay.

Lu Yang did not dare to bet on whether or not Liu Yishi's target would suddenly switch from Slay to his own son. Slay wasn't afraid of bullets,

but he was! He could only hide behind the single seat and desperately shout “Dad,” hoping he could wake him up.

Meanwhile, after getting shoved to the floor by Lu Yang, Jiang Ziya stayed clinging to the floor, afraid to climb back up. Even though he had not become the target, the sound of gunfire raining down upon them made him unable to move even a muscle. *Real gunshots are so much scarier than the gunshots in movies!*

He turned toward Lu Yang who was hiding beside him and shouted, “Lu Yang, could I have seen wrongly? Is that really your dad?”

Lu Yang really did not want to acknowledge this dad who was shooting at his son, but... He clenched his teeth and growled, “Even if hallucinations can create gunfire, it can’t create such loud sounds to accompany it. This volume would directly shake us out of the hallucination. This is definitely gunfire from actual people who are firing!”

*So, it’s definitely my very own dad who is shooting at his very own son!*

The policemen were probably so scared that they had long been unable to tell apart reality from hallucinations, but Liu Yishi wasn’t the same. This volume should have shaken him awake. Lu Yang really did not know what could have happened to make him succumb to this irrational state.

Lu Yang knew that he could not allow this situation to continue. Jiang Ziya would not be able to search for the barrier dimension’s weak

point under these conditions. He could not even lift his head, so how could he do any searching? Just as Lu Yang was about to start chanting and have Slay cut indiscriminately, Liu Yishi finally lowered his gun, whether it was because he was out of bullets or some other reason.

"Xiao Yang, come back..."

The gunfire had stopped, and he had heard his dad call out. Lu Yang knew that it could be dangerous, but he still could not help but peek out, discovering that his dad was walking toward the stairs in a daze. There was a mound of black in front of the stairs with a hand reaching out toward Liu Yishi.

"Jian Zhi's angel?" Jiang Ziya said in shock, "Why is he here?"

Seeing that his dad was about to be kidnapped by a fallen angel, Lu Yang shot up to his feet to give chase, but he saw Slay's blade point behind him. He immediately threw himself to the ground. A bullet whistled past him. If not for Slay's prompt warning, Lu Yang really would have died inexplicably by the hand of someone on their side.

"D-devil! I dare you to come at me!"

Hu Lican had clenched his teeth and was trying to control his shaking, like he was about to go to his death like a martyr.

Huddling back behind the single seat, Lu Yang felt enraged. *I told them so many times they're not allowed to fire! A gun can't kill a hallucination, only our own people. Yet, they all turned a deaf ear to*

*my advice, huh? Even my own dad broke the taboo this time. What the hell is going on?!*

Lu Yang closed two fingers together and began chanting. Slay flew to the middle of the hall, scaring the policemen so much that they all hid behind the single seats like Lu Yang had and fired crazily at the sword. Who knew what they mistook Slay for?

“Natural order of Heavens and Earth, disperse the foulness from the air, mighty gods of the eight cardinals, cut down demons and bind evil. Let the evil impurities dissolve away, let Taoism last for all eternity, let this imperial decree of Taishang Laojun be heard and obeyed—Slay, eliminate all deceptions that shouldn’t exist!”

Slay rotated in the air with a speed that grew faster and faster, until the sword turned into a circle. Even the air at the scene distorted, as if sucked in by the sword’s flight.

Lu Yang had not seen any hallucinations from the start when he came down the stairs. He could only tell from how the air had stopped distorting that the clean up should be done.

“Where is this?”

“Weren’t we stuck in a maze after entering the library with Mr. Liu?”

“Where is that devil?”

The policemen were in a daze. They looked all around them, unable to figure out what was going on.



Lu Yang immediately rushed over and slapped Hu Lican hard, throwing his head to the side. Half of his face immediately turned red.

"Carefully look at who I am!"

*Who told you to shoot randomly? I can't hit my dad, but it's not like I can't hit you!*

Hu Lican winced in pain. When he turned his head back, his eyes widened, and he shouted in surprise, "Lu Yang? Wait, are you the real Lu Yang this time?"

*Real? This time?* Lu Yang frowned. *Did they see one hallucination after another of me?*

Jiang Ziya stood up. He shook his head. He felt like he was about to go deaf, and even now he was still trembling. *That was so scary. Real gunfire is so much scarier than what's shown in movies!*

He told about what he had seen. "Lu Yang, before you used Slay, there were a lot of you on the floor... a lot of pieces of you."

When Jiang Ziya had been pushed to the floor by Lu Yang, he had almost jumped back up in fright because of the bloody floor covered with broken limbs. However, the endless gunfire afterward prevented him from daring to get back up at all. Then, he thought of how he could help find the weak point. *Dismantling the barrier dimension should wake Liu Yishi up, right?*

As he lay flat on the floor, he tried his best to look around. However, when he turned his head, he saw half of Lu Yang's face. The other half was a blurry bunch of flesh, with scattered pieces all over the floor.

If Lu Yang wasn't hiding behind the single seat right beside him, Jiang Ziya would be half out of his mind with fright. After that, he turned and saw six hands, four legs, and two brains. If all the scattered flesh was gathered together, they would form at least five Lu Yangs!

Lu Yang was speechless. *I must have died again and again? No wonder my dad went crazy! With such a dismembered death along with what my dad said earlier, Slay must have turned against me and cut me into pieces, leading my dad to fire desperately at Slay.*

"Hit your comrades and wake them all up. Don't you dare shoot again!" After Lu Yang bellowed that, he called out to Jiang Ziya, "I'm going to chase after my dad. Ziya, take them to the exit and then come find me."

After saying that, he ran toward the stairs, hurriedly following after them.

Jiang Ziya quickly followed Hu Lican to wake the policemen up. Fortunately, most of them had returned to their senses. Only two were still in a daze and required the aid of two hard slaps to wake them up.

Compared to entering, they did not meet any trouble while leaving. Unlike what Lu Yang had told him to do, Jiang Ziya did not leave right after taking them to the exit. Instead, he pulled open the library door

and took a careful look outside. After ascertaining that nothing was wrong, he then let the policemen through.

Hu Lican took up the rear. After stepping outside the door, he turned and held out his sidearm to Jiang Ziya.

Jiang Ziya froze and quickly said, "You don't need to give me a gun. You shouldn't shoot inside a barrier dimension, and guns can't hit hallucinations anyway."

Hu Lican immediately explained, "It's not a hallucination. There is someone who is actually inside. At first, he took on Mr. Liu's appearance and said something about how Lu Yang was captured and that he had to head in to save his son, tricking us all inside. After that, we got stuck in a large maze and couldn't find our way out. Then, the real Mr. Liu came and got us out. I'm sure the one who tricked us in was a real person!"

"That guy should be Xu Xikai, right?"

Hu Lican frowned and said, "Even though I can't be certain, I feel it might not be him. These real and fake hallucinations are such a pain in the ass. At first, I thought he was Mr. Liu. The way he speaks and acts really doesn't seem like how a youngster would behave, more like someone from Mr. Liu's generation."

Hearing that, Jiang Ziya recalled how Lu Yang had said that there definitely had to be someone behind Xu Xikai.

"The important point is that he has a gun." Hu Lican said, "I gave Mr. Liu a gun. That person also had a sidearm by his waist. I suspect that it's a real gun, so you should take this gun. If you don't know how to use it, give it to Lu Yang, just in case."

"Okay, you should go and find the policemen at the other school wonder locations. Just don't head into any of the locations. I have a feeling that the library will be the only location tonight that will have something happen."

The library was already such a large battle site. If something also happened at the other locations one by one, then they would practically be a criminal syndicate! But going along with what they had seen so far, it should just be Xu Xikai and that unknown benefactor.

Jiang Ziya took the gun. As he was about to close the door, a shout stopped him.

"Jiang Ziya." Hu Lican said uneasily, "You said the broken limbs all over the floor were Lu Yang's? But what we saw was a devil that kept getting sliced into pieces by a sword. We thought it was Mr. Liu's handiwork, though he did appear odd at the time. Other than using his book to reveal the devil's true appearance, he was pretty much immobile the entire time after. We were behind him and didn't know what was going on. We could only watch on as the devil got sliced into pieces and reformed..."

Jiang Ziya thought about how Lu Yang always worded it and explained, "Hallucinations often change depending on the person. To all of you, a

scene like this should have a frightening devil appear. To Liu-shūshu, his son getting killed is a lot scarier than the devil.”

“I see.” Hu Lican sighed in relief and mumbled, “I was wondering if it was some sort of hint. I was scared out of my wits. Originally, it was Lu Yang. Then, Mr. Liu revealed that it was the devil in disguise. But later, the corpses on the ground were Lu Yang. What a mess! So it was because we saw completely different things...”

Jiang Ziya sighed. It had not been long, yet he had already become someone who explained things to others instead of being someone who got things explained to him.

Once he closed the door, the door frame shone with light. The light encircled the sigil of the seven deadly sins that was on the door, and Jiang Ziya discovered that it had clearly grown dark behind him.

*Oh no!*

He sucked in a deep breath and turned his head. It was that twisting hallway of human faces again, and even the hands that had originally vanished were back. Jiang Ziya’s face darkened.

## Chapter 5: Library, Part 2—Angel

Liu Yishi's eyes were completely bloodshot.

Any father who watched his son die right before his eyes countless times—and, in particular, deaths that involved getting chopped into pieces—would end up with eyes as red as blood.

The human head basketball at the courts in the beginning had been too crude, so he knew at a glance that it was not real. He was certain that the opponent had not planned for the basketball to successfully trick him and had only used it to pave the way for the car accident that happened afterward.

The moment he saw Lu Yang get run over, he had truly been scared; after all, his son had just been in a traffic accident. But, when that “Jiang Ziya” began to lead him toward thinking about Resurrection, the inconsistencies became immediately apparent!

Newly suspicious, Liu Yishi realized that the “son” in his arms was too light. Although Lu Yang did not have a stocky build, he was actually quite muscular. Ten out of ten people would find his weight unbelievable, yet the son he held in his hands, his son who had just been in a car accident, was light as a feather. Even Liu Yishi could easily pick him up.

Right then and there, Liu Yishi decided that he would play along. He followed “Jiang Ziya” to the library, hoping to lure out the person behind Xu Xikai. He had not thought that the policemen stationed at the library would all be gone. He turned right away to grab “Jiang

Ziya,” but the other person had stolen ahead and pulled a gun on him. Liu Yishi could only watch as he fled.

With no other choice, Liu Yishi took the two remaining policemen who were with him into the library to find Hu Lican and the others.

Still, even though they found the others, they got stuck in the basement and could not leave. Liu Yishi could only watch as a devil descended from the stairs over and over again. Shining the Bible on the devil made it turn into Lu Yang, and shining the Bible on him again turned him back into the devil. No matter what happened in the end, Slay would always slice Lu Yang to pieces, and those pieces of his corpse lay all over the floor.

Seeing no other solution, Liu Yishi could only pretend to lose his mind and shoot at Slay crazily, following the fallen angel’s lead. Only then was he able to escape the basement.

Liu Yishi was forced to admit that seeing his son’s tragic death over and over again dealt a heavy blow to his heart. He had to quickly resolve this, or else the policemen he had left in the basement and his son at the school gates would all be in danger. Besides, he did not know how long he could keep going like this...

“Dad! Be careful—”

When Liu Yishi turned, he saw another “Lu Yang” chase after him. However, Slay was following right behind him, and Lu Yang was entirely unaware that what should have been his companion was slicing downward, right at his head.

Liu Yishi fired three shots in a row at that damn sword without any hesitation.

Slay broke into pieces across the floor.

Lu Yang glanced behind him, then slowly turned his head back. A smiled pulled across his face, and he chuckled. "Don't fire in a barrier dimension—it's easy to mistakenly hit those on your own side. Mr. Liu, don't you understand these rules?"

Liu Yishi froze. The broken pieces of Slay laying on the ground slowly gathered together, forming the sight that broke his heart more than anything else could.

"Lu Yang's" appearance slowly changed into that of a tall, pale, and slim man—Xu Xikai.

"Mr. Liu, aren't you wishing for Resurrection to exist now?"



It took Jiang Ziya a bit of time to pass through the hallway. He felt like it was a lot more difficult than last time, and he did not even know what had happened at the end for the hallway to suddenly regain its original appearance, as he had not tried anything—No, he could not call this regaining its original appearance.

Jiang Ziya did not know what was going on. This extravagant, old-fashioned hallway definitely could not be the school library. Even though the place did look like a library, it was the kind that qualified as



a world-class tourist destination. His school was just a local university that couldn't afford a library of this quality without selling the entire student body!

"Hello!"

Jiang Ziya jumped in shock. He lifted his head to look at the person who had spoken. The other person was leaning against the carved handrails of the stairs and appeared relaxed.

His outfit was completely different from before. With small, golden-framed round glasses perched on his nose and a vest plus dress pants combination, which both resembled House Keeper's previous style and suited the old-fashioned surroundings, he did not at all appear like a modern young adult. If not for his pale, slim body type that was the same, along with his face, which hadn't changed much either, Jiang Ziya really would not have been able to figure out his identity.

"Xu Xikai!"

Jiang Ziya pulled his gun out. Even though he did not know how to use it, he still had to bite the bullet.

"Has no one told you not to fire in a barrier dimension?"

Xu Xikai flippantly said, "No one listened to Lu Yang's warning. What a pity. The most obedient one is always the most unfortunate; just look at what happened to him. It isn't wrong for you to take the shot. Hitting the wrong person is better than getting shot yourself."

Those words made Jiang Ziya freeze—but then he thought of how Lu Yang always told him not to get shaken up by the opponent. Else, it would be even easier to succumb to the barrier dimension and be unable to tell apart truths from falsehoods. He shouted, “Cut the crap. I won’t be tricked.”

Xu Xikai lazily said, “I know, you have that eye. Who could trick you?”

Even though Yu Shu had guessed that the opponent knew that he had the truth-seeing eye, Jiang Ziya had still been holding onto a sliver of hope that he could keep hiding it. After all, no matter who it was he had come across, they had all told him that this eye was very dangerous and would easily make him—no, his entire family!—a target for practitioners.

Xu Xikai laughed. “Don’t worry. I only have one intention for your eye, and that’s to help me materialize Resurrection. After that, I promise I won’t bother you. Even if your secret is revealed, it definitely won’t be from my lips.”

“Dream on!”

Xu Xikai smiled. His posture gave Jiang Ziya a sense of wrongness, like... He still resembled House Keeper with his pale and elegant appearance, yet he no longer seemed to be from the same world as Jiang Ziya.

“Haha—you are all the same. You all claim that Resurrection should never be actualized, but once a loved one passes away, even an angel

can fall and become a devil. How can a mere human choose differently?”

Jiang Ziya was alarmed. This tone still sounded like House Keeper’s—No, it actually sounded more like Hold Keeper’s. The tone was meaner than House Keeper’s, but although the words were derisive, they were definitely still elegant.

What House Keeper and Hold Keeper had in common was that they were definitely not within the boundaries of what was considered human.

Xu Xikai tilted his head and leaned forward. He asked, “Jiang Ziya, Lu Yang died. Do you want him to disappear? Hm? Will you choose differently?”

*Lu Yang... How is that possible?* Jiang Ziya’s eyes widened. He kept telling himself not to be swayed. *This is definitely false. My hands, stop shaking!*

“You wouldn’t dare kill Lu Yang. If you had the nerve to even touch him, Master Ah Lu wouldn’t overlook it!”

Xu Xikai was ecstatic. He gave a chuckle and said, “I wasn’t the one who killed him. He died at the hands of his own father in three consecutive shots. You can only blame the father for violating the rule of not firing in a barrier dimension!”

Even though Jiang Ziya did not want to accept this as the truth, he understood that Xu Xikai was not making it up. Everything that had

happened tonight had indeed revolved around a single person. Xu Xikai's target had not been anyone but Liu Yishi!

"Does he know?"

"Hm?"

"Does Liu-shūshu know he killed Lu Yang?"

Xu Xikai smiled slightly. "Who did you think I was going on about for so long just now? Not only does he know, he has even made his choice already. You are the last one left. You know, finding all these people and spirits with powerful abilities wasn't easy."

Jiang Ziya found himself lowering the muzzle of the gun.

"Lin Zhixiang makes curses come true. After years of endlessly cursing herself, day after day, to be existence's bane, her special ability has become extraordinary. If she had not left his side in time, her crippled brother would surely have died.

"The angel turns wishes into blessings, an ability both rare and powerful. A mere illusory familiar actually had the ability to keep Jian Zhi on the path of morality all these years as his guardian spirit. Unfortunately, the angel was just an illusory familiar and wasn't strong enough, so I gave it some motivation to level up beyond an illusion. At first, I would have been more than satisfied if Jian Zhi's death pushed the angel into becoming a lie, but the angel was unexpectedly capable. Even though it did not become a truth, the angel is far above most lies, becoming an existence between lie and truth.

"Liu Yishi can emit holy light and reveal the truth behind anything.  
There is nowhere for falsity to hide from him!

"Finally, we have your truth-seeing eye."

Xu Xikai's face darkened and he coldly said, "Do you understand now just how serious I am about making this Book of Resurrection come true? No matter how many obstacles there are, I will overcome them all. If you feel that Lu Yang is simply a classmate and not important enough to you, I can trouble your family instead. I am certain there will be someone even more important to you there."

Jiang Ziya could only lower the gun completely.

Xu Xikai's hand was on the handrail of the stairs. He indifferently said, "So, aren't you all the same?"

"Then, what about you?" Jiang Ziya shouted, "Are you the same, too? Who do you want to resurrect?"

Xu Xikai responded with a cold smile. From high above, he looked down on Jiang Ziya and said, "That's none of your concern. Come up now. If you delay any longer, dawn will break, and those policemen will come. They'll mess things up and disrupt the acquisition of Resurrection. I won't even need to do anything then; Liu Yishi will make you wish for death."

Jiang Ziya could only obediently follow Xu Xikai up to the second floor. This was actually an open stairwell. One could look down on the

second floor by leaning over the rails of the lofted floor above. He had no recollection of the school library having an open stairwell.

Everyone was in front of the bookcase. Hearing footsteps, they turned to look at Xu Xikai and Jiang Ziya.

Lin Zhixiang, who had been missing for days, was silently crying. The angel was sitting on the floor with blank eyes, half a disembodied arm sticking out of the mud forming its lower body, grasped tightly within the angel's hands.

Liu Yishi did not turn his head, but Jiang Ziya could tell that it really was Liu Yishi from seeing his back. This was the first time he could sense someone's sorrow with just a glimpse from behind.

"Liu-shūshu, where is Lu Yang?"

Liu Yishi finally turned his head. However, he only turned his head a little bit, and his gaze did not even focus on Jiang Ziya. Both eyes were bloodshot, and he did not blink at all.

"In the private booth beside us." Xu Xikai helped explain, "Without finding a place for Lu Yang to rest, he can't do anything."

Jiang Ziya nodded and did not say anything about wanting to see Lu Yang. After seeing Liu Yishi, he no longer doubted that this was a trick. Lu Yang had truly died.

*Aren't you supposed to be superhuman?*

Jiang Ziya forced himself to blink back tears from his burning eyes as he lined up in front of the bookcase. What surprised him was that Xu Xikai also lined up with them, which suggested that perhaps he also possessed some sort of special ability. Otherwise, he could not have led them by the nose all night long.

“It has begun.”

Hearing this foreign voice, Jiang Ziya’s eyes widened. He looked toward the third floor. A person stood there. Behind him was a large expanse of stained glass, and from beyond the glass, strong sunlight was streaming in. Due to the backlighting, the man’s appearance could not be made out, and the voice he had used to say the words “it has begun” was very hoarse. Other than determining that he was male, Jiang Ziya could not figure anything else out.

However, it was clearly nighttime right now.

*Just where have we gone?*

“One...” Lin Zhixiang started them off.

Jiang Ziya could only follow suit and call out “one.” The group of them called out the numbers in such a fashion, counting the bookcases row by row as they passed by them.

Their footsteps were all heavy. Jiang Ziya’s only thought about Resurrection was whether or not it could really revive Lu Yang. *And would the resurrected Lu Yang actually be Lu Yang?*

Jiang Ziya had not forgotten about Li Yao. *If that "Li Yao" who was able to recognize me and Lu Yang was just a spirit, then how are we to determine whether the resurrected Lu Yang is real or false?*

"Seven..."

Jiang Ziya looked toward Liu Yishi. Compared to the other people or that spirit, the angel, he seemed to be even more resolute and unshakable.

"Eleven..."

Seeing that twelve was right before them, Jiang Ziya halted his steps and stopped calling out. He struggled to tell Liu Yishi, "Master Ah Lu once told Lu Yang that what is impossible is impossible. He told him not to randomly believe in it. If the person who gets revived isn't Lu Yang anymore, then what should we do?"

Liu Yishi scowled at him and gripped Jiang Ziya's arm tightly. He grit his teeth and was pretty much forcing his words out through them, "Call out the number!"

Jiang Ziya's arm smarted and almost felt like it was able to break, but Liu Yishi's gaze was neither a threatening one nor an intimidating one. It was a beseeching one. It was a father's plea.

Jiang Ziya helplessly called out, "Eleven."

The final row of bookcases.



"T-twe..."

Lin Zhixiang choked, unable to call out the number. At first, she had felt guilty because she had caused the deaths of her classmates, but now, she realized something was wrong. *Xu Xikai, the person who encouraged me to atone for my sins, is actually the mastermind!*

*How can he claim that everything is my fault, that those people died because I'm existence's bane? He's clearly the one at fault for everything!*

*If it wasn't because I heard that Lu Yang died, if it wasn't for the angel's plea to resurrect Jian Zhi, if it wasn't for Xu Xikai threatening to kill my brother...*

But Jiang Ziya's words just now had shaken her. *Could Resurrection truly revive someone who has died? How could that be possible? If resurrection becomes possible, then who would want to die? Would the entire world fall into disarray over this Book of Resurrection?*

Lin Zhixiang eyed the gun by Liu Yishi's waist. She had given it some thought. If she wanted to keep her brother safe without following through with the ritual, the only solution she had would be to kill herself. This way, there would be no meaning to killing her brother, so perhaps Xu Xikai would let him go...

"I will kill him." Liu Yishi pulled out the gun and pressed the muzzle against Lin Zhixiang's forehead. He repeated, "I will kill your brother."

"Liu-shūshu!" Jiang Ziya cried out in shock.

Lin Zhixiang stared at Liu Yishi, who was threatening to kill her brother, but she could not blame him at all. The sorrow in his eyes was too deep.

She closed her eyes and called out, "Twelve."

"Twelve," Xu Xikai called out without any sorrow or cheerfulness.

Liu Yishi's eyes found Jiang Ziya's. Without a single word, Jiang Ziya knew what he meant: *Don't make me threaten my son's best friend.*

"Twelve," Jiang Ziya called out weakly. Lin Zhixiang had her brother. He had his sister. They could not afford to be threatened.

Now, there was only the angel left. With no family and no home, there was nothing the angel could be threatened with.

The angel caressed the arm within the mud and lifted its head in a daze. Tears of blood dripped down, and it opened its mouth...

"My child, why do you cry?"

Jiang Ziya reflexively followed the voice and lifted his head, his eyes widening. Gentle light had unexpectedly appeared above them, enveloping a person's figure—with three pairs of pure white wings behind him!

If Ziya was seeing clearly, there was even a halo above the person's head.

Jiang Ziya's mouth twitched. Because the light was gentle and did not hurt his eyes, he could clearly see the person's well-lit face. If it weren't for that, he really would have thought that god had descended upon them. Unfortunately, he could see too clearly. This was not God descending upon them...

It was, in fact, a charlatan who descended upon them!

*Hold Keeper, you really are quite something!*

Xu Xikai's expression changed. He was quicker than Liu Yishi. He pulled out his gun and shot at the charlatan floating in the air, hitting his target.

To Jiang Ziya's eyes, however, it was the arm of a doll that got blasted off. Yet, his actual body's lack of an arm did not seem to affect Hold Keeper's maintenance of his heavenly appearance much.

To everyone else, it looked like the gunshot had been completely useless and had gone right through without hitting anything.

"Jian Zhi... is no more..."

Hold Keeper tenderly said, "All believers go to Heaven. Does Jian Zhi believe in God?"

The angel blinked, its tears of blood stopping. It opened its mouth, completely shocked, sudden realization taking over.

The angel cried out, "Yes! Jian Zhi, believes!"

"Since it is so, Jian Zhi is already in Heaven. Why does my child weep? You should celebrate instead. Once you have finished your mission in the mortal world, you may enter Heaven and see Jian Zhi."

"Mission?" The angel looked at God in confusion.

*No, not god, but a godly fake.* Jiang Ziya revised in his mind.

The charlatan gently said, "You must bless this world with hope and beauty. Once you have completed your mission, you may enter Heaven and reunite with Jian Zhi."

This was clearly to the angel's liking. A smile that had been missing for too long appeared with a prompt nod, the angel eager to immediately spread love and hope everywhere to quickly welcome the day it could enter Heaven and see Jian Zhi.

*A lie tricked a lie that's almost a truth.* Jiang Ziya really did not know if he should deem Hold Keeper too powerful, or if he should consider this angel too naïve.

Liu Yishi growled, "He isn't God! He's just a spirit! In the name of the Lord, I command all falsehoods to vanish without a trace!"

He summoned the Bible. Hold Keeper paled but did not know what he should do. He could only summon his own book in response.

"Liu-shūshu! Stop!"

Jiang Ziya wanted to stop him. He had no doubts about Yu Shu's love for this pair of brothers, House Keeper and Hold Keeper. No matter how much she claimed to despise and hate it when they leveled up, her actions told a completely different story. If Liu Yishi were to kill Hold Keeper, Yu Shu would most definitely go crazy.

Jiang Ziya had not been able to help Lu Yang. He could not watch Lu Yang's father Liu Yishi clash with Yu Shu!

He leapt at Liu Yishi, pushing him to the ground and paying no heed to the fact that Liu Yishi was still holding a gun in his hand, but it was already too late. The holy light shone toward Hold Keeper. Hold Keeper could only cover his face. At that moment, his book actually flew up before him and shone with light, and its brightness did not lose to Liu Yishi's book.

The two divine texts met, but their lights did not fight against each other. Instead, they combined into one giant ball of light. The angel had been between the two books and bore the brunt of the clash. The muddy bottom half of its body sizzled from the light. The angel's shrieks likewise sounded like it was being roasted over a fire.

"Stop it!" Lin Zhixiang cried out anxiously.

After spending a night together, she was no longer afraid of this fallen angel. It was just overwhelmed by Jian Zhi's death. Even though it had become muddy and dirty, as long as no one touched Jian Zhi's corpse, it simply huddled in the corner without moving.

Lin Zhixiang paid no attention to whether or not the light would hurt her. She rushed in to hug the angel and pulled the angel out by falling to the side, both falling right out of the light.

Lin Zhixiang's fall caused her eyes to spin. When she regained her senses, she immediately looked at the angel held tightly in her arms and asked, "Are you okay..."

Before she could finish asking, she discovered something odd, and could only stare blankly at the angel.

The angel also stared back at her and was no longer shrieking. The muddy bottom half of the angel's body was no longer muddy, but it had also not returned to the half-transparent, ghost-like state it had been in when the angel had still been a guardian spirit.

The angel possessed an actual pair of legs, as well as an extremely beautiful but real, androgynous face, looking just like a real person—a westerner who possessed the beauty of an angel.

No one else knew what had happened, but Jiang Ziya could tell at a glance. The angel's state was exactly the same as Hold Keeper and House Keeper's. That pair of brothers had become much more real after possessing the bodies of dolls.

The angel was the same, only what it had possessed was not a doll but Jian Zhi's corpse.

Suddenly, a shadow covered the angel. The angel looked up.

"Call out twelve." Liu Yishi commanded, "Or else, even as you are now, my holy light can make your true visage appear."

*True visage...* The angel grew furious because the angel's true body was Jian Zhi's corpse. To the angel, that was a treasure no one was allowed to touch!

"Liu Yishi, please stop! Don't you know what you're doing?"

He didn't! Liu Yishi could not allow himself to think, or else the sorrow in his heart would burn his body up. How could he be so foolish so as to commit a crime that could never be forgiven...

That shout was House Keeper's voice. Jiang Ziya was not surprised. Since Hold Keeper was here, House Keeper would definitely be around too. Ziya just didn't know why he had not appeared earlier.

"Dad, you're in big trouble. If Mom knows you shot at me, how do you think she'll respond?"

Liu Yishi and Jiang Ziya both jolted. They immediately turned to look at the door.

Lu Yang was leaning against House Keeper, his face pale. He was barely able to stand, and only thanks to House Keeper gripping his shoulder and supporting his waist. But he was clearly alive!

"Your mom would say..."

Liu Yishi's voice was hoarse.

"It was just three gunshots. Why are you lying there playing dead? Do you want to scare your dad to death? Quick, get up already."

Lu Yang grinned with his teeth showing.

"Haven't I gotten up?"



## Chapter 5: Library, Part 3—Book

Liu Yishi had wanted to take a look at his son's injuries, but heard a gunshot. The color drained from his face.

House Keeper spun around, the large cape behind him enveloping Lu Yang and pulling his entire person to the side. Lu Yang was tossed to the angel and Lin Zhixiang, who were both kneeling on the ground. Then, House Keeper pounced toward the person who had fired the shot at such a high speed that it seemed like he had teleported.

However, the other person dodged with equal speed, and even jumped from the second floor straight onto the third floor's guardrail.

House Keeper gazed at that person from the second floor but did not follow them up. Another person was there. House Keeper keenly sensed that that person should not be crossed. He was just here to help on his mistress's orders. Going as far as entering the library was for Jiang Ziya's sake. He had no intention to get injured, or even worse, disappear, just to help out. Mistress would grieve.

House Keeper glanced at Hold Keeper. No matter how sharp his words were, Hold Keeper was always the more softhearted of the two. The results of coming here to help this time included losing an arm, and would definitely also include a scolding from the mistress when they returned home.

Hold Keeper clearly knew what was on House Keeper's mind. He turned his face away and merely called out, "Aren't we leaving yet? It wasn't worth it at all! I shouldn't have come in the first place."

House Keeper smiled slightly. Even when Hold Keeper was warning the others about their departure, he had to do it in such a difficult fashion. House Keeper leaped into the air, carrying his troublesome little brother, and extended his black bat wings. He shattered the window and left.

Xu Xikai watched the pair leave. He glanced at the person beside him; seeing no reaction to the two illusory familiars' departure, Xu Xikai paid the two no further attention and let them leave. Besides, with those two illusory familiars gone, things were easier to deal with.

That person was currently staring at Liu Yishi, who stared back. The latter opened his book. The pages flipped at an extraordinary speed, as if the book was declaring the fury of the one wielding it.

When Lu Yang had been tossed down, it had been right against the angel's body, whose stunning, ethereal face amazed him. Lu Yang was just a little troubled, as he could not figure out if this person's gender.

The angel looked down at him, beautiful eyes blinking. Hands gently stroked Lu Yang's body. Just as Lu Yang wanted to yell, "Help, I'm being molested!" the angel said, "I wish you a speedy recovery."

The moment those words were spoken, Lu Yang really did start to feel a lot better. Of course, he had not completely recovered, but his condition was now much improved from a moment ago when he had been on his last breath.

"... Who are you?"

Lu Yang really did find it strange. He had only been out of commission for a moment, yet the world had completely changed after he had woken up. *Let's not even touch on whether or not the enemy faction has acquired Resurrection. Our side has actually made healing spells a reality?*

"This is the angel!" Jiang Ziya rushed over and growled, "Were you trying to scare me to death? Do you know that your dad went crazy with your mishap? He could have destroyed the world! How could you pretend to be dead?"

Lu Yang smiled wryly. "I wasn't pretending. I really did get shot three times. One of the bullets hit my chest and left me unable to breathe."

*Shouldn't you be lifeless from a shot to the chest and not just breathless?* Jiang Ziya began to wonder whether his dear classmate truly needed to experience Resurrection or if he could be considered inhuman already.

Lu Yang quickly explained under his breath, "Slay helped me block the bullet, but the force from it slammed him right into my chest. I lost my breath and went into shock. If House Keeper hadn't come over, realized I wasn't dead, and performed CPR in time, I really might've kicked the bucket. Don't let my dad find out!"

Jiang Ziya's face darkened as he listened, hating himself for not insisting on seeing Lu Yang. *If House Keeper and Hold Keeper hadn't followed us into the library, there's no way this could have ended well.*

Lu Yang consoled him, "Don't blame yourself. Even my dad thought I was dead. If you had come over to take a look, the result would have been the same. House Keeper was able to figure out I wasn't dead because his character setting is that of a vampire. He told me that his sight allows him to see through skin and see blood flow!"

*Humans aren't even as useful as spirits.* Jiang Ziya felt a bit disheartened.

Lu Yang could tell from Jiang Ziya's reaction that he did not actually understand how ridiculous it was that Slay was able to block the bullet. Slay did not have a physical body. Lu Yang, as Slay's master, wasn't even able to touch the sword, yet this time, Slay was actually able to block a bullet for him?

*Haha, maybe I really can use Slay to slice watermelon now.*

Lu Yang looked at his father, who was currently locked in a standoff with the two people on the third floor. Without even accounting for what kind of methods the mysterious person might use, his father was already at a disadvantage since it was two against one. Lu Yang had thought that he would be immobile and thus, only be able to obediently lay down, unable to help even if he wanted to. Now, however, things had changed.

He pulled at the angel and begged, "Can you touch me again? No, if you're going to touch me anyway, touch me two or three times! That'll be even better! Touch me all over! You have my utmost gratitude!"

"..." Both Jiang Ziya and Lin Zhixiang could not bear to watch.

The angel blinked and obediently touched Lu Yang all over until Lin Zhixiang could not bear to let it go on any longer. She pulled the angel away from this strange gēge—or perhaps, he should be considered a strange dìdi. The angel, who had taken residence in Jian Zhi's body, appeared to be around the same age as the three university students.

Lu Yang stood up—with Jiang Ziya's help. He closed two fingers together. Slay rushed out and circled around Lu Yang's father.

"Call Slay back to protect yourself." Liu Yishi's attention was completely on the two people who were on the third floor. He did not even turn his head as he said, "This 'Xu Xikai' went to the hospital all for the sake of agitating you and ensuring that you would come to the university. He was most likely concealing his true strength at the time."

Xu Xikai merely stared at Liu Yishi coldly. He did not react to Liu Yishi's words.

Jiang Ziya said, "His appearance in this barrier dimension is a bit different from how he looks outside. When we were out there, he was a bit slimmer, and he didn't possess the... powerful aura... he currently has."

*That should be the right way of putting it?* He was just like House Keeper, who usually looked like a very gentle person, but whose aura was clearly different in his vampire state, even though he would still wear a gentle smile just like before.

*Ah, come to think of it, didn't this Xu Xikai jump straight to the third floor when he was fighting with House Keeper? These are tall floors! Could he be like House Keeper? Is he actually a spirit?*

Jiang Ziya asked Lu Yang under his breath, "If you weren't injured, could you jump to the third floor from the second?"

"I could."

*Fine, this is definitely a world I can't understand.* Jiang Ziya was speechless.

"But I would need to borrow power. I wouldn't be able to jump straight up just by flexing my knees like Xu Xikai did.

"But Xu Xikai shouldn't simply be a spirit." Lu Yang looked at the angel and wondered out loud, "Perhaps, his situation is somewhat similar to your boss's."

*What?* Jiang Ziya did not understand why his boss was being mentioned. *Is my boss really not human?*

At this time, Liu Yishi coldly said, "Neither Qing Wei Gong nor the Hunter clan will forget your scheme!"

Jiang Ziya quietly asked, "Your dad's side also has a clan?"

"Sure. All that's left of the entire clan is my dad and me."

"..." *How is that considered a clan?*

Lu Yang smiled. There really weren't a lot of people left in the Hunter clan, but the debts that others owed them weren't nullified just because there were few people left.

Why would a dignified exorcist family wither to only a father and son duo? That was because an exorcist's life was too dangerous and often required betting one's life. The debts that had accumulated from gambling one's life were truly astounding. Since all that was left of the Hunter clan was Lu Yang and Liu Yishi, it was a given that all of those debts were now owed to them.

That person finally began to speak again.

"Angering two factions at once is a bit troublesome for even me. Why don't we use a favor to cancel it out? What do you think?"

Liu Yishi growled angrily, "You're deluding yourself if you think you can use a favor to pay for my son's life. Dream on!"

The other person chuckled hoarsely. "You were the one who shot your son."

Liu Yishi froze. He could not help but glance at his son. The latter flexed his arms to show that he was fine and dandy. Car accidents, getting shot, nothing would keep him down. However, he forgot that his left arm was still fractured. It hurt so much that he collapsed against Jiang Ziya with tears in his eyes.

*...Sometimes, I really don't want to admit that he's my son. Why is his personality so similar to his mom's?*

Liu Yishi sneered, "Your scheme reached so far and brought death to so many. Yet now, you're trying to blame me for shooting?"

The mysterious person remained silent for a long while before saying, "Liu Yishi, my favor, you will have need of it."

Liu Yishi lowered his head in thought. He could already see the thirteenth bookcase through the space between the books on the twelfth bookcase. It was a black bookcase.

No one had ever said that the bookcase would not appear just because the angel had not called out the number twelve. However, with the angel missing from the equation, would Resurrection be able to take shape? Through the gap, Liu Yishi was able to see that there were a lot of books on the bookcase, but he could not tell what books there were exactly.

That person seemed to be a little impatient and said, "Liu Yishi, there's no need for you to keep bluffing. You are currently in my territory, and your son is also heavily injured. If you fight on your own, I don't think you can even defeat Xu Xikai. Or, do you plan for your injured son to fight?"

Liu Yishi pursed his lips. If this weren't the case, he would have already started fighting. *How could I let the enemy who almost killed my son go!*



They had so many people on their side. Jiang Ziya, Lin Zhixiang, and even that “angel,” all possessed rare abilities, yet the only person who could really fight was Lu Yang. Liu Yishi himself could only really be considered half a fighter. *How I wish my wife were here!*

Liu Yishi suspected that the other person would have tried to detain all of them, if it weren’t for Slay’s threatening presence even in spite of Lu Yang’s injury. Powerful people with rare abilities like them were not easy to find.

“As long as you promise me you won’t bother my son again, then we can stop here for today.”

“Why should I accept your invitation? Will you let me go if I accept?” There was no way Liu Yishi would let the other go. So many lives had been lost. Honest practitioners all had a responsibility to lend a hand in eliminating evil.

Xu Xikai gave a quiet reminder. “It’s almost dawn.”

That person laughed and said, “This barrier dimension can only last until dawn, but your son and that sword probably cannot even last until then. As a father, shouldn’t you know just how much your son loves to put on a brave face?”

Liu Yishi jolted and turned to find his son.

“Dad, pay more attention to the enemy! Don’t get distracted and look back!”

Lu Yang's face was paler than usual, but he had been in a traffic accident and also gotten shot afterwards. His complexion was not bad, all things considered, and Slay looked fine.

Jiang Ziya reached his hand out to touch Slay.

His mere touch sent both Lu Yang and the sword careening. Liu Yishi's son collapsed completely against Jiang Ziya's body, scaring Jiang Ziya so much that he quickly grabbed Lu Yang tightly, afraid that the other person would slip and worsen his injuries.

As for Slay, the sword had completely disappeared after Lu Yang had been disturbed.

Seeing that, Liu Yishi turned back and sent out a strong burst of holy light. He did not know the identity of the mysterious person and was uncertain whether he could defeat them, so he sent his greeting right at Xu Xikai instead. He could not collect the debts owed for the pain his son had suffered, but he would at least collect the interest!

Xu Xikai gasped painfully.

Interest collected, Liu Yishi, who wisely understood their situation, did not dare to dally any longer. He grabbed Jiang Ziya, ascertaining that the latter had a firm hold on his son, and then pulled at Lin Zhixiang, who grabbed the angel. They began to flee.

Though they had said it was almost dawn, the sky outside the stained glass was pitch black. Occasionally, a strange howling sound came from outside, the sound of wind shrieking abnormally loudly.

The group all felt that something was wrong. The floor beneath their feet actually began to soften. When they were almost at the door, a dozen or so charred hands shot out from the walls around them. Lin Zhixiang had not experienced this plight before and screamed in fear, almost crumpling to the floor. She had originally been pulling the angel along while running. Now, it was the angel who was holding her up.

“In the name of the Lord, I command all of you to retreat!”

Holy light forced the hands back. Liu Yishi shouted at everyone, “Quickly go!”

After exiting through the door, Jiang Ziya turned around, wanting to make sure that Liu Yishi, the last person, had come out. Instead, through the door that they had yet to close, he saw the hallway transform back into whirling faces—only this time, the people climbed out of the walls...

Liu Yishi was already out the door, yet behind him were countless hands about to rush out the door...

Jiang Ziya pushed Lu Yang into Lin Zhixiang’s hands, paying no heed to how the girl could not support Lu Yang’s weight. They fell together. Luckily, Lin Zhixiang knew Lu Yang was heavily injured and could not afford to fall, so she used herself to cushion his fall. A few tears slipped out of her eyes from the impact.

As Jiang Ziya pushed against one door panel, he did not forget to shout, “Angel, come quickly and help close the door!”

The angel quickly copied Jiang Ziya's actions and went to push against the other door panel, but a dozen or so hands and faces had already squeezed out from between them. The door could not be closed at all.

Liu Yishi slammed his Bible directly down on the hands and faces that had squirreled out from door, instantly turning them to dust, though more hands and faces rushed out from behind. Fortunately, they did not make it to the door before Jiang Ziya and the angel, straining hard, pushed the door closed.

However, this was not the end yet. A bang sounded against the door, opening the door by a crack. Through it, Jiang Ziya could see a charred face plastered against the inside of the door. The eyes opened, staring right at Jiang Ziya, a sharp contrast between the charred black skin and the white eyes. If these eyes had been on a regular person, they would definitely be considered big and bright, but on a corpse's so thoroughly charred face, the eyes were creepily out of place.

With a "bang," someone rammed into the door, forcibly pushing the door shut. Following that, more people pushed against it.

Jiang Ziya returned to his senses and discovered that the first person who had rammed into the door was Hu Lican, followed by the other policemen.

Meanwhile, Liu Yishi used the Bible to put pressure on the door, but they could still hear endless banging on the other side of it. The sound

was so loud that they worried if this door would crumble at any moment due to the pressure put on it from both sides.

Finally, the first light of dawn reached the door, and the thunderous door banging sounds instantly disappeared. The people who were doing everything they could to push against the door were not able to respond at first. When they discovered the silence, they did not dare to leave the door right away, right up until Liu Yishi said, "It's fine." Then, they finally dared to stop pushing against the door.

The group of them stared at each other, all breathing heavily.

"A-are you all okay?"

Hu Lican was dumbfounded. He could not believe the sight he had just seen. Those charred things had almost rushed out! What if they had succeeded? He did not dare to imagine it. Better not ask. It felt super scary!

Liu Yishi anxiously said, "Call an ambulance. My son got shot."

"What?"

Hu Lican looked around. Only then did he see Lu Yang, who was being held by Lin Zhixiang. Although he was wearing a jacket, his pants were those of a hospital patient's white attire, and were no longer white but dyed red!

He quickly called for an ambulance.

Liu Yishi went over to take stock of his son's injuries. Seeing that Lu Yang's breathing was still strong, he relaxed, though he felt upset at the same time. He had actually believed that the angel's healing ability would mean that his son would be mostly fine, but he had forgotten that the angel's ability had only just developed because of the two Bibles' clash. How strong could it be?

"How am I supposed to report this..."

Hu Lican's mind was mush by this point, so much that he could only fret, "Shit, I don't even know where to start making up stuff for this report."

Jiang Ziya turned his head to look at the library. Indeed, he had not remembered wrong. The library had automatic glass doors, not heavy wooden ones. Looking in from outside, one could see an entire row of automatic card machines that students had to swipe their student IDs in to pass through.

They stared at the glass doors and the entire row of card machines, speechless.

Liu Yishi patted Hu Lican, crumpled expression and all, and said, "I will ask Qing Wei Gong to pay a visit. Tonight's hypnosis master was too powerful. I was unable to deal with them and allowed all of you to fall into collective hysteria, which caused many hallucinations."

They all stared at him speechlessly. *Who are you trying to trick? The arms we used to push the door are still sore!*

Liu Yishi was not too worried. Right now, these people still remembered clearly, but after going home and having a good sleep, they would forget most of what had happened. With his explanation, the events would soon turn into a supernatural experience that had just been a bit freaky.

The light of dawn shone upon the glass door. From within the glare, Jiang Ziya could somewhat make out the sight reflected in the glass.

Countless charred corpses climbed out from the four walls, stacking on top of each other until they formed a gigantic, wobbling pile of corpses.

A hand suddenly slammed against the glass door, but only half of it was charred black, while the other half was a normal skin color. The junction between the two colors had peeling skin, curled up from the burns.

The half charred face plastered itself against the glass and smiled slightly at him. On that person's nose perched small, golden-framed round glasses that were half-crooked.

Jiang Ziya's eyes widened. He stared at how the charred lips moved and formed words.

### ***Was the club activity fun?***



Lu Yang lay in the hospital with a fractured left arm, two broken ribs, and a hole in both his thigh and stomach. Thankfully, none of his vitals

had been hit, and for some reason, he hadn't lost a lot of blood. His injuries had even begun to heal already, making the doctors mutter in amazement, attributing the recovery to the patient's good workout habits. His body's condition was excellent!

His body being in excellent condition was true. As for working out, Jiang Ziya had never seen Lu Yang do such a thing—*wait, slaying demons all the time is probably a lot more exhausting than working out, right?*

A knock sounded on the door to the hospital room. Jiang Ziya shoved an apple slice into Lu Yang's mouth and called at the same time, "Come in."

Yu Shu walked in with a scowl. She tossed her two bags at the bed and the bedside, making both the patient and the person looking after the patient cry out in pain. In them were two small yellow watermelons!

However, neither person who had gotten bludgeoned dared to say anything about it, and even thanked her for visiting while mentioning that there was no need for her to visit next time.

Yu Shu snorted. "I'd rather you say, 'There's no need for you to help next time.' How about that?"

The two backtracked, welcoming her visit and her watermelon throwing.



Lu Yang emphasized again, "Don't worry, Qing Wei Gong will definitely pay back the debts we owe you."

Yu Shu growled, "You guys owe me so much that your debts would fill this room! What use do I have for them? Should I buy watermelon with them?"

"If you're willing to exchange a debt for watermelon, I am very willing..."

"To hell with that! Did you know, my Hold Keeper says that he feels that being an exorcist is very interesting, so he wants to learn how to be an exorcist? How am I supposed to respond to that?"

"... I'll ask my dad to teach him."

Lu Yang thought it over. A spirit learning how to be an exorcist was quite strange—after all, spirits of the east and demons of the west weren't all that different in essence, so a spirit learning how to exorcise demons was pretty much learning how to exorcise its own species...

However, Hold Keeper really was quite effective this time. *Letting him learn how to exorcise demons doesn't seem like a bad thing!*

Yu Shu coldly said, "Are you certain that your dad won't conveniently 'exorcise' my Hold Keeper while teaching him?"

"He won't," Lu Yang promised. "Hold Keeper saved me. My dad wouldn't harm someone who helped me out."

*I think?* Although Lu Yang felt it could be a little dangerous, he also felt that he would at most just have to keep an eye on things during lessons. If mere lessons could repay some of the debt, that would be a good thing.

Yu Shu snatched the apple slices Jiang Ziya had prepared, chewing as she said, "House Keeper said that 'Xu Xikai' should be something similar to him. The only difference is that one is beautified and the other isn't."

"... Beautified? What the devil?"

"Vampires actually. House Keeper is the handsome type of vampire from the fantasies of a modern girl."

The two of them fell silent. *Who do you mean by "girl?"*

"Xu Xikai is closer to the vampires of actual countryside legends, or even something like a living corpse."

After hearing that, Lu Yang, who often researched this sort of thing, immediately indicated his understanding. Legends did indeed change along with the era.

'So! Your mysterious person should be past a certain age, since his impression of vampires isn't from recent movies. You have to know, the earliest movies that started this trend of handsome vampires have already been around for twenty-five years or so. Since that person did

not get influenced by movies even twenty-five years ago, they must be at least fifty years old.”

“Amazing!” Jiang Ziya praised.

“You guys owe me another favor.” Yu Shu chewed on the apple and said, “I’ll use it to offset Hold Keeper’s tuition for learning exorcism. I’m heading home to continue being a shut-in. I beg the two of you to stop getting hurt so much. It’s annoying having to leave my apartment to visit so often.”

They rolled their eyes. *Can you make your words any unluckier than that?*

“Bye!”

Yu Shu left with the bag of apples.

Jiang Ziya looked at the yellow watermelon, suddenly realizing a dilemma. His fruit knife was so small, so how was he supposed to cut the watermelon? His apples had gotten taken away too. He rubbed the back of his head in frustration and asked, “Lu Yang, can your Slay slice watermelon?”

“... Even if he could, do you want to eat watermelon sliced up by a sword that has dispatched spirits, eliminated demons, and chopped up corpses?”

“Um, forget it.” Jiang Ziya thought of the charred corpses from last time and indicated that he would not be able to stomach it. He would have to take the watermelon home to cut and bring back.

Before he could do that, the second wave of visitors came to knock on the door.

Lin Zhixiang stuck her head in and asked in a small voice, “Hello, I brought porridge...”

Lu Yang and Jiang Ziya both welcomed her. When the door opened, it wasn’t just Lin Zhixiang who stood there. The angel was following her.

The two of them ate porridge while listening to Lin Zhixiang’s worries.

“I want to give the angel a name. Calling them “angel” like this is strange. They say they want to have the last name Jian and have no other requests, but...” Lin Zhixiang said, troubled, “They say they’re not a boy or a girl. They have no gender.”

Jiang Ziya thought it over and said, “Then, why don’t we call them Jian Zhi, using the ‘zhi’ from ‘zhēnzhi,’ sincerity. That should be a unisex name.”<sup>1</sup>

The angel’s eyes welled up. They nodded to show that they liked this name.

“They want to return and live with Jian Zhi’s grandma. Is that okay?”

Lu Yang felt that to be a bit difficult. "How old is the grandma? Is there no one else in the family?"

"Almost seventy. Her eyes aren't very good. She has blurry eyesight both near and far. Jian Zhi's parents were divorced; he had basically no contact with his father, and his mother is deceased. At home, there was usually only his grandma and a few small dogs."

Lu Yang nodded and said, "A background like that should be fine."

"Can I be Grandma's Jian Zhi?" Jian Zhi asked with shining eyes.

Jiang Ziya felt that was a big fat lie! *With a face like yours, it's difficult to even claim that you're Taiwanese. You're more like an international superstar instead.*

Jiang Ziya, who had experience with raising a spirit, said, "First, you need to adjust your appearance. Turn your hair black—"

"Black!" Lin Zhixiang immediately protested, "Black hair doesn't suit their appearance!"

"Their appearance can be adjusted..."

"If everything is adjusted, then is Jian Zhi still Jian Zhi?"

*Isn't my Xiao Xue still Xiao Xue after her entire appearance got changed?*

Lin Zhixiang twisted her head and told Jian Zhi, "Don't let any guys mess with your hair. First, change the color to chestnut brown. Make sure your face is less narrow. Make it a little wider, and your facial features less pronounced. You look too much like a foreigner like this... Oh right, do you want to be a boy or a girl?"

Jiang Ziya was speechless. They had been adjusting Jian Zhi's face for half an hour already without even deciding on a gender, the most important thing for this.

Lu Yang felt that Jian Zhi's appearance wasn't important. A logical identity was more important. He suggested, "Why don't I have my dad take both of you two 'people' in? My dad can easily whip up an overseas identity for you. Besides, our clan is severely in need of people."

"I can't. I'm the bane of all..."

Before Lin Zhixiang could even finish saying anything, two people both rolled their eyes at her in response. She dropped what she was about to say. After the incident, Lu Yang had told her in detail how this existence's bane thing had come about. She only half believed it, one of her doubts being why his claims were different now.

"After something so huge happened, you still don't believe me when I say that you aren't existence's bane. Don't even bring up things from before all this happened. At that time, I could only take it slow and have you train to undo the curse upon yourself."

Lin Zhixiang bit her lower lip and shook her head as she said, "No, I can't change my last name. I don't want to cut off relations with my brother either. If I'm not existence's bane, then can I return and find my brother? I won't cause him to die?"

"Well, if you don't believe that nothing will happen, then something might still happen..."

"Then, what do I have to do for things to be all right?" Lin Zhixiang's eyes grew wet. "I miss him so much. I want to see Gēge's child, but I'm so afraid!"

Jian Zhi clumsily patted Lin Zhixiang's back. In the past, whenever the late Jian Zhi was sad, Jian Zhi the angel always comforted him this way. Even though the deceased Jian Zhi had not been able to see the angel, he always cheered up after a pat on the back.

"We'll just have to visit your brother with you."

Jiang Ziya glanced at Lu Yang and said as if it were a matter of fact, "Lu Yang's sword is known as Slay. Slay has dispatched millions of spirits since ancient times. There is no other sword like Slay out there, with such an intense, powerful aura. Your tiny aura of misfortune is nothing under Slay's dominion. With Slay around, you won't run into any problems meeting your brother!"

"Really?" Lin Zhixiang's joy brightened her face. She was so happy she nearly jumped up. "Th-then, can I trouble the two of you to come with me to my brother's for dinner? I-It's on me! Whatever you want to eat! Please!"

Lu Yang chuckled and said, "Sure, just tell me when beforehand."

Lin Zhixiang immediately went off to contact her brother and sister-in-law. Her elation could be heard even in her speech. She also turned to ask Jian Zhi if they wanted to come with her.

"Where did you learn how to bullshit like that?"

After Lin Zhixiang happily told them that she would make fish soup again for them tomorrow and left, Lu Yang felt a bit dejected. He spent so long telling nothing but the truth, yet Lin Zhixiang still considered herself to be existence's bane, while Jiang Ziya had randomly spouted some nonsense, and she believed him right off the bat!

*Since ancient times? Slay only appeared when I was around ten, okay? Even if I cut down one spirit per day, that still wouldn't add up to a million even now!*

"From Hold Keeper. A few days ago, the Charlatan Hold Keeper snuck out to a church to enlighten believers while Yu Shu was busy working on her manuscript. He was invited onstage to preach right then and there. He raised a bunch of donations that he took home and claimed he would use to buy the newest and best arm. In response, Yu Shu was deathly angry, took his limbs off, scrubbed him clean, and hung him outside the door to dry. I nearly got scared to death when I returned home. During those few days, every day when I got home, I'd stand by the door and listen to the limbless Hold Keeper talk about what he did behind Yu Shu's back."



“...”

Lu Yang’s mouth twitched. He decided to lie down.

*Haha, other people’s days are a barrel of monkeys, but our days are a barrel of lies and illusions!*



“Ah Shi, come here.”

In the middle of the night, Master Ah Lu was still sitting at the entrance to the temple. A tea cup was placed on the table, but the teapot was empty. No tea had been steeped. A closer look revealed a long crack from the rim of the tea cup all the way to the bottom.

“Come here. Clarify for me why you decided to do that.”

*As expected, I couldn’t keep this from Yuèfù.* Liu Yishi winced.

He said in a quiet voice, “When that person made me see things, I suddenly understood the true relationship between Lu Yang and Slay. Under the illumination of my book, I don’t believe that it was a misperception. Xiao Yang will be in danger in the future, grave danger!”

Liu Yishi did not dare to clearly put it into words, afraid that voicing it out loud would make it come true. Even now, thinking of the countless, cut up pieces of his son’s corpse, Liu Yishi still felt pain stabbing at his heart.

Master Ah Lu did not ask him more about what he meant either. He only scolded him with a solemn face, "So you let selfishness win and purposely didn't give it your all to put a stop to things? You really believe in Resurrection? Livin' in the present is the most important! Give up dreamin' of Resurrection!"

Liu Yishi fell silent. Truth to be told, he did not know if he actually believed in Resurrection or not. However, when that person hinted that Liu Yishi may have need of the book in the future, Liu Yishi could not help the wild fancy that struck him.

"Lu Le and I can give everything to guarantee Xiao Yang's safety, but..."

*But if we really can't protect him, at least we would still have a bit of hope.* Otherwise, Liu Yishi could not guarantee that he would not create a huge incident like that person had, all for the sake of a book that may or may not work.

Master Ah Lu frowned and said, "Don't go worryin' too much. Lao Jun favors Lu Yang. He will take care of him."

Hearing that, Liu Yishi had the urge to light incense and pray.

*Lord, please forgive me...*

Master Ah Lu smiled. "They're all gods. Worship them or not, there's no difference.

"Hurry off to sleep. Not gettin' enough sleep will make your mind stray!"

"I will..."

After watching his son-in-law return to his room to sleep, Master Ah Lu got up and walked in front of the statue of Taishang Lao Jun in the temple.

He picked up well-loved but slightly faded red poe pieces, yet stalled on tossing them. He merely held them in his hand as he pondered for a long while. Then, he lifted his head to look at the statue of Taishang Lao Jun. In the end, he dropped his hand.

[In the Name of God, Part Two] End

## Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> **"Jian Zhi":** The late Jian Zhi and Jian Zhi the angel have names that are pronounced exactly the same but use different characters in Chinese. The late Jian Zhi's name uses the characters 簡志, with 志 meaning aspiration or ambition, while the angel's name is now Jian Zhi, using the characters 簡摯, with 摯 coming from the phrase 真摯 (zhēnzhì), which means sincerity. 志 is generally used in names for guys, while 摯 is more neutral.

## Epilogue: Character Introductions

### Afterword

While doing research, I always found this idea interesting: a regular non-religious person, such as me, comes by most of their religious knowledge through movies, comics, and novels. However, if you look deeper, you would plainly discover that ninety-nine percent of these portrayals are wrong. Yes, very wrong! Don't doubt it.

Yet, although a misleading concept may arise due to movies, it can become more real than the truth. A hundred years later, will it end up coming true and thus get written into proper religious texts?

I feel like it's very possible!

Real and false, from an illusion, to a lie, to a truth. Everything is based on whether you believe in it or not. A person's belief can make the impossible possible. This idea is the basis for this series, *Illusions, Lies, Truth*.

Although I had only wanted to write a ghost story in the beginning, when I fleshed the story out properly, the supernatural story somehow turned into Yu Wo's nonsensical novel genre again.

This is a common problem for an author who thinks too much—always wanting to give an explanation for many things, thus making a ghost story not a ghost story anymore...

I hope everyone enjoys *Illusions, Lies, Truth*, a series that doesn't resemble a ghost story, yet is occasionally a bit scary.

By Yu Wo



## **Character Introductions**



## **Xu Xikai**

### **[Biography]**

The president of the Supernatural Phenomena Studies Society. He is a tall, slim, and pale man. He put the club's investigation of the school's seven wonders into motion. As a result, he became the top suspect.

Most loved: Shīfu

Most hated: Shīfu

Love and hate: Shīfu

Specialized weapon: Barrier dimension

### **[Overview of Stats]**

Battle Stat: 80

Physique Stat: 90

Support Stat: 60



劉易士



## **Liu Yishi**

### **[Biography]**

Lu Yang's father. He is an exorcist of the Holy See and possesses a guardian spirit taking the form of the Bible. He and his wife take on missions overseas all year long.

Most loved: Wife and son

Most hated: Anyone who dares to harm his family

Love and hate: Yuèfù

Specialized weapon: Bible

### **[Overview of Stats]**

Battle Stat: 70

Physique Stat: 50

Support Stat: 80



管處

## **Hold Keeper**

### **[Biography]**

An illusory familiar created by Yu Shu who possesses a handsome appearance with golden hair and blue eyes. He enjoys wearing gorgeous priest robes. His hobbies include arguing with and making trouble for House Keeper.

Most loved: House Keeper

Most hated: Black coffee

Love and hate: Yu Shu

Specialized weapon: Himself

### **[Overview of Stats]**

Battle Stat: 60

Physique Stat: 80

Support Stat: 90