

Be Honest! 576

Chapter 576 The System's Worries

Gwen and Hoggard stared at the scene in disbelief, disgust, fear and terror.

But when the ghosts were about to attack them too, a ray of light shot out from Hoggard's pendant, causing the ghosts to flee with their lives.

GRAHHHHHHH~

1, 2, 3...

They were gone. The bathroom returned to normal.

Plop~

The levitating trio fell to the ground, but did not care about the pain just now.

Everyone was now staring at the pendant that was now broken into several pieces.

"Uncle Hoggard... how... what... Where did you get this pendant?"

"This..."

Hoggard recalled the street stall he passed by 2 days ago. The stall owner, a man who looked to be 25, told him he would have a bloody disaster in 2 days. Of course, he didn't believe it, as this was a world of true science!

He thought this was a new way the lazy young adults of today have decided to scam people of their money.

But what was so odd was that the young man gave the pendant to him for free. Of course, since it was free and quite good looking, he decided to take it and return it after 2 days of the so-called bloody disaster didn't come.

Heh. Only a fool would believe in such ridiculous matters. But today, after coming face to face with the most grotesque looking beings in his life, Hoggard felt all the blood on his face run dry.

Blood... Blood disaster. "He... he didn't lie."

Hoggard recalled the words of the man and his relieved face turned palish white once more.

[This pendant will only postpone your bloody disaster. But if you want to eliminate, you and those targeted must find me before the 6th day. After the 6th day, your lives will be lost.]

Everyone swallowed hard when hearing Hoggard's narration.

Who would have known there were such grim things hiding within the shadows in their human world?

What were those hideous transparent things? For now, they didn't know the turn Ghosts.

Suddenly, everyone wished they could rush out to the street where the stall was to find the strange man who told Hoggard's future.

As for the live broadcast battle the trio were originally planning to see, who the hell cares about that now?

In fact being in this bathroom now, gave them all nightmares, ghoulish ones that definitely plague them all for the rest of their lives.

It was finally agreed that Hoggard and Gwen would head out tomorrow to invite the street fortune teller over.

As for the trio, the groundskeeper's who were worried about their own lives, had no time to speak on punishment right now.

Thus, the trio headed back to their dormitories, but found they couldn't sleep well... especially when hearing the sounds of faint whispers echoing in their ears.

Yes, a part of that block smoke had already seeped through their mouths, embedding itself deep in their bodies.

And, they found they couldn't sleep, as their eyes were now red with worry and fear, when feeling they were still being followed.

Clititititi~

...

—Tian Estate—

Dorian softly tapped his fingers along his armrest when listening to the system's notification.

[Host, all admission letters are ready to be sent out.]

'Hmmm...' Dorian hummed lightly, knowing that today was day 8, the last tournament day for the competitions. 'Tomorrow, 11 AM, send them out.'

[As you wish, host.]

The system took note of this, while watching its host leave his seat and head to another room to cultivate once more.

Hey... How many times do you have to cultivate? It seemed that its host took cultivation to be the same as relaxation. Dorian now entered a pool, and dropped a pink pill he personally refined. 1 hour... 2 hours... 3 hours... 4 hours... 5, 6, 7...8....

BOOM!

BOOM! BOOM!

The host had just advanced 3 sub positions, and was now an A-RANK exorcist!

[Congratulations host, for breaking into the A-Realm!]

The system felt that its host speed was just too incredible.

Know that even with all the help it was giving, even the most talented people in other worlds wont reach where the host has reached in such a short time.

The host's luck and innate abilities were adobe worldly ones. This one was more than being the protagonist of the world.

Even the sons and daughters of heaven would bleed with envy when seeing its host's abilities.

Again, understand that everyone starts as a NO-RANK exorcist. Then they move from H-rank to A-rank, before crossing the threshold to S-Rank, SS-Rank, SSS-Rank, Divine Rank, and finally, Celestial rank.

Each rank had 9 grades one had to move past.

One thing to also note is that even in the other worlds, only 1 or 5 people in humanity's entire existence have ever reached Celestial.

Know that once one breaks through after Celestial, they will become true Gods, leaving the mortal planes or good and becoming angels, and whatnot.

That... that was the hardest and longest rank to break past.

That being said, it has only been a couple of months since Dorian moved from a NO-Rank exorcist to an A-rank exorcist, passing all 9 grades within each rank as if they were nothing. It was almost as though if he sneezed, he would break through.

What sort of heaven-defying ability was this?

The system was only happy that with the way the host was going, he would stand a fair chance against those Princes of the underworld.

.

Eh?

The system suddenly froze hearing a rumbling sound bellow from behind its host. It was the BONEY FINGER!

Stop!

The system tried to stop the finger finger, but found that the finger that was in its own space., refused to listen to its order.

What's going on?

Dorian was also taken aback when seeing the boney finger appear above his hand. And in less than a millisecond, it merged with his left index finger, giving Dorian a deep sense of familiarity.

Whoosh!

A fragment of memory appeared in his mind, the memory of the finger's owner.

Wrong!

This finger didn't belong to any past underworld prince.

'How interesting...'

Dorian raised his lashes, licking his lips wickedly, when recalling the brief fragment he saw. It seems there were more mysteries that needed answering. However, he knew the system wouldn't have the answers he was looking for. Looking at his index finger that still looked ordinary, Dorian chuckled in amusement.

As for the system, it had long left its host, to report the matter to its master. "No one will discover the finger's presence."

With a wave of his finger, his master sent the system back down, with a light chuckle on his lips too. "So they finally merged?... (chuckle, chuckle~).. How interesting..."

"_" [The system]

What? What the hell was so interesting to these two?

Chapter 577 The Day Has Come

–Vardos Country–

Today was the day many prepared to head back home. Unlike the atmosphere in the past, today's atmosphere was strange and unsettling. Several people had heavy bags underneath their eyes, looking like they haven't slept for several days now. But who could blame them? Each time they closed their eyes, they seemed to be scared of everything, from the shadows the moon made through their windows, to the slightest noises made by birds outdoors. The human brain sure was incredible. Whenever they close their eyes, they seem to reimagine several of those creatures inches away from their faces, laughing in the dark and kicking their lips in hunger at the sight of fresh food dozing away in the many sleeping quarters. Ahh!!! Many woke up from nightmares, screaming at the top of their lungs in the middle of the night, but their superiors didn't lash out at them, as they too woke up painting, sometimes finding they were drenched right down to their pants with sweat. Oh My God of Science! This cannot go on! How long will it take for their initial fears to cease? After learning all they did about the various ministers in the shadows, they found that there were monsters everywhere. It's said that some monsters lived in ponds, some on trees, others in the mirrors, some under the beds, others in their very homes, and some were even in their food. What was more frightening was that their shadows were actually alive in a place called the shadow world. It seems these shadows hate them to guts, wishing to destroy them completely. ... Suddenly, the world didn't seem so friendly anymore. Mommy, what sort of world have they always been living in? Sure enough, ignorance is truly bliss. When they were ignorant, the only thing they had to worry about were the other humans, plants, bears and animals on land and in the seas that they could scientifically categorize. But now, after knowing the truth about the darkness in the world, they suddenly felt weak, helpless and completely vulnerable. But wait, do you think it ends there? They also heard from those live streamers who were rescued out of that hidden world, that if one was targeted and affected by these beings, their lifespans would also get shortened too. F***! Several

superiors felt their palms grow sweaty when thinking of how their former most trusted subordinates had turned out to be monsters in disguise, saying they had marked them all this time. Ah... in that case, wouldn't their lives be reduced by a lot now? If Dorian knew their thoughts, he would only give them the said eye, as though saying: Relax... it's only a few months/years off your life. You were targeted by lower phase creatures. So what's there to be worried about?

What if they were targeted by the Underworld Princes, higher Generals or all those who headed back to the underworld to join the battle down there?

Even if it's just 1 day or 8 months or even 5 years off their lives, so what? That was still theirs!!

9 days.

It's been 9 days since their eyes were finally opened to the truth. And they had to say that they were still not holding up fine. ...

"Why does it seem like a year since the competitions began?" "Yeah. I'm beat up, tired, and in desperate need of sleep. Except... I can't sleep alone, at least not now." A cute girl spoke wryly, while wiping her face with her white towel. She was a little ashamed to say that she had shamelessly posted herself in Khalea's bed, alongside another girl, who also joined in mid-May. Before, they used to complain that their bunk beds were tiny for 1 person to sleep on. But who would have thought that 3 people could actually sleep very comfortably on it these past few days with no discomfort? Khalea flashed cold water on her face, while listening to the girls beside her. Well, she too had to admit that she found solace in knowing she was stepping with 2 others on her bed. "Today is the 9th day... time to depart."

Of course, she meant to say that today is the 9th day, and they will soon know whether they passed or not. However, the walls and everything around them might be watching, so they must keep their mouths shut at all times. Soon, the girls left with their damp towels around their necks. They separated briefly, with Khalea heading for her father's quarters. "At ease." She might be young, but she had a high rank within the army. What's more, her father's men recognized her, so they let her in without notice. .

"Dad!" Kletus having his late breakfast, also in a daze. It seems he didn't hear it notice her come in. Breakfast should be a happy meal. However, he was chewing and forcing everything down as if it was shit. He really didn't have the appetite to eat, but knew that he must eat because his body needs fuel to sustain itself. "Dad, I know... it's just too tough to pull through, but... but if you don't strengthen your body, you'll be letting our Country's enemies win." "Impossible!" Kletus blurted out, staring at Khalea with heated eyes. Although he feared the 'enemy,' he would rather die than see

them win. So, with that conviction in mind, he gobbled his food down like an ogre, slamming his cutlery down hard. Khalea chuckled, slowly taking a seat opposite Kletus. Now, both of them had similar thoughts in mind, without uttering a single word to each other. –The Test. How would they know if they passed or not? They both crossed their arms in thought, thinking and speaking on the matter in a coded manner. But what they didn't expect was that the news of their exam status was closer than they thought. 11 AM on the dot. What was that? The duo jumped from their seats when hearing a light tapping noise coming from Kletus's bedroom. And before they could react, an unimaginable scene unfolded before their eyes that left their eyes battling in disbelief. This... This... This... This...

Chapter 578 A Flying Acceptance

What was that? Plat-plat-plat~

It sounded like paper, hitting itself against the bedroom door on the other side. Another monster? The duo felt their chests tighten into balls, as they now slowly approached the door. Breathe in, breathe out...

Breathe in, breathe out...

They moved on tip-toes, their chests already knotting into balls the closer they went. Suddenly, a warm gust of wind swept the space, making the papers on the small dining table to rustle and dance. But before they could react, 2 envelopes slipped out from underneath the door, and began floating higher and higher towards them. First, the envelopes twitched and moved closer, as if to get a whiff of their scent. They twirled and spun, becoming a sense of wonder and magic that was foreign to the mundane world the duo knew. And then—

Whoosh! The letters distancing themselves before shooting like darts, and suddenly coming to a halt, floating mid-air in a trance-like state.

Now seemingly controlled by their hearts, the duo carefully reached for the letters that had their names on them. [Mr. Arbutus B. Kletus, The Dining Room, Larkshire Military Stronghold, Vardos.]

It gave his exact location. Was he not standing in the dining room within the competition's grounds, here in Vardos Country? Khalea's letter said the same thing. "It must... it must be from the Grandmaster." "Yes, I... I think so too."

So why the heavy pause when opening the letter? The duo looked at each other tactfully, never being so nervous in their lives. They have both had their share of examinations and competitions in the past, but never have they been so anxious like today. Gulp~

Khalea swallowed hard when thinking of how 'poorly' she performed in the examination 9 days ago. However, despite the butterflies dancing in her belly, she knew there was no benefit to stalking the matter any further. The envelope was cream-colored, bearing a vibrant red wax seal on its folded tip. Rip!!! Khalea pried the envelope open, and took out its contents, only to see an empty piece of paper staring her in the face. What's going on?

"Ahhh!!!" Kletus' yell startled her. And before she could make heads or tails of what fascinated him, she too found herself exclaiming loudly, after seeing several words now appearing on her Letter.
[The Heavenly Tian Academy for Exorcism

Sect Master: Dorian T. Tian (Grand Exorcist)

Dear Mrs./Miss Khalea. We are pleased to inform you that you have been accepted at the Heavenly Tian Academy for Exorcism. Please find enclosed in this letter, a list of all necessary items you are permitted to bring. The School term begins on xxxx. Please follow the enchanted map, to find your closest entryway into the Academy.]

....

10 minutes later, the duo had finished going through the letter. But what they found was that they couldn't see each other's letters, no matter how hard they tried. How to say it? The letter looked ordinary to anyone who the letter wasn't intended for. Again, only those accepted by the academy, or those already belonging to the academy, can see these letters fly about. So if someone fails the test, they won't be able to see anything. The duo felt that if the Grandmaster was allowing these letters to fly about, it means that he could also guarantee that no monsters would be able to see them too. Well, in truth, they were right, as the system's Master had ensured that not even the Princes in the underworld would be able to detect anything suspicious. However, what many didn't know was that Dorian truly didn't care whether these monsters discovered his existence or not. The people who truly bothered were Old Gia, Wiggins, and the rest of humanity who wanted to keep things hidden, like having an Ace up their sleeves. "The Heavenly Tian Academy... Heavenly... What is heaven... what does this heavenly part mean?" As people who used to solely believe in Science, they didn't have the concept of heaven, hell or even the afterlife. They were like empty books waiting to be filled by their owner. "Dad, we will eventually come to know. But for now, is that the important point?" Hahahhahahaha~

Khalea was so happy she was bouncing from palace to place like a little school girl. She passed! She did it! She did it! Then doesn't this mean that in no time, she too will be flying around, doing cool stunts while saving humanity too? Ahhhhhhhh!~

Well, no one could stop her excitement. Kletus chuckled, feeling it has been a very, very, very long time since he saw her like this. "Dad, dad! We must prepare fast!" It was important they go through the list of things they can bring and get them fast because they truly didn't have so much time up their sleeves. They had 6 and a half more days before they head into the academy. First, they must gather those under them who passed, and do inspections before setting out together as a team. Don't think he would let them into the academy without doing an inspection. What if some bastard brought in something that was prohibited and got expelled? No way! They won't let that happen, because it will also reflect badly on them too. It wasn't just them thinking so, as several leaders, especially that leader of the mysterious training Island, also had such thoughts. 6 and a half days was enough time for everyone to fly back to their home countries and prepare. They would also like to head to the entranceways (portals) in their countries and territories, so they know where they are. What's more, they must also safeguard and protect these locations too!! Well then, what the hell are they still waiting for? Suddenly, several superiors who planned to leave in a day or two, were now packing their stuff and calling in favors or rescheduling the flights of everyone in their teams and countries. Go back! Go back! They must go back fast and prepare for the Academy's Entrance Day. But while some people were still here on ground, others had long left and were now flying high in the air. Of course, they had to head back to their home countries due to some other circumstances that popped up. ...

High in the clouds, in airplanes that cruised through the skies. But wait, what did they see? A letter on their windows? No... they must be dreaming. Suddenly, these letters shrunk in a flash, becoming invisible to them. Then, the letters vanished, seemingly looking for a micro space to enter into the aircraft. Even if the space was fit for a single atom, these letters could pass through with ease. Several People's eyes jumped and bulged when seeing these letters grow before them, and then slowly sway down to their laps. Look left, look right... So no one saw it all? Rip!~

Several people tore their letters, screaming ecstatically in the aircraft, causing their neighbors to frown at their 'vulgar' attitudes. "What the hell is wrong with you?" "Are you insane or something? Are you trying to give us all heart attacks here?"

Chapter 579 Academy, Here We Come~

"Oh my God of Science! I was in the toilet when my letter came." "What sort of script have I taken? Tsk. I knew those people were incredible, but this..."

"Awesome! I must prepare the necessities listed. Inner garments, toothbrush... towels .. Hey, I must ensure I take nothing more." "So true. Anyway, this is more or less like going into the military. When we first became soldiers, we only brought in a backpack of items. Our phones were also confiscated, so it's nothing strange." ... Across various places, ma h were startled and excited when seeing their letters come.

Letters come, letters go. Who would have thought their acceptance letters would come in this fashion? Do you accept the invitation? Of course they do! Better to have power than to be a sitting duck on the day the big war begins. Surprisingly, over 70% passed the test, but the rest sadly failed. However, they understood that this was the so-called fate their superiors spoke of. Of course, even if they failed, it didn't mean they had no part to play in the upcoming war. Several of them were assigned to keeping an eye on any suspicious individuals in the army, police forces, Navy, Marines, and whatnot. Understand that now, they must go back to the barracks and act like nothing truly major happened. And then, they would report matters to their superiors every week or so. Know that their superiors were accepted as Elders... and only elders had permission to communicate with the outside world while in the sect. It's just that the system has ensured that the signal will never be able to be picked up. How do you find a location that is masked and protected by one of the strongest beings in all existence, who was lazy lying about in the heavens? Don't underestimate the System's Master. They will be able to communicate with their superiors. However, it will only be once a week. The rules of the sect must be adhered to at all times. Of course, if there's an emergency in the outside world that needs their attention, these elders can communicate more than once to the outside world. In the end, several people rushed back home, and were even given 3 days to see their loved ones before returning to the designated barracks/police stations, and so on, for inspection and a long debriefing. Only, they would be using codewords for their debriefing, in case some unknown creatures were listening in on them. Well, one might only think they were going for 3 month or even 4 month missions sanctioned by their leaders, involving drug lords, kingpins, kidnappers... you name it. As for those who failed, their tasks were more than fat from over. They were also tasked to head out and snoop the cities, towns and suburbs or any suspicious activities. Everyone must now remain high in alert, and not trust even the simplest people around them. Are you kidding them? Didn't you hear from one of those people in the East about how they were rescued by these academy people from the heads of elderly people who looked weak and feeble? Do you know that these monsters can even disguise themselves like the elderly too? Oops... they felt they were even scared of the stray cats running about in the alleyways. Well, forget about the cast in the alleyways. Even the cats and dogs at home now gave them a sense of fear. Can you believe that they started peeping at their pets, like children peeping at toys after watching Toy's Story? ... In a flash, the day had finally come. Several people woke up 4 hours before departure time, preparing and going over the rules again and again. Today, the birds seemed to be whistling quite louder than usual. The skies were dull, as the sun had yet to peer its warm rays on the land. "Attention!" Several people stood with their arms placed behind their backs and their legs now spread apart. "Step forward for checks!" The order was simple. Several people did as told, and had their clothes searched right now to their privates by female and male searchers. "Anyone found with items not on the list, will have to answer to me!!!" Several leaders squinted their eyes dangerously when sweeping their gazes across the gathering. Such a scene unfolded in every major corner of the world. This was not a joke, neither was it a drill.

After body searches were done, they were then called one by one and given their bags that were properly searched over 5 times now. Soon, the time was up. Only 1 hour left before their scheduled time to enter the academy.

"Move, move, move, move!" Several people ventured into seemingly ordinary school buses that didn't cause a buzz or raise alarms for civilians on the streets. By now, the sun was up, and the streets were buzzing with people going about their businesses. Tchhh~~

The static noise from the walkie-talkies from the drivers echoed out. [This is Beta 034, proceed as usual. Everything's clear.]

The voice told them to keep using the route they planned, as several others were stationed on the path they chose to take. In fact, the streets around the targeted locations, as well as the buildings there, were all filled with undercover police officers and military personnel. These were those who didn't pass the tests, but still knew of the impending dangers in today's world. At least for them, they quickly bought several protective charms and pendants to secure their safety while in this mundane world. These people readily accepted their fate of not being accepted because even in the army and the police force, not everyone could be a Special Forces Soldier, not everyone could be a Special Officer, not everyone can climb right up to the top. Know that although a majority can't reach these positions, they understood that the roles of those below these positions were equally important too. For the greater good, everyone's job was important!

Chapter 580 Into The Academy, We Go

Who can tell them why the small alleyway had now transformed into a massive entryway, enough to fit them all in? Amazing! It's just like the situation with the magic tent that seems small on the outside but enormous on the inside. But it seems that if ordinary people without the acceptance slips walk in, they won't see what they are seeing, and neither will they be taken anywhere. This fact made many of them release collective sighs of relief, not wanting ordinary people and even crooks to see what their eyes have been blessed to see. Now gathered, were several people from different units, as well as other ordinary people. Everyone was growing anxious by the minute, so much that it didn't take long before their hands grew clammy. While in wait, many began whispering with jumpy eyes, expressing their thoughts on the matter. Of course, their eyes subconsciously glanced at their watches from time to time, secretly doing countdowns in their hearts. And when it was just 2 minutes more, the whispers slowly finished, as everyone was too nervous to hold conversation right now. All around the world, several stood with itchy bodies, shifting left to right, right to left, feeling their hearts jumping with every second that passed them by. ~Tick-tock. Tick-tock. Shhhh!!! Several people were even annoyed with others who were talking right now. Can't you see they only have 40 seconds left before the portal becomes visible?

...

Standing before these spaces where the portals are supposed to appear, where several elders and top disciples.

It can be seen that in all locations scattered around the globe, there would be at least 1 elder or 3 disciples there. They stood upright with poise, like immortal statues before a grand entranceway. What to expect? What exactly will the portal look like? 6 seconds more... Several people clenched

their butts subconsciously. 5... Their throats went dry, as though they were in the desert. 4... 3... 2... 1... 2... 1... Wzzz!!~

A massive swirling, iridescent circle suddenly appeared on the alleyways wall ahead, radiating vibrant hues of blue, green, and gold. What were they looking at?

It appeared out of nowhere, with its edges shimmer like liquid light, pulsating with energy.

The giant circular vortex swirled in a mesmerizing way, as though about to suck everyone in. How to describe the feeling everyone was getting right now?

"Incredible..." Many murmured underneath their breaths. But wait, what's going on now?

. Whoosh! The portal began to swirl more and more, changing its form only its golden outline now took the shape of a mighty double-sided door. How to say it? They looked like ants before the door. And now, over 50 people enter at once. Wasn't that incredible? Old Bho and Bho Jin looked at each other tactfully, taking deep breaths and walking onwards too. Cang Ingard, Lishu, and Zee Ingard were also there, walking onwards, as though marching towards a promised land. Kletus and Khalea were no different, finding their feet moving towards the warm golden doorway before their bodies could react. And in the gateway they were at, Butler Sheng was the one who would take them in, while 2 disciples stayed back to watch the alleyway for others who may come on later times. Afterall, anyone could technically come in at any time, but the trick was that they must get to the Academy's main site before 7 PM. Why? Because after this time, the many forest regions and territories within the Academy's hidden world, would definitely tear them apart. It's best to go early, since they were all mortals right now, and the journey might take hours to accomplish. "Follow me..." Butler Sheng's voice resounded out like a heavenly commas, as he now walked through the portal with an expressionless face. "Ah!-" Many woke up from their stupor, tightening their grips on their backpacks and heading in without delay. Several supervisors, Marine, Police, Navy and Military leaders, all thinned their lips, knowing that today marked a historical event in their hearts. "Where are your letters?" "Quickly! Hold them out!"

Several people were truly sweating buckets when looking at their subordinates who awakened from their stupor. Bastards! Do you want to be kicked out or worse expelled?

Like worried mother hens looking after their chicks, these leaders felt their little hearts bouncing up and down unrhythmically. And as earlier instructed, they held their acceptance letters while crossing the giant door, fearful that they might be kicked out if they didn't do so. But what was incredible, was that the split second they passed through the portal, their acceptance letters now returned into rings with strange symbols carved in them, as well as words that seemed to hide mystery behind them. <To those who wear, only a spell can rid.>

Eh? What does this mean? A riddle? A hidden puzzle they must one day solve? Well, their concern for the matter only lasted for a second because only after stepping into the portal did they realize they were now falling at an incredible speed!

Ahhhhhh!!!

Several people flared their hands like birds and already sweating buckets mid-fall, now understanding why they were all told to brace themselves.

Dammit! Were they all brought in here just to die? Just when they thought their bodies would violently slap onto the waters below, several 'ducks' below, now kicked against the waters, flying sky high to catch them all.

It was amazing that before they landed on these 'ducks,' a strange forcefield lowered their falling speeds, making them land softly on the 'ducks.'

This... "Dad... It's a leaf!" Khalea exclaimed. It was a giant leaf that could support 30 people all at once. But when it was down on the water shores, it moved like a duck. Wipe! What sort of sorcery was this? Looking all around her, Khalea realized that there were over 200 leaves jumping about to catch people. They jumped like ducks and swans, with their long leaf-stem-like necks moving animatedly. Holding the leafy rating, Khalea looked at the incredulous sight, feeling truly alive for the first time in a long while. Magician... 'I swear, I will become the greatest magician, worthy of humanity's praise!'