



The Depths of the Unseen

A Full English translation is available.

冥冥之衷

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Siaochen's life takes a surreal turn when he accidentally becomes the groom to a ghost who died three hundred years ago. The Pai family, desperate to reverse its declining fortune, believes that marrying off their long-dead "daughter" will restore prosperity. But the plan is made even more absurd by a simple mistake: Pai Ch'ing was never a woman at all.

What follows is an absorbing and warm story about a marriage between two very different men. Siaochen is a kind-hearted college sophomore training to become a traditional opera performer. Pai Ch'ing, in contrast, is an aristocratic snob who must learn how to adapt to the modern world.

Hoping for a painless divorce, the two are forced into an unlikely partnership. They take on part-time work for the underworld, capturing wayward spirits and uncovering the deeply buried troubles of their clients. As they face case after case together, they gradually lower their guard, open their hearts, and find themselves drawn closer—forming a bond that neither of them saw coming.



Author **RANDA**

RANDA adapted the webtoon *The Secret of the Streamer* from a novel serialized on MOJOIN. She is the creator of the original series *The Depths of the Unseen*, currently serialized on Creative Comic Collection Chasing Comics.

He Picked Up a Red Envelope and Married a Three-Hundred-Year-Old Soul: A BL Comic Centered on Companionship Across Centuries

by Wen-Chien Hsu

In traditional Chinese folk belief, women who die unmarried cannot enter the ancestral hall, where ancestral tablets are kept and the living come to pay their respects. These women are considered “masterless souls”—unable to rest in peace and potentially bringing misfortune to their birth families, or even haunting the living.

As a result, when an unmarried woman dies young, her relatives may arrange a “ghost marriage” to pair her with a partner. This gives her a “proper status” and is believed to help keep the family’s fortune steady. While such customs may have originated as a way to appease both the dead and the living, they also reveal the constraints placed on women’s fate, along with a deep-seated fear of death and disorder.

The manga *The Depths of the Unseen* emerges from precisely this

fraught cultural background. The story begins when the male protagonist, Siao Chen, inadvertently picks up a red envelope deliberately placed on the ground by the Pai family at his sister’s wedding. Through this mishap, he becomes entangled in a ghost marriage ceremony, bound as “husband and wife” to the other protagonist: Pai Ch’ing, who died three hundred years ago.

The Pai family has experienced a downturn in fortune and believes that arranging Pai Ch’ing’s marriage will reverse their decline. This has led them to this twisted scheme. The ghost marriage not only exposes the cruel nature of superstition but also highlights the cold logic of families. There is also an absurd twist: the Pai family descendants have misread Pai Ch’ing’s name. He is actually male, not female. In truth, the entire ritual is unnecessary. But only Siao Chen can see

the ghost, so only he realizes the mistake.

Siao Chen is a university student majoring in traditional opera performance. Cheerful and kind-hearted, he approaches opera with passion and respect. At first, Pai Ch’ing looks down on Siao Chen’s career choice. In his era, opera performers were poor and held low social status. But through their daily interactions, he gradually comes to respect Siao Chen.

Together, they face one obstacle after another. One major case involves an opera student whose soul has separated from his body. He is in a coma, having suffered a severe leg injury in a car accident that ended his stage career. Consumed by resentment and self-loathing, unable to accept that he may never perform again, his soul refuses to return. In the end, with Siao Chen and Pai Ch’ing’s persistence and support, he wakes up. He accepts that he may never return to the stage as an opera performer, but he can still stay connected to the art in other ways.

Through these incidents spanning the realms of yin and yang, Pai Ch’ing, dead for three hundred years, gradually learns how to be a person in modern society. He comes to understand technology, interpersonal relationships, and the flow of emotions; he also confronts his own history of being misunderstood, sacrificed, and forgotten.

On the surface, *The Depths of the Unseen* is a BL comic that uses ghost marriage as its catalyst. Yet emotionally, it leans closer to the spiritual

companionship and intimate resonance often found in yuri narratives. Rather than emphasizing physical attraction or romantic tension, the story centers on understanding, support, and mutual growth between two lonely souls. What emerges is a form of companionship that transcends gender, life and death, and even time itself.

On a deeper level, the work uses cases involving both humans and ghosts to reflect universal vulnerabilities and obsessions. It explores the fear of losing one’s identity, the grief of dreams cut short, and the helplessness of never being able to return to one’s former self. Whether they are living people or souls lingering in this world, everyone must eventually confront their own limitations and questions of self-worth.

In a webtoon market dominated by action-packed battles and romances, *The Depths of the Unseen* centers on folk beliefs, opera culture, and existential dilemmas. It depicts the loneliness, loss, and growth shared by humans and ghosts alike. Emotionally and intellectually rich, this story stakes out a remarkable route in the webtoon world, paving a new path for genre comics.

Wen-Chien Hsu possesses a free-spirited soul. She has worked at LGBTQ+ organizations, the 113 Domestic Violence Hotline, and works as an editor of Books from Taiwan 2.0. She is dedicated to bringing Taiwanese comics and picture books to a global audience.



Due to webtoon size limitations, we recommend scanning the QR code to read a sample on the Books from Taiwan website.



BIG SIS WHAT'S THIS

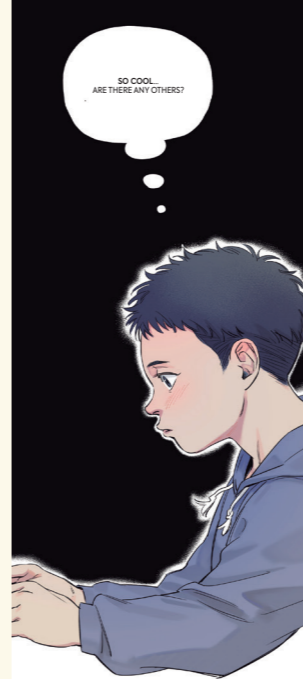
I WANT TO WATCH TOO.



I WANT TO WATCH TOO.



BUT HAVE TO WRITE AN ESSAY WHILE I WATCH. TALK ABOUT YOUR LINE. DO YOU CAN WATCH ON YOUR OWN.



SO COOL. ARE THERE ANY OTHERS?



ACROBATIC MOVING



WEAPON TWO HANDED USE



FACE PAINTING FOR SHANG XIU



TRAVELING STEPS

...SIAOCHEN.

IT'S TIME TO GO HOME...

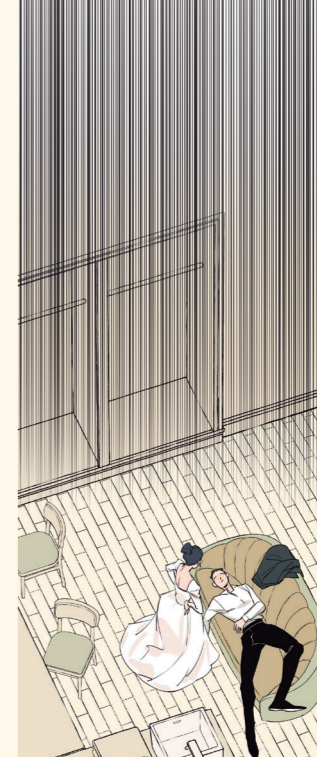
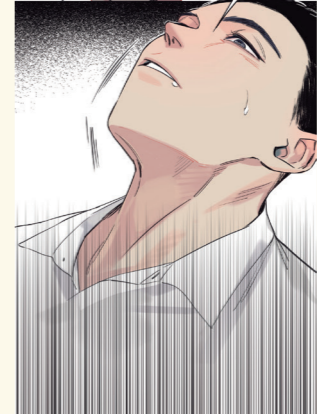
THE LIBRARY'S CLOSING.

...HEY!

CHI SIAOCHEN!



WAKE UP! HURRY AND GET UP!

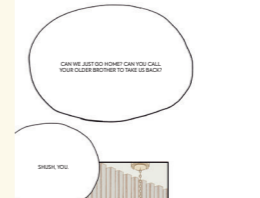
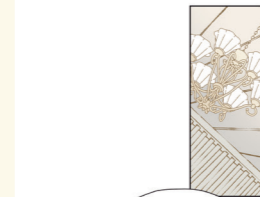
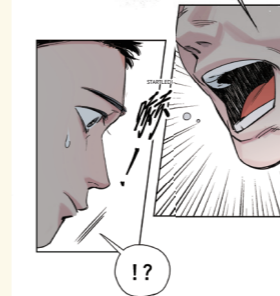
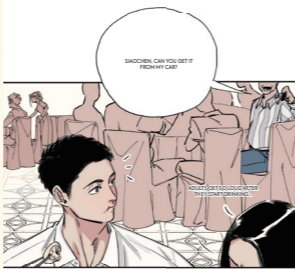
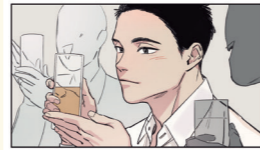
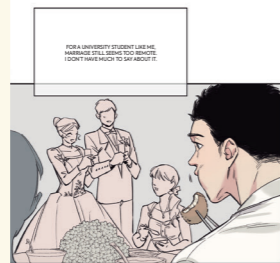
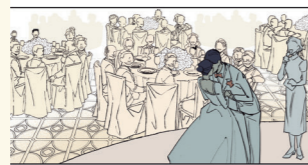
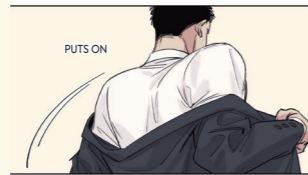
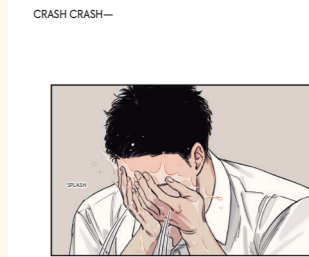


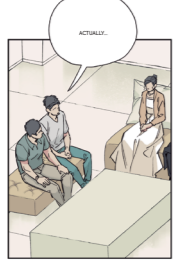
THE DEPTHS OF THE UNSEEN

RANDA



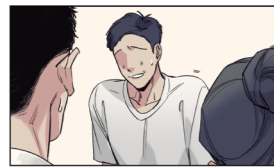
RANDA





ACTUALLY...

...GHOST MARRIAGES ARENT CONSIDERED VALID ACCORDING TO THE LAWS SO IT WOULD HAVE NO EFFECT ON HER LEGAL LIFE.



WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU WAS PROBABLY A BIG BIRD YOU COULD CONSIDER IT AS HELPING SOMEONE OUT.



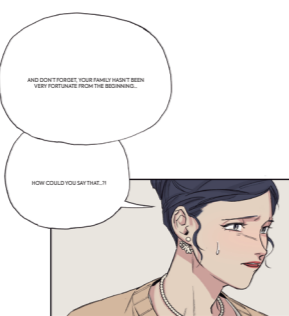
WATCH IT, HE ISN'T SHODDEN & STILL YOUNG, SO YOU THINK YOU CAN BULLY HIM?
OF COURSE NOT, WE WANT TO GET HIS BELLYS AT LAST, THAT'S ALL.
CUT THE CHAIR!
BE QUIET!



SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAPPENING ON A WEDDING DAY IS VERY UNUSUAL!
I'M SCARED!
LI DONG LIN DON'T SPEAK "BANNED".
NOW COULD YOU BE SO QUIET?



AND YOU TALKED ABOUT FEELINGS...IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE! YOU'RE MARRIED AND YOU STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND THE...
WHAT IS BECAUSE YOU'VE OFFENDED THE DECEASED, SOMETHING HAPPENED TO YOUR MARRIAGE FINALLY! WHOSE FAULT WILL THAT BE?



AND DON'T FORGET, YOUR FAMILY HADN'T BEEN VERY FORTUNATE FROM THE BEGINNING...
HOW COULD YOU SAY THAT..!



I HADN'T MET GREAT UNCLE WOULD BE THE HARDEST TO DEAL WITH.



ON THE BRIGHT SIDE, A FLOOT PREETS, COMING TO VISIT, THOSE WHOSE WIVES CAN ELEG AND PROTECT YOU ALL AT LEAST FOR THE LIFETIME.
BROTHER MAKES A GOOD POINT.



IT'S LIKE THE MOST SURREPTITIOUS DRAMAING WALL OF TIBETAN ARE STANDING IN THIS ROOM RIGHT NOW!



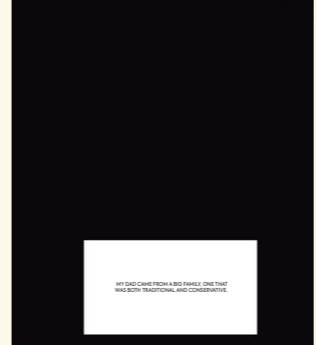
AK, I SPOKE CHINESE INTO WEDDING.



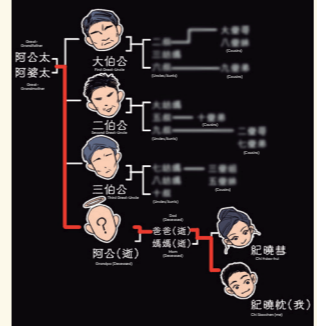
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
HONESTLY, IT'S FINE WITH ME.



I'LL MARRY THE GHOST, IT'S FINE.



MY DAD CAME FROM A BIG FAMILY, ONE THAT WAS BORN THROUGHOUT AND CONCEPTS.



MY GRANDPA WAS THE YOUNGEST OF HIS FAMILY, BUT WASN'T EXPECT TO REGRESS!

I HEARD THAT MY PARENTS HADN'T BEEN MARRIED VERY LONG BEFORE HE DIED.



THEN, WHEN I WALKED MY PARENTS PASSED AWAY IN AN ACCIDENT.



SOME OF THE ELDERLY BELIEVE TO FEEL THAT THERE WAS SOMETHING WRONG WITH OUR BRANCH OF THE FAMILY.



I HAD YOU GOING TO UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M IN THIS TERRIBLE SITUATION?



IT WASN'T RIGHT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT FAMILY AFFAIRS, LATER ON, I WAS ACCEPTED INTO A PROFESSIONAL LATE ACADEMY AND NOW I'M WELL.

ONLY AFTER DEW OF GOD BEGINS TO REALISE THE PRESSURES SHE FACED.

THAT PAI OUT IS THE WORST!



CHI HSIANG-HO (DE)



WHO WOULD SOMEONE COME ALL THE WAY TO A WEDDING VENUE TO HELP A GHOST MARRIAGE RED ENVELOPE?

ACTUALLY I THINK IT'S A PRETTY SMART IDEA.

YOU'RE JUST TOO DUMB.

DAILY STRETCHES!



BUT SERIOUSLY...

ARE YOU REALLY OKAY WITH THIS?



IF REALLY MAKES NO DIFFERENCE TO ME.

BEHIND THE LUNAR NEW YEAR, WE'LL GET HAVE ONE MORE HORIZONTAL TABLET ON THE BURNER, ALSO TO BE RESPECTFUL TO ALL LONG-ADULT MAKES THE ELDERLY HAPPY!