

Iyashikei 391

Chapter 391

391 Han Fei and his Souls [2in1]

The brilliant blade that cut through the night also sliced through Butterfly's heart. The entire Ziggurat appeared to freeze for a second. Butterfly who stood before Dresser 4444 turned around, its eyes landed on the Evil Soul. The future in the nightmare did become a reality but the person who wielded the blade was not Han Fei but a fractured soul. 'How could a ghost pick up the blade of humanity?'

The Butterfly's mad struggle stopped. The crack on its heart started to expand throughout its body. The wings that drained the cryptic world of its colors started to dim. Its night was torn apart.

After the Evil Soul made the cut, the black flame of hatred in the senior monster's heart extinguished. The blood red butterfly and the senior monster's hatred were buried together. Its large body disintegrated like dust and the last strand of his lineage flowed into the Evil Soul's body. No one expected the Evil Soul to pick up Rest in Peace and for the senior monster to sacrifice himself.

The wrinkled hand that held the hilt was slowly fading. The heart valued by Butterfly was split into two. After the senior monster's body collapsed, the Evil Soul was back in the grandson's body. He was now weaker than Han Fei. The Evil Soul held the knife and retreated. For the Evil Soul, the knife had a new meaning and he would protect it no matter what.

Big Sin inside the Butterfly's chest was not injured. It was too focused on the heart to care about what was happening outside. When it saw the heart shatter, it bit on the largest piece and crawled out from the Butterfly's chest.

The Pure Hatred and Lingering Spirit who surrounded Butterfly naturally would not miss this opportunity. The next few seconds were crucial as to whether they would kill the Butterfly or not.

The spider web trapped the Butterfly near the dresser door. Its beautiful wings were torn apart and the pus of nightmare oozed out from the wounds. The Butterfly's body slowly fractured. Its handsome face was covered in death spots. Butterfly, who was cornered, shielded its hands around its open chest to stop its broken heart from tumbling out but even its family was trying their best to escape.

“They have never treated you as family but that is not the reason for you to torment so many people.”
The Spider’s web pierced through the Butterfly, “Repent for your sins!”

“Repent?” Butterfly’s pale hands covered its heart. The cracks had splintered to the back of its arms.
“You are just bugs living in the nightmare, do you really think you can kill me?”

The handsome face broke into a laugh. Butterfly plunged his arms into its chest. The chest and Dresser 4444 behind it exploded at the same time. Since its birth, the dresser had been the Butterfly’s cradle. The old dresser possessed all of its nightmares. Dresser 4444 was a Grade E Cursed Object which matched perfectly with the Butterfly.

This was the first time the people in the cryptic world saw the inside of Room 4444. The path that led deep into the nightmares was connected to many people’s consciousness. With Han Fei’s current knowledge, he was unable to make full sense of it. Han Fei with his limbs chained was prepared to die but to his surprise, the hatred that poured out from Butterfly’s explosion purposely avoided him.

Butterfly was naturally not that kind. There was only one reason why it had done something like this. The Butterfly wanted to use this last opportunity to complete the ritual!

Its original body was lost in the spider web, there was only one way for it to escape now. Before Han Fei could warn anyone, a deep black butterfly flew out from Room 4444. The butterfly was extremely well hidden but it carried intense despair. The Butterfly split out Han Fei’s soul for the purpose of this moment.

Everything happened in the blink of an eye. When the Butterfly’s body exploded, its elusive consciousness fluttered into Han Fei’s mind. The consciousness was hidden among the other black butterflies. It was not strong but extremely hard to detect. If everything went according to plan, it could continue the ritual and take over Han Fei’s body! Once that happened, Butterfly would still be alive, it would revive through Han Fei’s soul.

Butterfly wanted to take over Han Fei’s consciousness and dominate his body. However, just as it entered Han Fei’s mind, before it could do anything, Han Fei’s mind was dyed red and an orphanage bleeding red appeared. A wicked Han Fei stared at the Butterfly as if waiting for its arrival.

It was too late for the Butterfly to retreat now. It rammed into the blood red orphanage. The black hatred and red memory collided. The mind reverberated with horrifying laughter. Under the Butterfly's attacks, the memories related to the orphanage surfaced in Han Fei's mind. The memories looked normal but they were all dyed red.

Children were playing inside the red room, eating red food inside the red canteen but no one thought this was out of place. These memories appeared to peel off the red orphanage. As Han Fei remembered them, his consciousness blurred. It was like he had been living in a nightmare, a nightmare that would never end.

The Butterfly wanted to corrupt Han Fei's mind but after it entered the blood red orphanage, the black butterfly was slowly acclimatized by the redness. It fanned its wings to kill the laughing Han Fei but its body shrunk as it stayed inside the orphanage. When it reached Han Fei, it had already regressed to a normal black butterfly.

Reaching out his hands, Han Fei laughed rather madly. He pulled apart the butterfly bit by bit before feeding them to the red ants on the ground. Being bitten by hundreds of ants, the butterfly experienced unforgettable pain. Han Fei looked silently at it.

Butterfly's interference loosened the lock on the blood red orphanage. Han Fei was reminded of more memories, but other than the color red, there was nothing too special about them.

The brain slowly returned to normal. Han Fei regained control of his body. He forced his eyes open and saw the broken Room 4444. All the nightmares Butterfly had experienced were carved on the wall. As Butterfly perished, this space that connected the cryptic world and the nightmare collapsed and twisted. The sacrifices trapped inside were dying as well. Han Fei was too weak to save all of them, saving Feng Ziyu was already his limit.

Spider web bound around his body. Spider pulled Han Fei and Feng Ziyu out from the dresser. After the two exited, the scary Grade E Cursed Object fully collapsed. All of Butterfly's nightmares were buried in the past. Laying on the wilted blood vessels, Han Fei looked around.

The clock in the ruin showed that it was 4.44 am. Little Eight and Zhuang Wen were still attacking Butterfly's shell relentlessly. The survivors walked out from their rooms, some of them made their escape while others stood quietly around. A handful of the tenants finally found a chance to vent their hatred towards Butterfly. They surrounded the boy Han Fei led out from the underground, the madman in Room 1144 and the security guard Hua Kui.

The madman and Hua Kui were the spare bodies the Butterfly prepared for itself while the boy was a part of the Butterfly's soul. He was responsible for guarding the altar in the basement, he was modeled after Butterfly's dreamt perfect childhood. As the Butterfly perished, the cute boy turned into an amorphous monster, this was its true appearance.

Staring at the monster, Han Fei felt no pity. After all, he saw with his own eyes how this boy murdered the other children in the dressers, taking over their future and appearance. No one had the right to forgive it on its victims' behalf. To ensure that Butterfly was really dead, all the Ziggurat tenants scattered to inspect every corner of the neighbourhood.

While the tenants from Happiness Neighbourhood tried to make Little Eight calm down, Xu Qin walked over to Han Fei and took out a box that she prepared, "Do you need me to feed you?"

Before Han Fei could say anything, a male student rushed over. He just climbed out from the basement. He carried Firefly on his back and pulled along Lai Sheng. His eyes were filled with concern. "You're the group's manager, you have to take care of yourself."

When the student brought Firefly and Lai Sheng to Han Fei, the Evil Soul who held Rest in Peace also turned to Han Fei. They shared the same idea but no one said anything. Taking a deep breath, Han Fei knew this was something he had to face. With Xu Qin's help, he sat up.

"My souls have infiltrated your bodies, do you need anything from me? I will do everything within my power to fulfill your wishes." Han Fei told these humans who were summoned to this world.

"I, I want to see my parents..." Lai Sheng was the first to speak. He was still a child, he just wanted to be with his parents.

"They're already here." Han Fei signaled behind Lai Sheng. After Butterfly perished, the bindings on the Soul Chasers disappeared. Even though Lai Sheng's parents hadn't fully recovered, they came to find Lai Sheng, compelled by instinct. Perhaps afraid that they might scare the boy, they stood in the shadows, protecting their son from the distance.

"Go and meet them, tell them what's on your mind." Then Han Fei turned to Firefly. This tall and thin man was too kind for this world. "Do you need anything from me?"

“You’ll be the manager of the chatgroup from now on. Don’t worry about me. I will try my best to keep on living, carrying everyone’s hope with me.” Firefly’s own consciousness was awakening. He was as kind as Han Fei’s kindness. He was also incredibly gentle. Being summoned to the cryptic world would have a lasting impression on Firefly. He might be the second person to be cured by the Iyashikei game.

Lastly Han Fei turned to the Evil Soul who was also staring at him. Before Han Fei said anything, the Evil Soul walked over holding Rest in Peace. His bloody eyes radiated evil. “I thought you’re my Evil Soul, but it looks like I’m mistaken.”

“I also didn’t expect that the person the Butterfly saw in its nightmare to be you.” Han Fei knew from the door guardian that a person’s soul might change and even betray the original persona after leaving the main body. However, a soul’s nature differed depending on the individual. Certain nature was hard to change.

“It doesn’t matter who that creature saw, the important part is even until now, I still think I’m a good person, the kind who can save the world.” The Evil Soul placed the hilt in Han Fei’s palm. “I need a favor from you.”

“What favor?”

“I am dominating the consciousness of a little kid. His greatest wish is to see his family again but his family is now inside the blade. I can’t control this blade freely, so I need you to release his family for them to meet.” The Evil Soul let go of the blade.

“No problem.” The Evil Soul’s bloody lips curled into a smile. He silenced his consciousness and forced the grandson out. When he opened his eyes again, his expression changed. There was no sin in his eyes, only fear and memory.

“Rest in Peace!” The blade shone again. Many people appeared behind Han Fei. Among them were the senior monster and his family. Seeing the people behind Han Fei, the grandson cried immediately. He ran towards the intangible shadows and stood among his family.

Death was like a train, the departed would travel to the beyond, waving goodbye to the living who had to stay at the platform.

Chapter 392

392 Ending the Mission [2in1]

Han Fei completed the wishes of his 3 souls. After a long night, everyone saw the coming of dawn, this was going to be a new beginning.

With the encouragement of his family, the senior monster's grandson stood up straighter. He was still crying but he swore to live up to his family's hopes.

Lai Sheng's parents hadn't fully recovered so they tried to stay away from him. But the boy jogged all the way behind them.

Firefly finally saw the people he had helped, he was surprised that their first actual meeting would be in the afterlife. In the past, these people relied on him but in the cryptic world, they shielded him in the middle. Everyone had found their closure, Han Fei's soul fragments on them slowly faded away.

'Dresser 4444 has been destroyed, the Butterfly's path cannot be used anymore, so how am I supposed to send them back? Through Resurrection?' Before Han Fei could come up with a better idea, he decided to leave the people be.

After eating Xu Qin's food, Han Fei's Life Points surged back to an acceptable range but he still couldn't move his limbs too much. He was very heavily injured, his face was almost ruined. "I'm fine, better go and help Little Eight calm down." The Butterfly had perished but its traces could still be found at Ziggurat. Little Eight and Zhuang Wen had already pounded Butterfly's shell into dust but they still hadn't found release. So they turned their aggression to the neighbourhood.

To prevent a live burial, the tenants from Happiness Neighbourhood and Spider tried their best to stop the two. After a long time, Little Eight finally walked out from her madness. The giant red shadow collapsed and only 8 lingering spirits remained among the ruin.

'The previous building manager has warned Wei Youfu from leaving the Happiness Neighbourhood unless it is absolutely necessary.' Han Fei took in the 8 fainted figures and his eyes softened like he was

looking at his family, 'Who would have thought the man who has no friends in real life would find family in the cryptic world.'

With the thought of family in mind, Han Fei stood up and looked around. He searched for a long time before he found Zhuang Ren's eldest daughter, Zhuang Qing at a secluded corner. Curling up her body, hugging a broken figurine, Zhuang Qing's Death Curse had been removed. Her memory was slowly awakening. Being held by Xu Qin, Han Fei walked towards Zhuang Qing, "Where's your mother and little sister?"

Lifting her head with confusion, Zhuang Qing looked at Han Fei and said in a throaty voice, "Not long after they entered Ziggurat, they were tortured by the Butterfly until they perished." She picked up the shredded paper doll from the ground and her face looked defeated and ashen, "The Butterfly wanted to use us to complete the ritual. At first, it used my little sister's soul to threaten me and mother, and then it used my mother and sister's souls to threaten me. The bastard only needs things that are useful to it so I am the only one left." Zhuang Qing's eyes were hollow. Her spirit wavered, she had nothing left to anchor her to this world anymore.

"You're the only one left?" Han Fei shook his head. "Do you have any unfinished wishes? Perhaps I can help you fulfill them."

"Wishes?" Zhuang Qing had lost all hope. Her world crumbled when her memory returned. Now she was just an Animated Regret which was fading. "I haven't seen my father in a long time already. All the memories I have of him are painted with regret. The accident happened too suddenly. I remembered arguing with him that very morning."

"Do you want to meet him?"

"Butterfly had been trying to summon his soul but it had never succeeded. I know the steps to the ritual, the ritual can only succeed when both parties miss each other. Perhaps my father doesn't miss us anymore. Before the accident, he was rumored to be pursuing a female actor in his movie, perhaps he has remarried and moved on already." Zhuang Qing hugged the figurine and sighed.

"The ritual didn't succeed, not because he doesn't miss you but it was because of something else."

"Thank you but there's no need to comfort me."

"I'm telling the truth. To find you, your father has left the entertainment industry, lost his job and even his reputation." Han Fei decided to complete his promise to Zhuang Ren. He walked into one of the rooms still standing. "Let him explain it to you in person." Closing the door, Han Fei activated his special talent.

The menu opened like a blood red door from hell. A small fish with red and white stripes struggled in the sea of blood. He avoided all the ghost faces before leaping out from the sea surface. The door closed and Zhuang Ren knelt on the ground. He looked at Han Fei with shock. "Han Fei?"

"Your daughter is outside this door." Just as Han Fei said that, Zhuang Ren clambered up from the ground and reached for the door. The corridor outside was filled with scary looking monsters, Zhuang Ren was shocked. He fell to the ground but his eyes locked onto Zhuang Qing at the corner.

With his lips twitching, Zhuang Ren who couldn't even stand straight from fear slowly moved towards her by inching along the wall. He slithered past the monsters and ghosts to reach his daughter. Compared to many years ago, Zhuang Ren's hair was already white, his skin was loose and his face was wrinkled. He used to be tall and rather rotund but now he was skinny and malnourished. He had changed so much but his eyes stayed the same.

After experiencing so many torments at Ziggurat, Zhuang Qing assumed her heart had died but when she saw her father run towards her, her tears fell involuntarily.

Han Fei didn't want to disturb this reunion but when Zhuang Ren approached Zhuang Qing, the last figurine suddenly glowed red. It was due to the protection of this figurine that Zhuang Qing wasn't consumed by the Butterfly. However, at this moment, the figurine seemed to sense something. As Zhuang Ren touched Zhuang Qing, the figurine shattered and the bloody glow from it enveloped Zhuang Ren.

He doubled over in pain. He hugged his head and screamed. His eyes were filled with bloody shadows. The memory that didn't belong to him was awakening. Afraid that Butterfly might revive, the tenants of Ziggurat immediately surrounded Zhuang Ren. Han Fei was worried that Zhuang Ren might be harmed by them so he immediately squeezed through the crowd. "Calm down! Your daughter is beside you! This reunion is not easy! Don't lose yourself!" Han Fei shouted but it didn't have much use. Zhuang Qing stood up to hug her old father. With his daughter's help, Zhuang Ren slowly regained his sanity. He pulled on his head like he wanted to twist it apart.

After a long time, Zhuang Ren finally spoke. His eyes were filled with fear and he stammered, "I saw some fragmented memories in my mind, I have not experienced them before!"

"What did you see?" Zhuang Ren's memory was tinkered by the Immortal Pharma's Director. The memory echoed with the figurine that broke.

"I saw a giant monster crawl out from a black cocoon. It was covered in black mist and it fought with a man. Both of them ended with heavy injuries and left behind two broken altars." Zhuang Ren shared what he saw, he had no idea how much impact his words had.

"A monster that crawled out from a cocoon?" Han Fei had been to the basement of Ziggurat. He knew all the Death Curses came from the giant cocoon. In other words, the black mist that could deter an Unmentionable also came from the cocoon. Just an abandoned cocoon was strong enough to hold back the Singer. Even though the Singer was injured, it was still an Unmentionable. Therefore, it was logical to believe that the creature that crawled out from the cocoon was also an Unmentionable.

"What else did you see?" Han Fei's voice chilled.

"The man told the monster that all of its struggle would be for nothing. It is meant to perish in the nightmare with the most horrid death."

"Die in the nightmare? What else?"

"That's all. The monster escaped into a city shrouded in darkness. The man didn't follow after it but he did say he would one day destroy the city."

The memory Zhuang Ren saw didn't belong to him. He was just a pawn left behind by the Fu Siblings.

Han Fei frowned deeply. His eyes slowly moved to Hua Kui and the madman from Room 1144. 'The Butterfly we killed had been trying to clone itself. To complete the goal, it had done many crazy things, but why would it insist on doing that? Just for company? The Butterfly wouldn't do something so meaningless. It wanted to create another Butterfly to have the new Butterfly die on its behalf, for it to suffer the predetermined future it saw in the nightmare.'

Han Fei was reminded of the endless children strung on the giant cocoon and mumbled the mission hint from the Night of Resurrection, "I fell into the abyss of nightmares. The demons and ghosts looked at me without saying a word. They are curious why haven't I called for help, I am curious why they would have such a question.

"Aren't all children in the world like me? Trapped inside a cocoon since birth until one can break open with wings?"

The abyss mentioned here referred to the black cocoon. In other words, the giant cocoon existed before the Butterfly that they had just killed! 'We might not have killed the real Butterfly. The thing that crawled out from the cocoon might be the real Butterfly and the one guarding over Ziggurat was another one of its clones. Regardless, the next step is to get stronger, to adventure deeper into the city.' Standing at Ziggurat, Han Fei turned to the city shrouded in darkness. In the darkness, there hid many scares and secrets.

The time for the reunion was short. Soon dawn was coming in real life.

Even though Lai Sheng's parents were unwilling to part with their son, they knew it was time to go. As the Soul Chasers at Ziggurat, they were Butterfly's puppets and had to heed its every order. But because of that, they knew many Butterfly's secrets too. The couple carried Lai Sheng who had cried himself to sleep and walked towards Han Fei. They signaled Han Fei to follow them underground.

Following the exposed capillaries, Han Fei's group came to the underground. After the altars were destroyed and the heart was consumed, the giant cocoon started to break. The blood flowers had already wilted, revealing an altar filled with sacrificial items. They were all pictures of children. The wilted blood flowers cascaded around the pictures of innocence, it felt unsettling.

After Butterfly was vanquished, not only Lai Sheng's parents, the other Soul Chasers also wandered to this place. They looked at the children in the pictures and the emotions in their eyes were complicated.

"These pictures appear to contain Butterfly's hatred." Han Fei placed the pictures he collected on the altar as well. When he looked closer, he realized the children in the pictures seemed to have come alive. They blinked at Han Fei as if trying to say something. As the day approached dawn, the Soul Chasers jumped into the abyss. The blood on their clothes faded while colors returned to the children's pictures.

“Leave and please don’t come back.” The Soul Chasers melted into the hatred inside the pictures. Like keys, they unlocked the bindings on the altar.

The children who had regained colors started to break out from the pictures. When they escaped from the pictures, their souls were smiling. The innocent souls were like fireflies, rising in the darkness, forming a spire of light. It was unknown how many children's souls were gathered at Ziggurat. The rising lights connected the underground and the sky of the cryptic world.

“This is just a dream, after you wake up, please live a good life.” Lai Sheng’s parents nudged Lai Sheng into the middle of the altar. The small body rose with the light. A small glow exited the boy’s head to fly back into Han Fei’s body. Then came Firefly and the senior monster’s grandson. The humans who were summoned here had to return to real life before dawn, that was the last step of the ritual. Their souls rose with the souls of the kids, returning to their original places. The 3 souls returned to Han Fei. When they entered Han Fei’s mind, the sea of redness slowly returned to normal. The bloody orphanage was pushed back into the inner recesses.

The exit button finally lit up on the button and Han Fei sighed greatly in relief. However, the accident this time did give him a reminder. Earlier he thought it was the separation of soul that caused him to be stuck in the game but now that he thought about it, that didn’t appear to be the truth. When his first soul was pulled out from his body, he could still leave the game. It was not until the Evil Soul appeared that the system marked him as being in a special status. ‘The system bans me from leaving when the bloody orphanage appears in my mind, why is that?’

After the 3 souls returned, Han Fei heard the robotic voice.

“Notification for Player 0000! You’ve completed the Grade E Main Mission, Night of Resurrection! You’ve obtained double EXP, 5 free skill points and basic title, The Undying!

“The Undying: Special title given to the player who first cleared the Ziggurat map! San maximum value increases by 20! Intelligence +1! Stamina +1! Max Life Points +20!

“Notification for Player 0000! You’ve found your lost souls at Ziggurat, helped the humans summoned into the building, ruined the ritual and killed the Butterfly! You’ve completed the main mission perfectly, congratulations for obtaining additional rewards!

“Cursed Words: You’ve killed the manager of Ziggurat, becoming the scariest Death Curse at Ziggurat! Your words now possess intense curse. Your voice can affect your listener. This power can only be used 5 times a day. The stronger the listener, the weaker the effect of Cursed Words.

“Notification for Player 0000! Your butcher knife, Rest in Peace has absorbed many new souls, it is now sharper and stronger!

“Notification for Player 0000! You’ve butchered many spirits and killed the Butterfly. You’ve obtained EXP reward!

“You’ve successfully reached Level 14, obtained 1 free attribute point!

“You’ve successfully reached Level 15, obtained 1 free attribute point!”

The system rang nonstop. Han Fei saw the changing menu and he wondered how many ‘people’ his Evil Soul had murdered. Killing a Lingering Spirit wouldn’t provide much experience to the player, Han Fei’s main source of EXP came from completing missions. However, his Evil Soul had butchered so many spirits that the system had to specially mention it, that was quite unbelievable.

Chapter 393

393 New Manager [2in1]

Leveling up wouldn’t heal Han Fei’s wound but after he added all the attribute points to stamina, his recovery speed did increase. With the additional stamina reward from the title, Undying, Han Fei’s current stamina was at 24.

It was hard for players in Perfect Life to raise attribute points, each point was precious. To have such a high stamina at level 15, Han Fei would be the only one. The increase in stamina improved his speed, strength, fighting ability, and recovery speed.

“Notification for Player 0000! The main mission requires you to disrupt the ritual but since you’ve gone beyond that by killing the Butterfly, the Ziggurat has lost its manager! You’ve activated Ziggurat’s Manager Mission!

“Ziggurat’s Manager Mission: Please find the missing altar and figurine at the Ziggurat in the next 7 days. Gain the approval of the memory fragment inside the figurine and become Ziggurat’s new manager!

“After completing this mission, your talent and manager power will become more powerful!

“Notification for Player 0000! You’ve cleared the Ziggurat Map! The title of Yi Ming Street’s Guardian has leveled up! Friendliness level with all the ghosts who have been affected by Death Curse increases by 1!

“Killing the Butterfly makes you the scariest presence in this area. Now you can attempt to open all the altars in this area! If you’re mad enough, you can build your own altar.

“Notification for Player 0000! Your professional resume has been updated!

“After joining the security at Ziggurat, during your internship period, the number of tenants lowered by 90 percent, the overall scale of the neighbourhood downsized by 90 percent. After attempting so many jobs, perhaps you’ve made the discovery that you might not be suitable for service-type professions.”

Han Fei sighed after he read through all the system notifications. He felt better after the system confirmed that the Butterfly was dead. With regards to the monster that came out from the black cocoon underground, that was a problem for the future.

The exit button was glowing but Han Fei didn’t hurry to leave, there were many things for him to do. Taking out the phone Firefly left for him, Han Fei compared the ID inside the chatgroup and the surviving tenants at Ziggurat. Most of the people in the chatgroup heeded Han Fei’s warning and went into hiding, so while there were many injuries, not many perished.

“Ziggurat has been heavily destroyed, we’ll need everyone’s help to rebuild this place.” With Spider and Zhuang Wen backing him, no one dared to challenge Han Fei. The brawl almost flattened Ziggurat. First, the Evil Soul controlled the senior monster to go on a massacre, then the Singer went berserk, finally the Butterfly activated all the Death Curse. Those who survived this ordeal had to be quite strong.

Han Fei made a quick calculation, among the original Ziggurat tenants, other than Zhuang Wen, there were 3 remaining Large Lingered Spirits, the red dress, the amalgamation of every spirit in Firefly's chatgroup and a Soul Chaser whose face was covered in wounds.

When the other Soul Chasers jumped into the altar to cleanse themselves, this Soul Chaser stood to the side to observe Han Fei and Feng Ziyu, he appeared to be the tester that massacred the whole neighbourhood many years ago. However, under Butterfly's torture, he was no longer human, but a monster who had committed many sins.

"Thank you for the hints when Butterfly sent you to collect my souls." With the protection of the tenants from Happiness Neighbourhood, Han Fei approached the man, "Can you tell me your name?"

The Soul Chaser looked at the unconscious Feng Ziyu and he shook his head. "I've already forgotten everything in my past. You've killed the Butterfly so you're now the new manager. I will help you guard the altar underground to pay penance for my past sins." Finally the Soul Chaser sighed. He apologized to Feng Ziyu and turned to jump down into the altar.

The 3 Large Lingered Spirits were friendly with Han Fei so the other tenants didn't dare to do anything to him.

The merchant from Building 1 also survived. He lost an arm and a leg but even so he was still carrying a box of paper money with his remaining hand. Han Fei had a feeling his desire for money had helped him survive. Beside the merchant was the bride and the 2 guards from building 1. The bride initially approached Han Fei to get something from a room in Building 4. Now the room was leveled. The 2 guards didn't dare to approach Han Fei. They looked at Han Fei with admiration and respect. Han Fei had taken the role of security guard to new heights.

The original rules had been broken for the new rules to be set up. The strong spirits returned to their rooms, the weaker spirits stayed beside Han Fei. These included the guard Hua Kui, the woman who found her son and Feng Ziyu's unlucky neighbor. Feng Ziyu's neighbor did try to jump into the ray of light to return but his physical body had perished in real life, he couldn't return anymore. These people didn't have much power but it was because of that, they retained their humanity and emotions. Han Fei couldn't stay in the cryptic world forever, so they would come in handy to help rebuild Ziggurat. "The cryptic world is filled with scary ghosts and monsters, you'll find it hard to survive if you leave this place, in that case, why don't you stay here?"

Han Fei was always good to his allies. He assigned everyone 3 rooms but the condition was that they had to keep their rooms clean. After assigning everyone their job, Han Fei requested his neighbours from Happiness Neighbourhood to look after Feng Ziyu. This former Immortal Pharma employee planned to clear Perfect Life with Han Fei but now he had become a spirit in the cryptic world and couldn't go 'offline' anymore.

Spider's eyes shone with admiration as he saw Han Fei deal with everything. He valued Han Fei, not because Han Fei had killed the Butterfly but more because Han Fei had managed to forge Rest in Peace at Cattle Alley and became the last 'midnight' butcher. Spider placed his hope on Han Fei, he had a feeling Han Fei would be able to accomplish the things he failed in the past.

After Han Fei was done dealing with everything, Spider walked towards Han Fei. Spider himself looked normal but the 8 shadows behind him were imposing. "I'm surprised that the scene from Butterfly's nightmare would come true. I thought no one would be able to win the Butterfly. Counting you, there are 3 people who have defeated Butterfly in this world."

Han Fei didn't dare to stay too close to Spider. The Spider was extremely powerful, if he intended to harm Han Fei, the latter wouldn't even have the time to log off.

"Don't worry, my power is not so easily used." Spider plucked on his red web. "I know yin energy and negative emotions won't work on the Butterfly so I used guilt and penance to weave this web. Only then the Butterfly would be trapped in it."

"You've been hiding all along inside the talisman? So who was the Spider that I met at Cattle Alley?"

"That was my heart." The Spider smiled. "If I didn't remove my heart, how could I manage to fool the Butterfly?"

"What do you plan to do next? Continue to stay at Cattle Alley?" Spider would be an incredible ally for Han Fei. He switched on the button for masterful acting in his mind and channeled all of his psychological training to try to persuade Spider to stay.

"My heart will stay at Cattle Alley to pay penance for my sins." Spider didn't give Han Fei the chance to speak. He stared at Rest in Peace. "This world is far more complicated than we thought. I don't know what kind of path you've chosen for yourself. I met an old man that said he would save everything but in

reality he was only trying to save himself. I hope you will not follow in his footsteps because it will only lead to a dead end.” Spider suddenly stopped talking as if he had touched on the subject of an Unmentionable.

After a long time, Spider continued, “This area was safe due to the black cocoon and the black mist, but now that the black mist has dissipated, you’ll have to be careful.”

“This area is not safe anymore?” Hearing that, Han Fei didn’t know how to react. He thought the danger was already over.

“Yes, so you shouldn’t stay at the same place for too long. If you don’t venture deep into the darkness, the darkness will still come to consume you.” Spider took out another talisman from his pocket. This talisman looked similar to the one before but it was made from blood web. “If you run into mortal danger, you can open this.”

When Han Fei touched the talisman, the robotic voice said, “Notification for Player 0000! You’ve obtained Grade E 1-time consumable—Spider’s Talisman.

“Spider’s Talisman: Only by opening it can you tell what’s inside.”

“Thank you.” Han Fei put away the talisman. He wanted to say something more but when he looked up, Spider had already walked away.

“Looks like he didn’t plan to hide inside the talisman this time.”

Han Fei sighed. Spider was too clever, ‘people’ like him always had their own idea. After Spider left, Han Fei stayed with his neighbours from Happiness Neighbourhood. Then he used Resurrection on Zhuang Ren. After sending Zhuang Ren back, Han Fei found a corner and quitted the game.

The city shrouded in darkness turned red. Han Fei realized the exit image was rather similar to the blood red scenes he saw from his suppressed memory. At the very last moment, Han Fei saw a pair of frosty eyes staring at him not far from Ziggurat. The person was carrying a broken altar, with an old man’s head inside. ‘Is that the Singer?’

The world spun. When Han Fei opened his eyes, he was back in the real world. He was about to remove the gaming helmet when sharp pain came from the back of his head. His heart raced with angina pain.

He held his hands over his head. Han Fei could hear maddened laughter in his mind. He only recovered after a long time.

Chapter 394

394 Best Player

After removing the gaming helmet with some difficulty, Han Fei opened the gaming hub door. His shoulders and arms were involuntarily shaking. Pinpricks of pain still came from the back of his head. Han Fei's hands covered his heart. He still needed time to acclimatize to real life. Things still looked bloody red in his mind. He kept reminding himself that he was no longer in the game. Han Fei forced himself to stand up and pull back the curtains.

The rays of the rising sun showered on him, it finally chased away the influence of the cryptic world. After all, that world was forever without a sun.

"It's great to be alive."

The virtual screen hung in the sky. The number 2 on it was eye-catching, it was getting closer to the OB of Perfect Life. "I've already killed the Butterfly in Ziggurat, I wonder if people in real life would feel that impact or not." Butterfly was the ghost from nightmares and its influence could be felt in real life through the people it had controlled, like Meng Changan and Teacher Ma from Yi Ming Private Academy. These two should only be the tip of the iceberg.

Han Fei worked his body and realized the pain was still lingering. Then his stomach grumbled noisily. Opening the fridge, Han Fei heated some food and then gorged himself on them. He discovered with some surprise that his appetite had gotten bigger, like rapid consumption could bring him joy. His digestive power had been improved as well.

"How come I have this urge to eat meat?" For the sake of emergency, Han Fei stored a week-worth of food in the fridge but he finished half of it that morning. "It feels like my physical constitution has gotten better than before, if I ran into any more fugitives, they wouldn't be able to escape from me now."

After he had his fill, the pain from the back of the head receded. Han Fei took out his phone to call Li Xue. "Sister Li, did the police manage to capture the Butterfly yesterday night?"

Li Xue probably hadn't slept through the night. Her voice was hoarse and she sounded tired. "Well, your guess was correct. Yesterday night might be Butterfly's final hurrah. We captured 17 suspects who might be related to the Butterfly. They came from different walks of life and 9 of them had Butterfly tattoos. We're now interrogating them at the station."

"17 suspects? Is the Butterfly among them?"

"Not sure, but after all the suspects with the Butterfly tattoo knew that they couldn't escape, they started to mutilate themselves, it was like they were hypnotized." Li Xue revealed the information that the public like Han Fei was allowed to know, "After our interrogation, we realized that most of the suspects don't know each other. They made their moves on the same day because they heard a voice in their nightmare."

"A voice in the nightmare?"

"We now suspect Butterfly's real identity is a hypnotist or someone who is very familiar with the human psyche. It is powerful enough to take advantage of nightmares to influence a person. The suspects we captured all had the same nightmare." The police's investigation direction was very clear. It was only a matter of time until they found the truth but Han Fei was not optimistic.

The Butterfly was maybe just a sign of human beings beginning to see the other world. Yesterday night might be a normal night for most people at Xin Lu, no one saw the events that happened in the dark and its ripple effect.

"Yesterday night, other than yourself and Huang Yin, Butterfly also targeted a few other places like Deep Space Tech's R&D Centre, Xin Lu's Crematorium, Xin Lu's Fourth People Hospital and the rest. We will pay special attention to these locales while they're trying to figure out their connection. If you have any idea, feel free to tell me." Li Xue believed Han Fei had an unnatural instinct and he had proven helpful to the cases.

“Before the Butterfly is captured, I will assist the police fully, but I hope that you’ll also ensure my safety.” After Han Fei ended the call, he called Huang Yin. The call only rang once before it was accepted, “Han Fei, are you alright? Did you run into any danger?”

Hearing Huang Yin’s voice, Han Fei sighed in relief, “The Butterfly who has been torturing us died in its nightmare yesterday night. Brother Huang, we’ll have to look forward after this.”

“Look forward?”

“I’ll explain it further in person. Furthermore I have a new member to introduce to you.” Han Fei had his own plan. After a quick clean up, he left his home. He first arrived at Jin Jun’s place to find a crying Zhuang Ren. Then he led Zhuang Ren to Xin Lu’s intelligent city. Due to the fire and chaos at the intelligent city yesterday night, there were roadblocks everywhere. Han Fei managed to get through the inspection with Li Xue’s help. Finally they arrived at Corner Coffee. When Han Fei and Zhuang Ren got upstairs, Huang Yin was already there.

“This is the new member?” Huang Yin looked like he hadn’t slept in days.

“This is Zhuang Ren, he is a very famous horror film director. He used to live in the same neighbourhood as the Director of Immortal Pharma.” Han Fei invited Zhuang Ren to sit down beside Huang Yin. “The director left something with Zhuang Ren, namely the director appeared to have left some of his memory in Zhuang Ren’s mind.”

“Memory implantation? Immortal Pharma could accomplish that so many years ago?” Huang Yin treated Zhuang Ren with respect. Since he was invited here by Han Fei, then there had to be something special about him.

“The technology should be more complicated than we can possibly imagine. In any case, I just want the two of you to meet today. In the future, there should be many things in Perfect Life that you two will have to pursue and accomplish.” Han Fei stood before them and said seriously.

“The two of us?” Huang Yin and Zhuang Ren were shocked.

“When Perfect Life enters OB, there will be a surge of new players, one or two lucky players might fall into the cryptic world. To prevent those accidents, we need to be prepared, be it in the surface world or cryptic world.” Han Fei shared his plan, “Zhuang Ren temporarily can’t normally log into Perfect Life so he’ll handle the things in real life...”

“I have a question.” Huang Yin voiced his opinion, “Can this gentleman be trusted?”

“His daughter is trapped in that world, helping us is helping himself.” Han Fei had the power of Spirit Farer but he could only use it a limited amount of time every night. Therefore, he decided to recruit Zhuang Ren. He would help reunite the man with his family. At the same time, Han Fei hoped that meant Zhuang Ren would be willing to do some favors for him.

“Then what do you need from me?” Huang Yin asked.

“Your responsibility will be heavy.” Han Fei’s expression was severe. “I need you to compete with millions of players to be the best player in Perfect Life.”

“Best player?”

“The player with the most powerful influence, largest force, and greatest strength, a player that can manipulate the storyline of the main plot!”

“I don’t think I can do that!” Huang Yin waved his hands. “I’m just a casual player. During the CB, I spent my days renovating my house and farming. The most out-of-line thing that I had ever done was to invite the female nurse home to watch a movie with me. But before she arrived, you already summoned me away.”

“You managed to defeat the Butterfly, what else can’t you do? I used to be a casual player too but look at me now.” Han Fei used himself as an example. The other security guard tried to befriend the tenants while Han Fei had taken over the managerial role at Ziggurat. “Without a push, you’ll never know your true potential.”

“But I really don’t think I can do this!” Huang Yin almost cried. “I might be able to compete with 100 people but not millions of them!”

“Don’t worry, I’ll support you from behind, I will pour the resources from the other world into you.” Han Fei had opened both ends of the black box, he had chosen the most difficult path. To aid his future, he needed to control the surface world as soon as possible, that way when the channel appeared between the two worlds, he’d be ready.

“Perfect Life’s OB might bring in a new era but no one can tell for sure if it’s going to be for the better or for the worse, all we can do is to push it towards the positive.” Finally Han Fei managed to convince Huang Yin.

“Okay, I’ll try my best.”

“Since we’re on the same page, we’ll start the preparation tonight.” Han Fei shared his ideas with Huang Yin, he needed Huang Yin to branch out from many directions. Before OB started, Han Fei needed him to send everything useful to the cryptic world.

“No problem.”

“There’s one more thing. I remembered you said that the first official event after OB is related to Happiness Points?” Han Fei remembered Huang Yin telling him that.

“I think so... yes.” Huang Yin had a bad feeling.

“I will send you into the darkness 12 hours before the OB to lower your Happiness Points as much as possible. When the first game ranking appears, we’re going to send your right to the top.” Han Fei shared his plan, “Having an early lead will be crucial to us.”

“Do we really have to do this? I mean I feel like my Happiness Points are quite low already. I also feel like I’ve gotten quite immune to fear and despair.” Huang Yin tried to persuade Han Fei. “Other than that, I keep having nightmares lately. My heart is stronger than before, and scares might not be able to lower my Happiness Points anymore. Yes.”

“No worry, I’ve just learned a new skill called Cursed Words, it can greatly lower a target’s resistance. The weaker the target, the greater the effect.”

“Curses?”

“Don’t worry, I’ll be careful about it.” Han Fei signaled for Huang Yin to not worry. “Leave the dirty work to me, all you have to do is to enjoy the admiration from others. Of course, the process might be slightly painful.”

Chapter 395

395 One Last Chance [2in1]

Han Fei was a just person. Huang Yin had saved his life so he would use everything within his power to repay Huang Yin, to make him the best player in the surface world.

“Are you sure we’re doing this? Your friends don’t seem to like me, especially the guard from the school, the one with...”

“He likes you a lot, in fact he often asks me about you.” Han Fei interrupted Huang Yin, “You might not be used to it at first but slowly you’ll find a healing effect being with them, trust me.”

Huang Yin’s stability was only on the surface, internally he was depressed and introverted. Han Fei noticed this so he believed he could help Brother Huang with this Iyashikei game like how the game had helped him. The process might be difficult, but the result would be worth it. After ironing out all the details, Han Fei led Zhuang Ren away from the intelligent city and discussed more things with him.

After the Director of Immortal Pharma passed away, everything about him was sealed up by the big company. If they found out that part of the Director’s memory was sealed in Zhuang Ren’s mind, Immortal Pharma would definitely come for Zhuang Ren. Zhuang Ren understood the severity of the situation, he didn’t want to be treated like a lab rat.

After dropping Zhuang Ren home, Han Fei’s phone suddenly rang. He thought it was the police so he picked it up without hesitation.

“Mr. Han, how is your body recovering?” The person on the phone was Director Zhang’s assistant. Hearing that voice, Han Fei only realized his official profession was an actor. After days of massacring in the cryptic world, he had gotten used to the profession of midnight butcher. “The recovery is going well, how can I help you?”

“The police have removed the cordon around the meat packing factory, the fugitives have been captured as well. Would you like to return to the set? Due to the incident, everyone’s mood is affected and Director Zhang has been talking about you a lot.” Then the male assistant lowered his voice, “In fact, other than shooting the movie, Director Zhang spent most of his time on the internet to clear your name. Sometimes he would even use his alt to argue with people but it would only get him angrier.”

“Help me clear my name?” Han Fei hadn’t been online for a long time already. Unlike other actors who released their status daily, Han Fei didn’t use social media at all. If his fans wanted to get his update, they would have to check Xin Lu’s law enforcement official website.

“For some reasons, there are a lot of rumours about you, like you have been kicked out from the crew, you have crazy demands due to your new popularity, you have conflicts with the other actors and so on.” The assistant sighed, “I suspect someone is targeting you. Personally I’d advise you to join an agency as soon as possible. They will have people to handle these things for you.”

“Don’t worry, I’m not afraid of these rumors. If these people cross the line, they’ll be the ones who will be regretting it.” Han Fei was a very nice person so he was never angered by those rumors. He had no idea how ugly human sin could be but he did know that if he used Resurrection on 100 people and took over their souls, then he could get the title of Divinity of Somnambulance.

“You’re quite generous. It’s rare to find a young man who has both acting skills and great personality. I honestly hope that you’ll catch your big break. If the entertainment industry has more people like you, perhaps the whole environment can change.”

“Even though I’m an actor, I don’t see myself as part of the entertainment industry.” Han Fei smiled, “I’ll return to the set this afternoon. That way all the rumors will dissolve on their own.” Han Fei had signed a contract, in fact, the money that he used to purchase the gaming hub came from the contract. If he violated the contract, he would go bankrupt.

Therefore, after a quick meal, Han Fei hurried towards the set. Along the way, he paid attention to his surroundings. The feeling of being watched disappeared, it was like Butterfly had really died.

When Han Fei appeared at the set around 1 pm, many crew members came to greet him. He was still down to earth. But more impressive was his memory. Han Fei could memorize the names of all the members. He greeted them with their names, giving everyone full respect. There was never an actor like Han Fei. It was already considered nice if the actors would be polite with the crew members when they interacted, no actors had gone through the trouble of remembering their names. Everyone knew how good of a person Han Fei was so when they saw Han Fei was slandered on the internet, they were really indignant for him.

“Han Fei!” Director Zhang shouted his name from afar, he squeezed through the crowd, “Welcome back!” The other actors walked over as well. They were fully impressed by Han Fei’s acting skill. In the days when Han Fei was away from the set, the sense of pressure disappeared, only then they realized the pressure came from Han Fei. It was common for directors and actors to be friendly with each other but when all the crew members also loved Han Fei, it proved quite plainly how popular Han Fei was on set. This was captured by many paparazzi who stationed themselves at the set. These pictures naturally countered the rumors about Han Fei on the internet.

“I’m so sorry, my personal reason has caused the delay of the shoot. We should continue now.” Compared to the challenges in the cryptic world, making a movie was like a vacation for Han Fei. He could completely immerse in another character and empty his own soul. “These few days, I’ve been studying the character of Spider at home and I believe I’ve gained a new understanding of him.” Han Fei had met the real Spider in the cryptic world, in other words, he was the living person who knew Spider the best.

“You have been studying your character when you were at home?” Director Zhang admired Han Fei even more now. During the break, Han fei memorized all of his lines. When the camera rolled, he walked into the factory living compound without the script. As he entered the set, his personality shifted.

The experience in the cryptic world had influenced Han Fei a lot. When he was Spider, his presence changed naturally. There was an invisible domineering aura about him. Even though he was a side character, all the other characters existed because of him.

In just a few short days, Han Fei had been through many changes. His understanding of fear had ascended beyond human comprehension. He managed to fulfill not only all of Director Zhang’s demands, but also the demands Director Zhang didn’t even think of. Han Fei’s performance was perfect and the other actors found that pressure again. After one take, the other actors were pouring so much sweat that they needed to redo their make-up.

“You have grown so much in the past few days.” Bai Xian who was a decorated actor gulped down the water. “It feels like you’ve overcome a big hurdle in your life. There’s a wind lifting you to the top.”

“Brother Bai, you have to stop praising me like that.” Han Fei chuckled.

Since he was on break for days, Han Fei needed to catch up to the progress that he had missed. Initially Director Zhang thought Han Fei needed time to get back into the groove, but he realized he had underestimated Han Fei.

When he didn’t have to be in a scene with another actor, Han Fei finished his cut without any NG. It was like he was Spider himself.

‘So we’re the ones slowing him down...’ The other 8 actors were all good actors handpicked by Director Zhang. To make them feel like they were a burden, it was ridiculous and Han Fei was only 20 plus. ‘He has a great chance to be the youngest best actor, a rare actor who caught his break from horror films.’ Horror genre itself was not that mainstream, so it was thus harder for an actor to be nominated for best actor in this genre.

Han Fei had no idea how his colleagues viewed him. He focused on his work and tradition. He finished his cut before dark and refused to work overtime.

“Remember to come back to the set tomorrow!” Director Zhang was very satisfied with their progress that day and his mood elevated a lot.

After leaving the set, Han Fei took a cab to return to the old city. His brain was filled with ideas on how to cultivate Huang Yin. It was not until he reached his apartment that he saw Ah Cheng and the superior from his former agency standing at the steps to his house.

“I’m sure you’ve sensed our sincerity, right?” The attitude of the superior was much better this time, at least he didn’t stay inside the car to talk to Han Fei. “Before this, there were some misunderstandings between us. If you’re willing to return to the company, we will compensate you fully.”

“Compensate?” That was not what Han Fei was looking for so he ignored the man. “You better use that money to hire more 50 cent army.” Han Fei walked past them. Ah Cheng wanted to stop Han Fei but as

Han Fei glared at him, Ah Cheng's arms shrunk back. After Han Fei entered the door, Ah Cheng said, "I told you he won't agree, he's too arrogant."

"I value his talent, so I wanted to give him a last chance. Since he refuses to take it, then I can't be blamed." The superior's face was dark, he hadn't been so insulted in a long time already. As he got into the car, he called a number. He waited impatiently before the call was answered, "So, how is the thing coming along?"

"We... might need some more time."

"Is it so hard to find the victims' family?! I have already told you that money is not a problem! As long as the families are willing to help us boycott him and his movies, then his career is over!" The man's voice was dark, "Plus haven't those people once boycotted the movie? Just tell them to keep on doing it, we'd handle the rest."

"This is not an issue of money. When we reached out to the victims' family, the moment we brought up anything negative about Han Fei, we were chased out from their houses. There was an old man named Wei who even came after us with a broom."

"They aren't willing to launch a boycott? Not even with free money?" The man's brows were twisted together. "There are so many victims, there has to be someone among their families who is willing to do this. Go and find them! If that doesn't work, pretend to be the victims' families yourself!"

After hanging up, the man tossed the phone at the seat beside him. "Drive, we're going back to the agency!"

After the luxury car left the street, Han Fei walked out from the shadow of the first floor. He realized that after the mad laughter was triggered in his mind, he became much more sensitive to sin in others, like he could sense them in people's hearts.

"I'm a kind person. This is the last chance I'm giving you, I hope you'll treasure it." Watching the luxury car drive away, Han Fei had the same advice the man had for him.

Han Fei returned to his room and lay in bed, enjoying this rare moment of relaxation. He read some books, listened to music and ate snacks, if not for the wall of murder, it would be quite a relaxing scene.

Chapter 396

396 Best Player [3in1]

“When I was jobless, I missed working every day; but now that I have a job, I wish I could rest more often. Unfortunately I have both morning and night shifts, I can’t even have a normal break.” Han Fei was an actor in the morning but at night, he could be a security guard, a patrol teacher, a convenience store boss or even a midnight butcher.

Gulping down a glass of water, Han Fei put down the book and started his physical training. Ever since he started Perfect Life, Han Fei’s lifestyle became so healthy that it didn’t match that of a normal youth.

At around 11 pm, Han Fei gave Huang Yin another call. After making sure Huang Yin was ready, Han Fei climbed into the gaming hub. In the past few days, Han Fei felt like he was going to the executioner whenever he entered the game, he had even prepared his will, but this time, the pressure was conspicuously smaller.

Time ticked by. When the large virtual screen in the sky changed, Han Fei also put on the gaming helmet. There were only 24 hours left until the official OB of Perfect Life. Blood descended and Han Fei’s consciousness arrived at the bloody city.

While his consciousness descended, he saw a red figure not far away. The ‘person’ was hugging an old man’s head, guarding beside an altar. ‘The Singer? He’s still there?’ When Han Fei exited the game last time, he already saw the Singer, he was surprised to find the spirit to still be there when he logged in this time.

Opening his eyes, Han Fei found himself at the location where he logged off last time. He pushed open the bedroom door and walked into the negotiation between Hua Kui and 2 guards from Building 4. Hua Kui said that he had survived at Building 4 for years, so with his experience, he was most suitable to take the post of lead security guard at Ziggurat.

“Han Fei?” After interacting with the tenants from Happiness Neighbourhood, they found out about Han Fei’s real name too. “When did you enter the house? I remember there was no one in that room.”

“How is the situation in the neighbourhood now?” Han Fei sat on the couch and asked. The 3 guards answered one after another, it was clear who the lead security guard here was.

“After the altar at the underground crumbled, the shell of the black cocoon started to crack. Even though it still radiates black mist, the mist is not thick enough to envelope the entire Ziggurat, it can barely supply the neighbourhood to heal itself.” Hua Kui was in a clean security guard uniform, he looked quite spirited. The group walked out of the room. After a day of recovery, Building 4 had almost rebuilt itself. The blood vessels left behind by the Butterfly were made into nutrients by the tenants and fed into the building.

“Butterfly is dead, so we need a new manager.” Hua Kui began with clear hint, “In terms of power, the jumper woman from Building 1 is the strongest but she doesn’t have the plan to take over the manager’s post, she spends most of her time just being crazy; in terms of personality and intellect, I believe you’re the most suitable candidate.” The two other guards nodded vehemently. They had a good relationship with Han Fei. If Han Fei became the new manager, at least their safety could be guaranteed. Furthermore, they also approved of Han Fei’s style of management.

Han Fei led the team of guards and walked down the corridor. The tenants that they ran into greeted them warmly, it was hard to imagine that they were in the cryptic world. Even a small neighbourhood in real life might not have a community as close-knitted as this.

Han Fei took out Firefly’s phone. After Firefly was resurrected, his phone became Han Fei’s item. The phone looked normal, but after the system’s appraisal, Han Fei realized this was a rare Grade F cursed object. It was called the Phone of Death Chat Group. If one wanted to obtain this cursed object normally, one had to join the death chat group and survive among the group of ghosts, the difficulty was high. However Han Fei’s soul accidentally crawled into Firefly’s body and allowed him to gain the approval of all the ghosts, making it easy for him to acquire this cursed object. Han Fei had edited the name of the chat group into Ziggurat’s Tenancy Right and Tenant Support Group.

In the chat group, Han Fei asked everyone about their plans for the future. He stressed that the neighbourhood belonged to everyone, every tenant was the manager and he hoped they would participate more often in the management of the neighbourhood.

At the other locales, everyone fought crazily for the manager’s post but here, Han Fei voluntarily shared his power with others. For the cryptic world, this might be the first step to bring about big changes. Thanks to the chat group, communication between the tenants was easy. When Han Fei was away, the

tenants worked together to clean the Ziggurat. They collected the traces and Death Curses of the Butterfly and tallied them in the chat group.

Going through the chat history, Han Fei noticed a few noteworthy things.

Firstly, after Butterfly exploded Dresser 4444, there were certain transformations to all the dressers in Ziggurat. Even though the main pathway between nightmares and the cryptic world had been ruined, there still remained some kind of special connection between the two dimensions. Without Butterfly to control it, if someone got lost in their nightmare, they might be lucky enough to push open the dresser to the Ziggurat and have a chance encounter with Han Fei. Of course, the chance of that was very low.

The male student and Laughing All Day led the tenants to collect all the fragments of the remaining altar at Ziggurat. For the locals of the cryptic world, the altars were something that needed to be protected, even the fragments had to be carefully guarded. Han Fei was an atheist but he wasn't going to provoke the 'God' inside the altar because of it. From his known information, only the Unmentionable had the power to build their own altar. In other words, each altar represented an Unmentionable.

"We should keep these altar fragments, some of us might use them in the future." During the final battle, Butterfly used the power inside the altar. It even nurtured its heart inside the altar, this proved that the evolution from Pure Hatred to Unmentionable had everything to do with the altar.

Through the chat group, Han Fei found Laughing, the female livestreamer, and Wei Youfu at the top floor. After the Butterfly disappeared, the temporary managers at Ziggurat were Laughing and the female streamer while Wei Youfu and Xu Qin represented the Happiness Neighbourhood. The tenants from these two neighbourhoods normally wouldn't encounter each other but due to Han Fei, they had approved of each other's existence. At least they wouldn't turn to aggression at first glance.

"Looks like you've already gotten to know each other, there's no need for introductions then." After Han Fei entered Butterfly's former room, he realized the atmosphere inside the room was rather awkward. The weakened Wei Youfu leaned on the couch, Laughing scratched his chin and looked out the window. In the living room, the female streamer and Xu Qin sat face to face, one was fluffing her red dress, the other sharpening her table knives.

Perhaps because this was Butterfly's former room, the room was particularly eerie and dark. The temperature was also lower than outside.

“Even though the Butterfly is gone, it also brought the black mist away with it. The neighbourhood will not return to its previous state.” Laughing shattered the awkwardness in the room. “Our enemy in the past was the Butterfly but in the future, we’ll have to face all sorts of different scary existences, perhaps even other Unmentionables.”

Pulling back the curtain, the group looked out. Ziggurat had 24 floors, it was the tallest building in this area. However, down the distance, there were other buildings which were much higher. Han Fei’s group was merely occupying a small corner of the cryptic world. They weren’t close enough to witnessing the full scale of the darkness.

“To face the potential danger, I suggest cooperation.” Wei Youfu’s face was pale and his body was transparent, “Just like how Happiness Neighbourhood’s Building 1 and 2 came together, we needed to gather all the scattered forces, that is good for everyone.”

“I agree. Ziggurat now only has Zhuang Wen, a single Pure Hatred but she is completely incommunicable. If she suddenly decides to go on a rampage, we’ll have a hard time controlling her.” Laughing was telling the truth. In the past, he was dominated by the Death Curse, every day his mind was filled with how to fight and survive. But after meeting Firefly and Han Fei, he started to consider his future. “There is another thing that I have to tell you.” Laughing said after a long pause. “I have a feeling that something big is about to happen. The monsters near the neighbourhood suddenly became more active, that is very abnormal.”

“Being on full defensive will only intensify our fear, we need to venture out to explore more locales.” Han Fei didn’t sound like a newbie level 15 player at all. “I know the Singer’s general location. He has been heavily injured by the Butterfly and the black mist, now is the perfect time to approach him.” After Han Fei said that, everyone was silent as they stared at Han Fei. The Singer was an Unmentionable, just talking about them could be cursed. But here, Han Fei was openly discussing how to approach one.

Bringing up the map in his mind, Han Fei pointed out the window. “The Singer is on the street just outside the Ziggurat. The previous manager at the Happiness Neighbourhood calls the place Ancestral Hall Street.”

Laughing had a dry cough and began hesitantly, “Are you sure about this?”

“One of the main reasons I entered Ziggurat is to find the previous manager from Happiness Neighbourhood. His altar and memory fragments have all been taken by the Singer so I have to find

him.” Han Fei believed the Singer was one of Fu Sheng’s 3 children so he should know more about Fu Sheng.

“I understand that but there is a whole level of Pure Hatred between us Linger Spirit and the Unmentionable. After the Pure Hatred is reborn in the black flame, they are delineated into 3 more subcategories, faded red, red and deep red. Even if the Singer is injured, he is not someone any of us Linger Spirits can handle. Even someone as powerful as the Butterfly had to rely on the altars and the black mist to force the Singer back.” Despite his name, Laughing was actually quite a negative person.

“After the Singer recovers, he will definitely come back for us. Do you want to deal with him now or later?” Han Fei didn’t fear the Unmentionable in the cryptic world that much since he could log off at any time. In fact, he had escaped from the Singer multiple times already. The Butterfly had injured the Singer, with the Unmentionable’s personality, he would come back to take revenge. With the current power level of the tenants at the Ziggurat now, they wouldn’t be able to survive a visit from the Singer.

“Okay, give us a time and we’ll go with you to Ancestral Hall Street!” Laughing finally made a decision.

“Then we’ll make it tomorrow night. The longer we drag this out, the greater the Singer can recover himself.” Han Fei wanted to deal with the Singer because according to the system’s manager mission, to officially become the manager at Ziggurat, he had to recover the altar and Fu Sheng’s memory fragment. Furthermore, Fu Sheng did say that Han Fei would be able to open more layers of the black box if he found more memory fragments. Han Fei wanted to know what was inside the black box.

After ironing out all the details, Han Fei led everyone from Happiness Neighbourhood and the unconscious Feng Ziyu away from Ziggurat, after all this was not their home. Walking down the streets with his neighbours and friends, no one dared to find trouble with them. ‘Now this feels more like an iyashikei game.’ Han Fei looked down the streets shrouded in darkness and the buildings covered in Yin energy, ‘As I visit more places, I will bring hope to more of the locals.’

Han Fei returned to Yi Ming Private Academy. After he told them about his adventures at Ziggurat, Han Fei gained another bout of approval. After getting permission from all the staff and students, Han Fei decided to do something important. He opened the door of one of the classrooms and used his manager talent—Spirit Farer.

The blood red doors of hell slowly opened and Han Fei chanted Huang Yin’s name. At 2 am that night, the test server for Perfect Life would be shut down. Han Fei had to drag Huang Yin into the cryptic world

before he was forced out from the game. The blood sea raged. When the doors of hell closed, a cowering figure appeared at the corner of the classroom.

“Brother Huang, I’ve prepared these 2 classrooms for you to place all your items and mission objects.” Han Fei pulled Huang Yin up from the ground.

“This is not my first time here but I still feel so discomfited being here.” With his back against the table, Huang Yin looked carefully around. The tables and chairs were toppled over in the dark classroom. Faces of children would occasionally appear on the classroom window.

“You better hurry to unload all of your stuff.” Han Fei urged, “We have something else more important to do later.”

“Speaking of which, what is your connection with the headmaster of this school? How come they allow you to use their spaces so freely?” Huang Yin already filled up a classroom with the items last time.

“This is the power of connections.” Han Fei helped Huang Yin arrange the stuff. The road to level 50 for Huang Yin was paved. Other than mission objects, Huang Yin also collected all the rare items available to beta testers. Since the save files would be wiped after OB, these valuables were not worth much to the other players.

Extremely rare antiques, weapons, legendary food and medicine, rare items and skills, there were even land contracts and business contracts. In a way, Huang Yin had gone far beyond what was required of him. After a long time, Huang Yin studied the filled classroom and he felt satisfied. He wiped the sweat from his forehead, he reached for the shoulders of the person beside him. He said with pride, “Actually I’m quite excited about the OB now. The best player of Perfect Life, it has a ring to it.”

When Huang Yin didn’t get a reply, he turned to look to his side. His arm was on the shoulders of an old man. He was wearing the guard uniform of Yi Ming Private Academy. A mountain of ghosts pressed down on him, the ghosts were all looking at Huang Yin.

“Kid, I haven’t seen you in days but you look more refreshed and rejuvenated.” As Huang Yin screamed and raced out from the classroom, Han Fei who hid behind the door stared at Huang Yin and used his Grade E active skill—Cursed Words for the first time.

“You are very cowardly, a flickering wind and you’d break down. You are afraid of darkness, small spaces. You like to overthink and scare yourself, you don’t even dare to use the toilet on your own...” Whenever Han Fei said something, black curlicues like Death Curse would appear on Huang Yin’s chest. The cursed words bound around Huang Yin’s heart and amplified his sense of fear.

Hearing the echoing screams, Han Fei knew the skill had been successful.

To prevent Huang Yin from being injured, he led the scary tenants from Happiness Neighbourhood to trail behind Huang Yin, to protect him from the dark.

Chapter 397

397 Jackpot [2in1]

Huang Yin had never imagined a less than 3 minutes conversation with Han Fei would lead to a lifetime of treatment. His screams shattered the peace in the cryptic world and attracted much attention. The naïve man thought that he’d be safe after leaving the school but when he exited the school gate, he only realized the darkness was borderless. The things that he thought were the scariest were only the beginning.

“I don’t want to be first anymore! Really! I just want to go home...”

It was too late for that now. While Han Fei and his neighbours trailed behind Huang Yin, Han Fei used this opportunity to cleanse the area around Ziggurat, to see if he had missed any cursed objects or potential friends. With the buff from Huang Yin’s luck, Han Fei completed several Grade G Missions and found some fresh food for his neighbours.

After living under the tyranny of the Butterfly for so long, the people here finally had the chance to sigh in relief, tonight was meant to be for celebration. Huang Yin was the signal that the party had begun. The ‘people’ that he encountered either became party guests or party food.

The resentment was released. The madness of the afterlife intermingled with lingering humanity. The locals didn’t hide themselves and enjoyed themselves to the fullest. 5 hours later, after endless fainting and rescuing, the player finally reached his limit. After Han Fei confirmed that Huang Yin couldn’t be reawakened for another time, Han Fei used Resurrection on Huang Yin.

“Brother Huang, this is the best I can help you, you’ll have to do the rest on your own.” Huang Yin in the state of resurrection looked so peaceful like he was returning to heaven.

After Huang Yin left, Lee Zai and Lee Huo were the most disappointed. Even the Mirror God appeared to be unwilling to let Huang Yin go because it wanted to trap Huang Yin inside the mirror. With Huang Yin as bait, some of the ghosts who were deeply hidden near Ziggurat couldn’t help but show themselves. Han Fei successfully cleaned the area around Ziggurat. Now he could be free to explore the other locations without being worried about this place.

The delineation of locales in the cryptic world was rather chaotic. Normally, the locales were delineated street by street. But if a street had a Pure Hatred, then all the nearby streets would be categorized under the Pure Hatred’s territory, for example, Butterfly and the Ziggurat. In other words, in the cryptic world, each Pure Hatred represented an individual locale. If Han Fei wished to explore deeper into the cryptic world, he was bound to trespass into their territories.

Normally, when a living human like Han Fei entered a Pure Hatred’s territory, the latter wouldn’t react that much. After all, you wouldn’t have turned the whole yard over because a single ant had walked into the house, would you?

However, Han Fei was walking through their territory with several Large Lingered Spirits. That made things totally different.

‘The previous manager’s map didn’t specify it but I suppose all the locations that have been crossed out with red marks contain a Pure Hatred?’ The Ziggurat was individually marked out by the previous manager. From that, Han Fei drew the meaning of the red cross. Han Fei knew he was lucky to have defeated the Butterfly. If he ran into a Pure Hatred now, he and his neighbours could do nothing but run. ‘I better take this slow. First, I should try to approach the Singer to get Fu Sheng’s second memory fragment before I plan anything else.’

Standing inside an old building, Han Fei turned to look behind him. When he first started the game, he was just a tenant at Happiness Neighbourhood Building 1, but now he had expanded his influence to a school, a convenience store, a pet store, a meat packing plant, a security company and so on. With that in mind, Han Fei saw the management side of the game.

'A pet store that sells the pet owners, the convenience store that specializes in afterlife items, a security company that kills the clients, a meat packing factory operated by livestock, these are not enough. There is nothing core and essential that would attract spirits from other areas to this place... Looks like I still have a long way to go.' After exchanging his thoughts with others, Han Fei decided that he would study city building after he logged off the game. Others played games to escape from studying but Han Fei had to study to be alive in this game. He had gained much knowledge through this game.

After dealing with everything, Han Fei and his neighbours returned to the Happiness Neighbourhood, he logged out inside his first room. Blood dyed the city red. When Han Fei's consciousness rose, he realized the Singer at the Ancestral Hall Street was still staring at him. 'Why is he staring at me? What does he want from me?'

After removing the gaming helmet, Han Fei crawled out from the gaming hub. He gulped down mouthfuls of water before pulling back the curtains. The virtual screen in the sky had one last countdown. The day that was anticipated by many was coming.

Han Fei went online and most of the searches were related to the OB of Perfect Life. Han Fei felt truly that a new era was coming. AI and biological revolution came at the same time. It caused technology to advance tremendously. The technological gap between the city centre and the countryside could be decades apart. While many people slaved for their lives, a second life completely based in virtual reality had become the truth. Inside the large virtual city that kept on expanding, the human technological heaven was being built and a company was putting a price tag on the ticket to heaven.

"This is a heaven for many but a hell for me." Han Fei lamented as he stared at the virtual screen in the sky. "My in-game ID is 0000, perhaps no one even realizes that ID exists."

After finishing a double breakfast, Han Fei realized he was still hungry. His appetite was so much larger than before. After clearing away the dining table, Han Fei called Huang Yin but there was no answer. To ensure that Huang Yin was safe, Han Fei purposely paid him a visit. After knowing that Huang Yin was 'fine', Han Fei hurried towards the factory compound to start his work.

Han Fei's return to the set was an inspiration for the crew. They had faith in Han Fei as well as the projected box office sales.

The shoot ended at 8.30 pm. Director Zhang even managed to fit in some of the shoots for the next day. This was because the director knew Perfect Life was entering OB at midnight. He purposely left the night empty for the crew members to enter the game. The first shoot tomorrow was arranged at 2 pm. Even

an old-fashioned director like Director Zhang had to adjust his schedule, this went to show the influence of Perfect Life in the society.

After the shoot ended, everyone hurried home, there were not many people on the street either. Han Fei who walked along the shadows of the wall appeared rather lonely. He stopped to enjoy a scrumptious dinner at a shop run by an old lady. As the old lady rambled at him, Han Fei smiled kindly back at her.

The old lady who manned the shop alone reminded Han Fei of Meng Si. The memories he gained at the cryptic world were not entirely dark, there were some bright spots too. The smile on his face slowly froze. Han Fei really tried to smile but he realized he still hadn't reached that point yet. He tried to smile and the end result was only an awkward smile. Considering the lack of customers that night, Han Fei ordered many things and tried to clean out the old lady's stock.

When he arrived home, Han Fei went online to look for literature related to city building and management. He studied until 11.44 pm. He turned away from the monitor and looked out at the virtual screen in the sky. The countdown was reaching 0. Many people all over the world would be staring at their own city's virtual screen like Han Fei. When the last second ended, the virtual screen dissolved into fireworks. It lit up the night sky! The Perfect Life which was run by the 7th generation photon computer had officially entered Open Beta!

"I won't be playing alone anymore." Han Fei crawled into the gaming hub, put on the helmet and logged into his account. When the red of the city faded away, Han Fei realized the bloodiness in the Singer's eyes appeared to be thickening. The Singer was recuperating.

"I can't delay this anymore. We're heading to Ancestral Hall Street tonight."

Opening his eyes, Han Fei noticed the cryptic world hadn't changed at all. In spite of the OB, this world would forever be shrouded in darkness. Taking out Firefly's phone, Han Fei called his neighbours to gather at Yi Ming Private Academy. Before they headed to Ancestral Hall Street, there was something important he needed to do.

When it was 00.12 am, Han Fei used the Spirit Farer talent to summon Huang Yin. Han Fei was quite worried, this was the first time he used this talent after the game entered OB. Several seconds later, a middle-aged man in white threadbare shirt appeared inside the classroom. Huang Yin hugged his knees and the first thing he did when he saw Han Fei was to run.

“Brother Huang! Calm down, it’s me, Han Fei!” That only made Huang Yin run even faster. However, Huang Yin’s attributes had been reset. He couldn’t beat Han Fei who had 24 points in Stamina.

While he chased after Huang Yin, Han Fei noticed something interesting. After he touched Huang Yin, he could see into Huang Yin’s character profile!

Everything was exposed to Han Fei, including Huang Yin’s hidden talents and attributes. Theoretically in Perfect Life, the players couldn’t view each other’s hidden attributes. Only the mods with high access could do that.

‘What’s the meaning of this?’ Without Huang Yin having to explain it himself, Han Fei could read into Huang Yin’s attributes. From a player’s perspective, Huang Yin’s stat was not bad.

His stamina was 6, which was above the average line of 4.

But to Han Fei’s surprise, Huang Yin’s intelligence was as high as 9, the maximum point for starting players was only a mere 10. It was unclear whether this was the result of Butterfly’s torment or whether Huang Yin was naturally that smart.

Then Huang Yin’s hidden attributes were rather... interesting. His luck was 1, a normal player would have restarted the game, because luck was quite important.

His Charm was 5, which was average, not as interesting as Han Fei’s.

At the start, every player’s Life Points would be 100 and San Value would differ depending on the player’s personal experience. These two values were very important. Huang Yin’s San Value was insanely high. A normal player’s San Value was below 10 but Huang Yin’s San Value was 37!

Compared to CB, there were new hidden attributes like Happiness Points, Reputation, Persona and the rest. There were also rankings for each of the attributes.

As predicted by Huang Yin, Perfect Life's first official event was to search for the true meaning of happiness. After the player started the game, within the set amount of time, the player had to find ways to increase Happiness Points. The greater the increase, the greater the final reward.

Han Fei checked Huang Yin's Happiness Point, it was -100, there was a great space for improvement. Han Fei's Grade E Cursed Words didn't go to waste.

After that, Han Fei examined Huang Yin's hidden talent. To see if a new player would have a great future in the game or not, the starting attribute was not that important because the photon computer generated the character attributes based on the person in real life. The fluctuation was not big, the real deal-breaker or maker was the character's hidden talent. An account's initial hidden talent would decide the account's upper limit and future.

When Han Fei saw Huang Yin's hidden talent, his eyes widened.

"Character Name: Huang Yin

"Hidden Talent 1: Experienced Patient Makes a Doctor, you are not good with physical labor and have a weak constitution. You often get sick and thus have an affinity with the healing and medical sciences.

"Hidden Talent 2: Spiritism, it's hard to say if you're lucky or unlucky. With this unique talent, you'll be able to see things that normal people wouldn't and experience things normal people wouldn't.

"Hidden Talent 3: Nightmare, you've suffered a long nightmare. After endless deaths, you've gained the power to control nightmares. With this unique talent, improving and obtaining talents and skills related to Intelligence will come much easier. Compatibility with dream-related professions increases."

Han Fei was surprised that a normal player like Huang Yin would have 3 hidden talents. Based on the Perfect Life's official website, the chance of a player starting with a hidden talent was 20 percent, the chance of starting with 2 hidden talents was 0.2 percent, and the chance of starting with 3 hidden talents was 0.02 percent.

'Brother Huang has hit the jackpot this time.'

Chapter 398

This was the first time Han Fei saw so many unique talents. The torment Huang Yin received had repaid him in a different way.

“Brother Huang, why are you running? You know you can’t outrun me.” Han Fei finally caught up to Huang Yin. They talked for some time before Huang Yin slowly calmed down. “The things you need are all in the classrooms. I’ll go with you. When you have all the necessary items, you better go back to the surface world. The OB just started, we can’t waste even a second.”

Staring at Han Fei, Huang Yin’s eyes slowly focused. “Okay, okay, I’ll leave after I get my things.”

Huang Yin started to search for mission items inside the classrooms. Huang Yin hadn’t leveled up his inventory so he only took the key items. He took the mission objects that would help him reach level 10 and then grabbed several business and land contracts. Finally he stopped beside a bloody tooth.

“What’s wrong?”

“This tooth is the mission item to trigger the hidden mission for the profession of Blood Doctor. It was Feng Ziyu who told me that. The game finally enters OB but he’s not coming back anymore.” Huang Yin was saddened. He placed the tooth into his inventory. “Initially I was quite averse to the profession of Blood Doctor but now, I want to become one. I’ve prepared a lot for it as well.”

“Blood Doctor will lower the NPC’s affection towards you, are you sure you want to become a Blood Doctor?” Han Fei wanted to tell Huang Yin that Feng Ziyu was still around, he was just unconscious. But then again, in real life, Feng Ziyu was indeed gone forever.

“I’ve already considered that, so I bought a mask that could shield me from NPC detection during CB.” Huang Yin shared his plan. “I’ve also prepared many identities for myself, there’s business mogul, real estate CEO, and others. In the morning, I’m a kind doctor but at night, I’ll be the Blood Doctor. I’ve even planned to join the group of NPC managers, to climb towards the highest rung of virtual city management.” Normally speaking, these were impossible for a normal player because they would exhaust too much of a person’s spirit and mental power. However, it was different for Huang Yin. Grade A talent, Nightmare allowed Huang Yin to adapt to all the professions that would utilize Intelligence easily. The man had evolved through pain.

Perfect Life was an Iyashikei game, the photon computer was always guiding the players towards positivity. Many activities were related to Happiness Points and satisfaction. An overly ambitious person would not have much drastic increase in their Happiness Points in their pursuit of fame, power and wealth. For that, they would have to change themselves first. However, Huang Yin's starting point was so low. No other player would have a starting Happiness Points of -100. In other words, even if Huang Yin just rose back to a normal player's Happiness Points, the increase would have been miraculous enough.

After understanding Huang Yin's thoughts, Han Fei became excited about Huang Yin's future.

"Brother Huang, I can only use the power to send you back to the surface world once per night. While you complete your plan, you have to remember to upgrade your inventory."

"Don't worry." Huang Yin already stuffed his newbie inventory. The man in the newbie apparel looked confident, "I don't know whether you'll be able to see the rankings in the surface world or not but I promise you after the day breaks, the name on the first place of all the rankings will be mine."

Huang Yin would not settle for anything else than first place, after all, this was a man who had once defeated the Butterfly.

Before Han Fei planned to send Huang Yin back with Resurrection, Huang Yin suggested adding Han Fei as friends so that they could communicate more easily. Then something surprising happened. Huang Yin was unable to send Han Fei a friend request, it was like Han Fei didn't exist within the photon computer's control and the system design.

When Han Fei sent Huang Yin the friend request, Huang Yin didn't receive any notification. However, Huang Yin's name did appear in Han Fei's friend list. Seeing the greyed out image of Huang Yin in the friend list, Han Fei felt it looked more like a deceased portrait.

Han Fei could be anyone's friend without asking for their permission. They couldn't even refuse being Han Fei's friends. As the game entered OB, Han Fei noticed the power of his account grew. He had access to many mod powers.

Using Resurrection, Han Fei sent the glowing Huang Yin back to the surface world. Then Han Fei had his own things to do.

“Why isn’t there a ranking in the cryptic world? If the Happiness Points ranking doesn’t work, at least we can have a Despair Points ranking.”

Leading his slightly injured neighbours, Han Fei pulled out Firefly’s phone and hurried towards Ziggurat. When he arrived, Han Fei received good news.

Feng Ziyu finally regained consciousness! Han Fei led Feng Ziyu into the fixed elevator and came to the underground for Feng Ziyu to meet his company senior. When Feng Ziyu first joined the company, it was this senior who had been looking after him. When the company said the senior had gone insane, Feng Ziyu had his suspicions. Even after he resigned, Feng Ziyu never stopped his investigation.

They were people of great kindness and empathy. Han Fei couldn’t change the things in real life, all he could do was to protect everyone in the cryptic world.

Feng Ziyu was meant to be a sacrifice for Butterfly. To consume his humanity, Butterfly retained Feng Ziyu’s memory and emotions. This meant that Feng Ziyu wasn’t that powerful, in fact he didn’t look that different from a normal person. He didn’t even realize that he was dead.

“I’ve been inside Butterfly’s Room 4444 before. When it returned from nightmares to the cryptic world, it needed to feast on sacrifices to regain its power. I believe sacrifices with weaker power have already left the cryptic world when Butterfly died.” Han Fei told Feng Ziyu. “When I find a path to leave this place, I’ll send you to the surface world to help Huang Yin.”

“Actually compared to the boring virtual power, I prefer this place.” Feng Ziyu’s words surprised Han Fei. “Really, this place feels realer than reality.”

“Then you should stay at Ziggurat and familiarize yourself with the security team and the environment first.” Han Fei led Feng Ziyu to find Hua Kui. On the way there, they ran into the fat uncle who had already changed into the security team uniform. Feng Ziyu was startled to see his own neighbor working as a security guard in the cryptic world. “Why are you here?”

The uncle was rather afraid of Han Fei so he could only glare daggers at Feng Ziyu. After assigning Feng Ziyu a post, Han Fei started to gather everyone from Ziggurat to prepare to head to Ancestral Hall Street.

After everyone arrived, Han Fei hurried to the 4th floor of Building 4.

Big Sin managed to steal away half of Butterfly's broken heart. It had been feeding on it until now. Han Fei was curious about the changes to Big Sin. However, the cryptic world was different from the surface world, to know the changes to one's pet, one had to touch them. Han Fei was quite worried that Big Sin's Soul Poison had gained another new evolution.

Han Fei led the tenants towards the 4th floor. At the same time, a rather well-preserved dresser in Room 4044 started to rock. After some time, the dresser door was pushed open. A young man in the same newbie outfit as Huang Yin walked out humming a song. He had headphones on his ears. He was so immersed in the song that he didn't notice the wooden rim of the dresser door. He tripped and fell. Then he looked around.

"What the fuck?!"

Chapter 399

399 Rare Pet

Wearing earphones, and humming a song, Zeng Haicheng happily logged into the game. He had a feeling this would be the happiest day of his life. Ever since half a year ago, Zeng Haicheng had been preparing for Perfect Life. He was attracted by everything he saw in the promo, the pure bliss and healing were everything he was looking for.

Even though he made the request many times, he failed to get into CB. However, that didn't stop Zeng Haicheng from becoming a loyal fan of Perfect Life. Like many gamers, he believed Perfect Life would be a game which would change the world. This game had become more than just a form of entertainment, it would herald the approach of a new era.

The virtual city before him would become a second reality, a heaven built for humanity. Before logging into the game, Zeng Haicheng did his best but he couldn't even imagine the goodness within Perfect Life. There was grandeur in heaven that couldn't be described. Bringing his barely suppressible ideals

and excitement, he created his character, set up his profile and picked his spawn point at random. Then he couldn't wait to open the door that would lead him to 'heaven'.

"Planet Happiness, here I come."

Fresh blood crawled on the broken wall, thick capillaries protruded from the ground. Many different dressers were tipped over in the room. Through the open dresser doors, he could see many blood-soaked clothes.

The earphones fell to the ground. The crisp sound mimicked the sound of his heart breaking. He rubbed his eyes once and then twice.

'Yes, it is real.'

The feeling of authenticity promised by the company was brought to life. They had done it. The feeling was even more real than reality.

His Adam's Apple trembled. Zeng Haicheng felt like he should say something but he didn't even have the courage to open his mouth. It was so cold like he was deep underwater.

"Is this my perfect life?" To play this game, Zeng Haicheng had requested a day off work. He worked overtime for the past 3 months just for this day. He spent his days either at work or online looking for everything related to Perfect Life.

He knew the importance of the early stages of the game. Not one second of the newbie stage should be wasted. He had even planned out the route for him to level up. After he got a random talent that was not bad, he entered the game, but the things he saw confused him. He was indeed playing Perfect Life, but it also felt like he wasn't.

'Is it because I've randomly picked my spawn point? Where is this place...?' Zeng Haicheng looked around but he couldn't tell where he was. He tried to move forward to explore. Instantly the smell of decomposition, blood and mold drilled into his nostrils at the same time. The feeling was hard to describe, like someone had punched him on his nose. After a few dry heaves, he covered his mouth. He then realized his palms were covered in cold sweat.

'Real, this game is much too real.' Holding his breath, Zeng Haicheng tried to move deeper into the house. 'Based on the information on the official website, this house should be my newbie room, the base for the earlier stages of my life...'

His eyes moved around. When he saw the thing in the centre of the living room, he was frozen to the spot. His lips convulsed and cold sweat made his bangs stuck to his forehead. At the spot where the bedroom connected to the living room was a giant monster covered in spines! It looked like a porcupine but also a beetle!

The worst was it was chewing on the internal organs of some kind of large animal!

Zeng Haicheng's brain stopped working. This was no longer a problem that he could solve. His whole body was shaking. Before he started the game, he planned to strike gold overnight, and then girls, jets and mansions would be waiting for him. But after he entered the game, he had only taken 3 steps. But those 3 steps had exhausted all of his courage in life. 'Is it a problem with my spawning point? Yes, that has to be it!'

He started to move backwards but suddenly he heard footsteps coming from the corridor. The sound was strange. It sounded like something was being dragged, there was also crying. One of the footsteps even moved on the walls and ceiling.

'What should I do now?' The footsteps were approaching, their destination was here!

With his heart almost escaping from his chest, Zeng Haicheng decided to crawl back into the dresser he came out from. The heavily cracked doors couldn't be closed fully so the man curled up at the corner.

Soon the living room door opened. The temperature dropped and figures radiating misfortune and terror filtered into the room.

Holding his hands over his mouth, Zeng Haicheng honestly thought he was about to faint. The oppressive feeling was crushing his lungs. The room was too dark for him to see the new arrivals clearly, Zeng Haicheng only knew that there were more and more people inside his newbie room!

After all the figures had gathered, a young man walked out from within them. He stopped beside the dresser before walking towards the ghastly monster in the living room.

...

Han Fei gathered all the ghosts who could help him deal with the Singer and they came to Room 4044. The moment he pushed the door open, Han Fei and the tenants at Ziggurat realized there was 'someone' new inside the dresser, but no one said anything about it. They moved silently through the darkness, guiding Han Fei to Big Sin.

Seeing Big Sin, which had grown much larger, Han Fei hesitated for some time before he reached out to pet Big Sin's head gently.

"Notification for Player 0000! You've been affected by Soul Poison with intense death, please seek treatment immediately!" When Han Fei's palm turned black, he received the other system notification.

"Notification for Player 0000! Your Grade G Curse-type pet, Big Sin has metamorphosed to Grade F.

"Big Sin (Grade F Curse-type Pet): With incomparable personal charm and nurturing effort, you've gained Big Sin's loyalty!

"Loyalty: 80 (It is now unwilling to part with you, you're the first person whom Big Sin loves so much)

"Hidden Talent 1: Soul Poison (Its body possesses intense poison that can burn souls and ignite hatred.

"Hidden Talent 2: Necrophagus (Blood, dead bodies can help it grow and recover quickly)

"Hidden Talent 3: Natural Selection (Feeds on Butterfly. All its power will be doubly effective when going against Butterfly-type curse or spirits)

"Hidden Talent 4: Omen (Can attack the weak points of the spirits. Can sensitively pick out the scent of death, likes to stay around people who are about to die)

“Hidden Talent 5: Possession (Can make a target fall into nightmares. In the nightmare, target will be tormented by fear and illusion)

“Hidden Talent 6: Demonic Pest (Feeding on altars, biting divines, stealing the sacrifice, it is viewed by the eyes behind the altars as a demonic pest. It can use all the negative emotions. Its growth speed will no longer be constrained by any altars, however, close contact with any altars might anger the eyes behind the altars, causing irreparable consequences.”

After going through life and death with Han Fei, Big Sin’s loyalty moved from 50 to 80. It had fed on half the heart in the underground altar. Its original 4 talents had improved and it gained 2 new talents. It was harder for pets to gain talent than players, Han Fei hadn’t even heard of a pet with 6 hidden talents before.

‘A player like Brother Huang who has 3 talents is already extremely rare, but my pet has 6 hidden talents.’ Han Fei checked the system notifications again and again. He honestly thought this was crazy. Big Sin was only a Grade F pet, there was still plenty of space for it to grow. Thinking about the black cocoon underground that was as large as a valley, Han Fei’s anticipation for Big Sin surpassed the anticipation he had for Huang Yin.

Leaving Big Sin to chew on the heart, Han Fei and the other ghosts slowly turned around to stare at the dresser.

“This shouldn’t be. Theoretically speaking, the chance of this should be very low...”

Chapter 400

400 Ancestral Hall Street [2in1]

Butterfly’s dresser was a very unique cursed object, it was one with the Butterfly. It carved all of Butterfly’s nightmares in itself and inherited Butterfly’s pain. It was Butterfly’s only home and its prison. Because of that, Dresser 4444 obtained the power to connect nightmares and the cryptic world after Butterfly fell into the cryptic world.

But now that Butterfly had perished and its dresser collapsed, the main channel had been ruined. The other dressers started to transform, no one could tell what changes they would bring. Han Fei and the other tenants at Ziggurat already predicted that someone might enter the cryptic world through the dresser but none of them expected the 'lucky' winner would arrive so soon.

"This works too, we'll make use of this opportunity to study him, to see what is so special about him, in preparation for the future." Han Fei and Butterfly were two different people. If Butterfly discovered someone accidentally entered its dresser, it would determine the guest's quality and slowly torment them with nightmares before consuming them; Han Fei was different, he wanted to find the law within this appearance and then helped the person.

The air in Room 4044 froze. Anyone would be shaking in their pants being targeted by so many ghosts. To ease the tension, Han Fei decided to send the Ziggurat tenants out first. He didn't know the lucky winner, there was no reason for him to scare the person to death at first meeting. There was a procedure to everything, at least Han Fei needed to get to know the person first before deciding to kill or not.

Han Fei sent a message in the chat group, requesting the ghosts to make some noise outside the house. When the dirge rang out, Han Fei signaled for the other tenants to leave.

The tenants who were staring at the dresser suddenly turned around and walked out from the room as if attracted by something. Han Fei mixed among them and walked out too. "After I find out what's really going on with that person, we'll depart for Ancestral Hall Street."

Putting on the Cattle Mask silently, Han Fei whispered something to Drake and then flipped on the masterful acting switch in his mind.

After a long time, when the dirge stopped, Han Fei pretended to rush down the corridor. He eased the door of Room 4044 open and soon rushing footsteps came from the corridor. Han Fei looked around in panic before his eyes landed on the dresser. After some hesitation, he pulled open the dresser door. When the door opened, Zeng Haicheng and Han Fei's eyes met. Zeng Haicheng saw the unbridled fear in the eyes underneath Han Fei's mask.

"I..." Zeng Haicheng had no idea what to say. Compared to the countless ghosts, Han Fei didn't give him that much pressure. Furthermore, Han Fei was finding a hiding spot so they were probably allies.

“Shush, don’t speak. You might attract them!” Han Fei changed his voice line to become dark and harsh. He entered the dresser and squatted down beside Zeng Haicheng. When he closed the dresser door, Han Fei ‘accidentally’ brushed against Zeng Haicheng’s shoulder and in that moment, he saw the young man’s character profile.

Name: Zeng Haicheng

Level 1, Intelligence 7, Stamina 4, Luck 1, Charm 7, San Value 10, Life Points 100.

Hidden Talent 1: Sleepwalking (A very rare talent, you’ll have to explore the power of the talent yourself)

Hidden Talent 2: Spirit Connection (You were raised by a Spirit Medium, so you have natural connection with them)

Han Fei then at least had a base to work out of. He hid inside the dresser with Zheng Haicheng and neither dared to speak. Listening to the racing heartbeat, Zeng Haicheng wasn’t as afraid as before. He glanced at Han Fei and realized the edge of Han Fei’s mask was drenched by sweat. ‘He must be in extreme fear.’

Fear could be shared as well. When there were two of them, at least there was company. When the footsteps outside the door departed, the two players inside the dresser sighed in relief at the same time. Neither of them dared to leave, they stood side by side.

“Erm... Hello, I’d like to ask, are you a player? Is this Perfect Life?” Zeng Haicheng asked carefully. He was very polite, afraid that Han Fei might do something irrational, “I don’t mean anything by that, I’m just confused if I’ve logged into the right game.”

“I’m a player and this is Perfect Life.” Han Fei was telling the truth. He wiped away his sweat and turned to Zeng Haicheng. “I’m surprised to run into a second player in the hidden map. Which gaming studio are you from? What’s your beta tester account number?”

“Hidden map? Gaming Studio? Beta tester account number?” Zeng Haicheng was flummoxed. “I think you’ve misunderstood something. I’ve just logged into the game, I don’t even know anything. After

choosing a random spawn point, I turned up here.” Zeng Haicheng felt like crying, the reality was so different from what he imagined.

“You’re a newbie player? Impossible!” Han Fei said confidently. “One has to satisfy several requirements to enter this hidden map. The player’s intelligence and charm has to be above 7 and their luck can’t be too high. At the same time, one has to possess hidden talent related to dreams or the supernatural. The gaming studio I’m affiliated to has attempted this for months with hundreds of players and I am the only one who managed to get here.”

Hearing the suspicion in Han Fei’s voice, Zeng Haicheng wanted to show his character profile to Han Fei but unfortunately that was impossible in the game. With a bitter smile on his face, Zeng Haicheng couldn’t tell if he was lucky or unlucky anymore. “I think I’ve met all the requirements you’ve just mentioned...”

“You’re not lying to me?”

“It’s real!” To prove that he was not lying, Zeng Haicheng recited his attributes and talents for Han Fei, this act of honesty earned him some brownie points from Han Fei.

“Sleepwalking, Spirit Connection? I have no idea such strange talents existed.” Using only his voice, Han Fei expressed his shaken conviction. He was slowly warming up to Zeng Haicheng.

“I swear I’m not lying to you.” Zeng Haicheng saw Han Fei as his saving grace. Mainly it was because Han Fei was a beta tester and he’d know how to survive better at this hidden map than he was. “Big brother, can you tell me how to leave this place? If you are willing to help me, I’ll listen to your orders from now on.”

“Leave? Do you know how many people want to come here but they can’t? If you don’t believe me, go to the official website and look for information on hidden maps.” Han Fei gasped in disbelief, “You’re sitting on a treasure trove and you want to leave?”

“It’s mainly because this place doesn’t seem too hospitable to humans...”

“Since you are here, you need to appreciate this opportunity.” Han Fei lowered his voice, “There are many better and secret ways to utilize Perfect Life but they all require a very high specific player attribute. However, that attribute is decided by the players’ own determination, there’s no in-game item that can increase that attribute.” The devil whispered and Satan took out the Apple to seduce Adam.

“What attribute?”

“San Value.” Han Fei’s voice possessed some kind of magical power, his tone was slowly becoming different from before. “Only by completing Perfect Life’s hidden map can a player increase their San Value. In the early stages, the San Value might not appear to be that important but as the game progresses, you’ll realize this attribute decides how you see the world.”

Zeng Haicheng’s eyes widened. He was deeply attracted by the world Han Fei’s words painted. Han Fei was a professional player who had participated in many Closed Betas, he had access to extremely confidential information. He, on the other hand, had managed to obtain this chance to change his virtual life thanks to his ‘good’ luck. Perfect Life would change the whole era and professional players could get rich overnight in this game. Zeng Haicheng’s ideals for entering the game hadn’t changed, it was to relax and heal, but if he could do that while earning big money, why would he reject it?

However, the problem was, with high risk comes high reward.

“There’s a time limit to how long a player can stay in a hidden map. After you’re in it for 24 hours, even if you don’t want to leave, the system will kick you out so you better appreciate your time here.” Han Fei’s Resurrection could only be used once per day so he came up with this white lie.

“Big brother, what do I need to do then?” Zeng Haicheng now relied fully on Han Fei.

“You only need to remember 2 points. First, whenever you make a choice, follow your heart. Kill those that need to be killed, save those that need to be saved; Second, do not ever leave this building. No matter what happens, do not step out of this building.” After giving him the advice, Han Fei opened the dresser door. “Use all of your intelligence and power, try and survive here as long as you can. Do not hide your real self, only then you’ll obtain the unimaginable reward.”

Han Fei exited the dresser. While Zeng Haicheng was chewing over Han Fei's words, the latter had already left Room 4044. "Fuck! Big Brother! Where are you going?" Zeng Haicheng didn't dare to chase after Han Fei. He hesitated inside the dresser.

Han Fei went to find Feng Ziyu, he decided to perform a series of tests on Zeng Haicheng like how he was personally tested at Cattle Alley. If Zeng Haicheng proved to be a good person, then he'd reward Zeng Haicheng. One of the real estate contracts obtained by Huang Yin would be a great reward for a normal player. Of course, the premise was that Zeng Haicheng could survive the tests. If Zeng Haicheng failed, if he had evil at heart, then he would have to meet Big Sin.

Han Fei handed the task over to Feng Ziyu, after all, the man participated in the game design of Perfect Life, he was also an internal tester, he knew the various missions very well. Observing the players and coming up with mission objectives, that was Feng Ziyu's day job.

"Do not see yourself fully as a mission designer, you have to consider things from the perspective of humanity. See the player as someone you're interviewing, find the brilliance of humanity in them, and dig out their hidden evil."

After explaining the situation to Feng Ziyu, Han Fei led the most powerful spirits from Ziggurat and Happiness Neighbourhood to Ancestral Hall Street. Zeng Haicheng's arrival signified a new start, he made Han Fei feel like a real mod. However, to last longer in that position, Han Fei needed to get stronger.

After completing a Grade G Mission along the way, Han Fei, who could log off at any time, walked at the front of the group. He wore the Cattle Mask, put on a clean set of clothes and carried an urn in his arms.

Han Fei walked along the old streets to slowly approach the fringe of Ziggurat. In the past, due to the presence of Butterfly, there were not many ghosts in this area. But now the place was filled with strange creatures.

Some were souls of the dead. Their bodies had strange blood threads like they were controlled by something.

Other than lingering spirits and animated regrets, some of the monsters Han Fei had never seen before slowly encroached upon the Ziggurat's territory. This sparked the alarm in Han Fei's mind. With

Butterfly's death, Spider's disappearance, and Little Eight's injury, the only ghost who could rival a Pure Hatred was Zhuang Wen. Han Fei glanced beside him, Zhuang Wen was still extremely unstable. If she really fought with a Pure Hatred, she would soon be consumed by the black flame of hatred in her heart.

A normal Pure Hatred would metamorphose from the black flame but Zhuang Wen failed due to Butterfly's interruption. The senior monster would have been the next Pure Hatred but he sacrificed himself and his lineage to kill Butterfly. They were now part of Rest in Peace. Holding the hilt of the blade, Han Fei felt the weight on his shoulders. If there was a chance, he would bring hope to all the souls inside Rest in Peace.

As he walked forward, a strange gospel entered his ears. Han Fei looked ahead and there was an eerie temple at the corner of the street. The temple was small, it looked like it was reconstructed from a newspaper kiosk. The windows and doors were pasted with strange talismans. The entrance was covered with half-completed holy figurines. They were not yet painted.

"Is this Ancestral Hall Street?" Han Fei walked forward, remembering the Singer's location in his mind. Just as he stepped into the street, the robotic voice announced, "Notification for Player 0000, you've triggered Grade F Hidden Mission—Ancestral Hall Street."

"Ancestral Hall Street: Do not approach or bring home the abandoned holy figurines you see on the street. It's best to leave immediately. If you stay for too long, the thing inside the figurines might choose to follow you forever."