

Tomb Raid

One day, in the village, two men were murmuring.

“Hey! Have you heard about the hearsay of the cemetery nearby?” One of the men whispered. “It seems that someone born with a silver spoon was buried there latterly. And someone has disclosed that a great deal of funerary goods was also buried by the dead's family.”

“For real!?” The other man replied. “But indeed, I do have heard quite a number of rumours that people buried there are all the wealth, which means there should be a lot of extravagant articles. Well, if I can get them all, I can probably enjoy a lifetime, instead of doing this kind of hard farm work.” forcibly hoed the farmland with the hoe holding in his hand, said the man.

Although this conversation was not that loud in volume, every single word was overheard by Will, who was returning home after a whole day of farm work when walking past the village. Will, eyes twinkling, started to imagine pictures of himself being overwhelmed by money and jewels. “If I really got them all, I will definitely be prosperous. These kinds of exhausting farm work? They are no longer for me!” Thinking of this, his eyes narrowed into a line, a smile played round his lips unconsciously. But obviously, Will, who was running home rashly while dreaming of making a fortune, did not hear the second half of the conversation.

“But the atmosphere near the cemetery is really weird. I once heard that a young boy had been there before, but then he disappeared directly.”

That night, when night fell, with all the villagers already falling asleep, two men grasping for wealth, Will, with his friend, Jimmy, sneaked through the village's entrance and tiptoed into the forest next by, heading to the legendary graveyard.

“It's... it's too dark, Will. Wh... why don't we go there tomorrow. It's.. it's too late right now. Let's just... just head back.” Jimmy stammered, with his hand holding the torch shaking uncontrollably. “No! We must be there tonight! If the jewellery and gold wares were taken away by others, I'm going to miss this great opportunity to flourish! So just go ahead!” Will insisted.

But as they were walking on the barely visible black trails snaking through the undergrowth, the light faded as they went deeper and deeper, turning the surroundings into an absolute dark. Gusts of wind started to blow, slipping through leaves, as if countless people whimpering behind clumps of bushes. Sounds of cracking undergrowth were produced with each step they took, seeming extremely uncanny and hair-raising in the dark.

“Wi... Will, let's return, I... It's too... too dark and creepy here. Let's... let's just return. I don't... don't want to be in here anymore.” Jimmy pleaded with his voice shaking. “No... no way, we are almost there, just a few minutes to go.” Blinded by wealth, even he himself was already sweating and his legs turning into jelly, Will still insisted moving on. “Will, we...” “Just go, we can't miss this precious chance.”

As they continued the trip, a sharp shadow, darker than the deepest forest flashed through Will's sight, then vanished. Meanwhile, the surrounding wind started to get stronger unusually. Swish, swoosh, swish, swoosh... Little pattering of sounds emerged suddenly with a sense of eeriness.

“Jimmy! Jimmy? Can you hear that sound! Jimmy? Jimmy?” Will asked nervously, with his hand grasping the torch involuntarily. But what responded to him was the swishing sound of the wind.

Just when Will decided to turn around to look for Jimmy, the door of the cemetery accompanied by the light of the torch fell into his field of vision. His eyes lit up instantly, his brain turned blank, and his feet started walking unconsciously towards the entrance of the cemetery.

The cemetery was surrounded by abnormal and unknown smoke, which made the cemetery foggy. Behind the fence surrounded, there were only a few streetlamps that flickered faintly. The path leading to the mausoleums was lined with weed and withered flowers. The air was diffused with an unpleasant smell.

While Will was walking on the path, lined with crumbling saints and baby-faced cherubs lined along it, he felt unusual, like someone was looking at him, those cherubs, and following him. Trying to get rid of the feeling that something was following close on his heels. He speeded up and finally, saw crops of headstones under the dim streetlights.

“Finally!” Will let out a sigh of relief and ecstasy, with overflowing satisfaction on his face. Not able to contain his excitement, Will darted to one of the tombs, taking out the shovel inside his backpack, and started his plan. Digging the soil hard, the cover layer was finally being removed, the coffin appeared. He continuously dug, 1 minute, 2 minutes, 3 minutes... Finally, a trace of golden light emerged from the layers of soil - Will found the treasure.

“I’ve got it! I’ve got it!” Will screamed repeatedly with excitement. He stretched out his trembling hands towards the pile of golden burials. His face was filled with gratification. His cheeks turned rosy because of excitement, and his eyes were filled with bottomless greed at once. At that moment, he was sunk into the pile of glittering funerals.

“They are all mine! They are all mine!” Will said, kept on grabbing those golden jewels and stuffing them into his backpack with his mind gone, trying to get all of them out of the cemetery.

Suddenly, a bright light flashed on the surrounding, an invisible force emerged and pulled Will down into the pit. Before he could scream, a flash of thunder appeared on the sky. In a second of blink, Will disappeared, as well as his backpack, and the surroundings returned to how it looked before Will arrived.

The next night, a group of teenagers appeared in front of the gate of the cemetery. But after a flash of strong light, no one was left... The cemetery returned desolate again, like the night before, welcoming another group of people coming.