

Iyashikei 431

Chapter 431 Toys

All the clocks on the wall were ticking and they pointed at the same time. Han Fei stood before the wall of clocks silently, staring at the altar whose doors were nailed shut.

“Don’t be too surprised. Many merchandise has been left here by customers for us to sell, we’re sort of a middleman. If you damage them, you’ll have to pay.” Huang Li took out a pair of gloves and apron from under the counter, “That is one of the reasons why we operate for 24 hours. Sometimes customers would come to pawn their items or buy back the stuff they’ve pawned to us. Last time, there was a man who came with all of his son’s toys, he wanted to sell them but that very night, his son sneaks over to beg us to keep the toys for him. He would return to buy his toys back.”

“So did the child manage to buy back his toys?” Han Fei stared at the altar and asked casually.

Huang Li pointed at the miscellaneous items pile. “His toys are still inside the paper box. I haven’t seen the child for a week already.”

“Are we still going to save the toys for him?”

“Sure, the toys aren’t going to sell for much anyway but they represent the child’s childhood, they have special meaning to him.” Huang Li removed her hair clip to smooth out her hair. “The value of 2nd hand items is actually very hard to gauge. Most of the time, we’re actually helping the customers store their stuff rather than to sell them.” Huang Li led Han Fei to the computer. She showed Han Fei the account and then tested him with some questions. Han Fei answered all of them smoothly and without mistake. “You’re even more impressive than I thought, you’re going to be a reliable colleague.” Normally a person would need 3 days to get used to the job but Han Fei only used 1 hour. He had memorized all the location and prices of the merchandise and the rules of the shop.

“I have nothing more to teach you, I feel like I can get off work early.” Huang Li yawned. That was what she said but she was still worried about Han Fei. Working the nightshift here was not that easy, there were many unspoken rules. “You’re a quick learner. Tonight you’ll man the counter and I’ll support you from the side.” Huang Li poured 2 glasses of water and placed them on the table. She then led Han Fei to the 2nd floor of the shop and the underground warehouse. Even though the 2nd hand shop was part of the mall, it had its own private path that led to the underground warehouse.

“Normally, we rarely come to the warehouse, the things here have been basically abandoned by their owners. It’s not our policy to throw away stuff so...” Huang Li was explaining when a chime came from the front door. It was a customer!

“It’s your time to shine. I’ll be guiding you from the side. Don’t be nervous, show your best side to the customer!” Huang Li and Han Fei walked out from the private path. They saw a seriously hunchbacked old lady inside the shop. The old lady appeared to be a regular. With her bent back, she wandered on her own into the shop, like she was looking for something.

“Granny, what do you need?” Han Fei walked over with extreme politeness but the old lady kept her head lowered and didn’t reply to Han Fei. She walked from the entrance to the back of the store. She stared at the wall of clocks and then raised her finger to point. “Do you have any clocks that can go backwards?”

“Go backwards? These clocks might be 2nd hand but they’re all working normally...”

“Normal?” The old lady raised her head to look at Han Fei. Her eyes were sunken inside her wrinkles. Silvery white hair dropped before her eyes. The old lady stopped browsing. She walked back to the door. She left a large sack at the door and then walked away.

“Granny, your stuff!” Han Fei walked over but was stopped by Huang Li.

“The sack should be clothes for children, she plans to donate them.” Huang Li seemed to know the old lady well, “That’s Granny Liu, she’s a nearby resident. She lives alone and she would often bring things here to donate. She has been doing this for years already but as she gets older, her mind is not that clear anymore. She often mistakes people for others and would say strange things.”

“Granny Liu...”

“She is a good person. When she comes next time, you should try to help her if you can.” Huang Li had Han Fei carry the sack to move to the donation box at the back of the mall. But Han Fei stopped just as he picked up the sack.

“What’s wrong?”

“There’s a smell coming from the sack, are you sure it’s only clothes?” The moment Han Fei picked up the sack, he knew something was wrong.

“I’m sure! She has been doing this for years already.”

Before Huang Li could stop him, Han Fei already opened the sealed sack. The top layer of the sack was indeed clothes for children. The workmanship was nice and the style was cute, but underneath the clothes were feathers stuck with chicken shit and rat skins. The rats were unprofessionally skinned, the cuts were uneven and the blood stained the clothes.

The gore startled Huang Li. She shielded her nose and gasped in fear and shock. “How is this possible? Granny Liu has been donating to us for years already and this is the first time this has happened...”

“Could someone have tampered with her sack?” Han Fei didn’t know too much about Granny Liu so he didn’t want to jump to conclusions.

“I don’t know.” Huang Li didn’t dare to come too close to the rats. “We’ll dump the stuff in the trashcan and keep the sack. When the old lady returns tomorrow, we’ll ask her about it.”

“I guess that’s all we can do.” The donation box and trash cans were at the back of the mall, but the trash cans were even more isolated. Carrying the bag of smelly stuff, the two walked into the shadow behind the mall. The street lights flickered on and off, making the place feel creepier.

“The trash cans are so far away?”

“Of course, we can’t have them too close to the mall.” Huang Li opened the lid of the trash can. Han Fei poured the trash inside. The rat skins and feathers dropped on broken plastic mannequins, giving them a layer of new skin.

“We should keep the red sweater the old lady knitted, we’ll return it to her tomorrow.” Huang Li was about to close the lid when Han Fei saw the mannequin head turn slightly. Carrying the red sweater, the

two returned to the mall. Han Fei stayed in the shop while Huang Li went to the 2nd floor toilet to clean the sack and the sweater.

“Things have started to get strange.”

There was another chime at the door. Han Fei hurried over but saw no one there. “Who is it?” Han Fei went to check the surveillance and he spotted a boy about 7 run into the shop. “It’s early in the morning, why would a boy be here?”

Han Fei left the counter and came to the miscellaneous items zone. A drenched kid was squatting before a paper box filled with toys. He looked at them with round eyes, he wanted to take them back. “Do you want to purchase these toys?” Han Fei asked gently.

The boy turned to Han Fei. His eyes were rather bloated from all the water. “They are mine. Uncle, I will buy them back. Can you please keep them for me?” Before Han Fei could answer, the system notification came.

“Notification for Player 0000! You’ve triggered a random altar mission—Toys.

“Toys: There are many kinds of toys. When you play with toys, destiny also plays with you as toys.

“Mission Requirement: Help the boy save his toys until he can afford to buy them back.”

Since this was a mission, Han Fei agreed. “These toys are rather old so I doubt anyone will buy them. I’ll help you store them in the warehouse or I’ll help you buy them myself.” Han Fei was considering how to hide the toys when there was another chime from the door. He turned and saw a muscular man walk into the shop. The man wore a deep colored attire, mask and cap.

“How can I help you?”

“I just moved last month and took some old things to sell them here. I want to see if they have been sold or not.” The man sounded nervous.

“What things?”

“Some old furniture and a big box of toys.” The man then strode towards the miscellaneous item zone.

“Sir, you can’t do this!” Han Fei moved to block the man. The man’s hand that was hidden inside his pocket trembled like he had just grabbed something. “I’m looking for my own stuff, why are you stopping me?”

“The things you mentioned have been sold, just not too long ago.” Han Fei used his body to block the man’s line of sight.

“Who was the buyer?”

“It was a boy, his skin was exceptionally white like he had been soaked in water...” Before Han Fei finished, the man started to gasp rapidly, “Sir, are you alright?”

“Where is the boy now?”

“He left from the way you came, didn’t you see him?” Han Fei wanted to say something more but the man already turned and ran out. After the man departed, Han Fei turned back to the miscellaneous item zone and the boy had also disappeared.

Han Fei moved the box of toys to the back of the counter. He looked over the toys carefully. He noticed that most of the toys were carved with the word, “Father”. But there was a puppet missing a head which was carved with the word, “Mother”.

Chapter 432 Scams

“Only the toys carved with the term mother have been destroyed?” Han Fei held the puppet and examined it closer. He noticed there were blood stains around the puppet’s neck. “Why would a children’s toy be stained with blood?” An image surfaced in Han Fei’s mind. “Perhaps the boy had witnessed his father murder his mother?” The boy heard the argument between his parents and walked out from his room fearfully holding his toy. At that moment, he saw his mother’s head fall to the ground. Blood splattered onto him and the toy.

It would explain why all the toys with 'mother' had been destroyed. "Why wouldn't the head fit..."

"Hey!" A woman's voice suddenly rang out above Han Fei, it caused him to shake in shock. "What are you doing?" Huang Li stood beside the counter with the clean sweater and sack. She looked at Han Fei who was hiding behind the counter with confusion.

"It's nothing. A boy came earlier to beg me to help him keep his toys." Han Fei's expression quickly returned to normal.

"The boy was here?" Huang Li shook her head. "He probably snuck out without his parents knowing. If his father found out, he'd be so angry."

"You've seen his father?"

"It was his father who dropped off the toys. The man is tall and muscular. His arms are thicker than my legs."

"I heard he dropped off plenty of old furniture too, were they moving?" Han Fei placed the puppet some place away from the rest of the toys.

"I have no idea." Huang Li looked around. "Where's the boy?"

"He was here earlier, he probably slipped away." Han Fei walked out from the counter. "Can I look at the furniture he sold to us?"

"Most of the stuff he sold was new so I placed them at the front of the furniture zone."

Han Fei walked to the furniture zone and examined the merchandise one by one before his eyes landed on the largest single couch. 'If one hollows out the couch, the inside is large enough to hide a body.' Han Fei pulled out the cushion and he slowly examined the couch. He didn't find any dead body but he did find a very thin notebook stuck in the edge. This should be the boy's homework. The language teacher required him to write a weekly diary and for a whole month, the boy wrote that his father brought him

to the garden to play. 'Based on the description, he should be talking about the abandoned garden. Could the body have been buried there?' The boy's diary mentioned a small pond downstream from the cement bridge so Han Fei suspected that the father had buried his wife in the pond after killing her.

'The boy's body is soaking wet and his eyes are as bloated as a goldfish, perhaps he's been thrown into that river too.' Han Fei turned to the last entry of the diary. It described how much the boy's father loved him and bought him many new toys. There was one thing that caught Han Fei's attention. The boy mentioned a few of his favorite toys in the entry but Han Fei didn't come across any of them in the paper box.

In a way, this was normal. The father didn't have the heart to sell the boy's favorite toys but the premise for that had to be that the boy was still alive. If the boy was already dead, then one had to wonder why the father purposely kept these few toys. Did he keep those toys out of guilt or were they too stained with blood to be sold? Or the man simply wanted a keepsake of his son?

The door chimed again. Han Fei was surprised that the shop would be so popular after midnight. He silently snuck the boy's diary into his shirt, recovered the sofa and then walked towards the door with a professional smile.

The new customer was a deliveryman. He held a plate in his hand and he kept stuttering. The man stood right at the door, he didn't want to enter or leave so the electric buzzer kept chiming.

"Sister Li, did you order a delivery?"

"I didn't! He probably got the wrong address." Huang Li signaled for the man to come in but the deliveryman kept shaking his hands. His mouth opened and closed but he couldn't finish a single sentence.

"Don't be nervous." Han Fei noticed the butt of the man's trousers was covered in oil and food stains, and a patch of his arm was scalded as well. "Did you run into some accident? The food you were supposed to deliver toppled over?"

Hearing that, the deliveryman nodded heavily. He opened his mouth wide and finally managed to squeeze out, "I... am sorry." When the deliveryman spoke, his facial muscle twitched, he couldn't control his expression.

“We didn’t order anything, are you sure you got the right address?”

“The address, mall... here.” The deliveryman took out his phone and showed it to Han Fei. “Phone, phone, no, no, no answer.”

“Wait! I think that’s the security guard’s phone number.” Huang Li took out her phone to call the number. Her call went through immediately. “Did you guys order a delivery? The delivery is already here, where are you people?” Soon the elevator pinged and the 2 night guards arrived. When they saw the state the deliveryman was in, they weren’t surprised. It was as if they already knew the man would knock over the food.

“Can you two stop wasting people’s time?”

“The kid is late for 5 minutes so he’s the one wasting our time.” The guard who was scolded by Zhu Wei earlier lifted his head and extended his hand to the deliveryman, “Never mind that, where’s the food?”

“I’m, sorry.” The man was very afraid. His face was red.

“I’m asking you, where’s the food?!” The guard raised his voice. He vented the anger he got from Zhu Wei onto the man. The guard stepped threateningly towards the deliveryman. The latter was spooked. He ran to Entrance C where his bike was parked. Then he ran back carrying the delivery box which was leaking soup and sauces.

“Stand right there and don’t move! You’re dirtying the floor!” The deliveryman’s fingers were scalded and his arms shook. He stopped but didn’t dare to place the box on the ground.

“Give it to me.” Han Fei said as he reached for the box. The hot soup burnt Han Fei’s palm. It was sticky and hot. He opened the box and all 4 bowls of mutton soup were tipped over.

“Now what should we do? Don’t say that we purposely want to bully a retard! This is our first meal of the day, so how do you plan to compensate us?!” The 2 guards surrounded the deliveryman. The latter was gasping heavily for air, he couldn’t even say a word. “Since you knocked over the soups, then you’ll have to pay for them.” The guard took out his phone, “You’re not leaving until you pay.”

The deliveryman mumbled helplessly. He wanted to run but the other guard grabbed him by his neck. The guard seemed to know the guard well. He reached his hand into the deliveryman's collar and yanked off the thread around the man's neck. A work id hung from the thread. A child's handwriting could be seen on the id—Hi, I am Wang Pingan's father. He has had autism since he was young. If he did anything wrong, I hope you can contact me and I will be there as soon as possible. My home address is No. 15 Sha He Street and my phone number is...

"Stop wasting time with him, just call his father." The guard rattled off the number on the worker id and the other guard made the call.

"There are only 2 of you who work the night shift and you need 4 bowls of mutton soups? And all of them are extra large? Can you really finish them?" Han Fei took out the takeout boxes used to store the soups. "Soups are already hard to deliver but look at these boxes. They are of such low quality. Clearly someone is aiming to bully this deliveryman."

"Who are you to say if the packaging has a problem or not?"

"Well, I was a deliveryman in the past so I would know about these things." When Han Fei was at the Ziggurat, he used the deliveryman's box to store many dead bodies. "I know you want to find someone to vent your anger after being scolded by Zhu Wei but you shouldn't bully the deliveryman who hasn't done anything wrong. The low-quality takeout boxes and the hurried way the soups had been packed, this is the restaurant's fault, not the deliveryman's."

"Wait, I remember now!" Huang Li suddenly spoke as she pointed at one of the guards, "Xiao Lee's wife just moved to town 2 months ago and opened a mutton dish shop near San Zhong!"

Han Fei glanced at the deliveryman's phone, he did retrieve the delivery at San Zhong. "I think I get it now. The business at the shop is not good so this is the way your wife decided to deal with the rotted mutton? Based on the map, the deliveryman's father lives close to San Zhong, that would mean this man would go to wife's shop to complete the order pretty often." Han Fei saw through the guard's ploy easily.

"You aim to scam an autistic person, are you two even humans?" Huang Li was angry, "And I thought you two were good people."

Since they were exposed, the guards stopped pretending. They glared at Huang Li. "Don't make it sound like you're so perfect either. If you're really that kind, why didn't you tell this newcomer the truth about your shop?"

Xiao Lee scoffed and then turned to Han Fei. "Silly kid, do you know why a 2nd hand store still needs to be operational after midnight? Do you know why someone has to be here 24 hours? Don't be fooled by this vixen. Someone has died inside your shop before! Those who work the nightshift here will die!"

Chapter 433 Go Home

"Don't listen to his nonsense!" Huang Li suddenly became agitated. She pointed at the two security guards, "All those things happened because you guards are useless!"

"We're useless?" Xiao Lee exploded immediately. He gripped the deliveryman's id, "2 months ago, how did the old man who worked here die? He got off his shift and then the next morning his body was found inside the shop! He was found kneeling in death. What could he have done to die in such a strange way?"

Huang Li wanted to stop the guard but the latter rambled on, "And 1 month ago, your employee didn't go home after his shift but instead got drunk from drinking. He went to sing by the river at midnight and his body floated 2 km downstream."

"Those are accidents! Shut up!" Huang Li screamed to stop the guard.

"Accidents?" Xiao Lee grabbed Huang Li's wrist, "Just one week ago, the boy you just hired committed suicide. When he joined, he was perfectly fine so why would he kill himself at home for no reason? Furthermore, he was also kneeling when he was found. Why is that?"

"Let go! Let go of me!"

"The workers here are almost all dead, and you're still lying to the newbie?" Xiao Lee held tighter as he glared at Huang Li, "If everything's fine, then why won't you work the nightshift yourself?"

“I...”

“I heard when you worked the nightshift, you often talked to yourself and even begged the air for mercy. Right! Yesterday night, I saw you standing before that God box completely unmoving for a whole half an hour! You must have seen something dirty here, haven’t you?!” As Xiao Lee approached Huang Li, Han Fei blocked him. “Newbie, I’m just helping you, can’t you see that?”

“You purposely go after the invalid to scam him, where is your heart?” Han Fei held the guard’s wrist, “And that thing is called an altar, not God box.”

“It’s good that you have a sense of justice but you shouldn’t mind other people’s business. Recognize who is really trying to help you.” Xiao Lee realized he was unable to shake Han Fei off. He threatened Han Fei with words, hoping Han Fei would let go.

“Lee Daxing, I’m going to call Zhu Wei now. I can’t believe he allows the two of you to stay! I seriously suspect you two are the thieves behind the missing merchandise!” Huang Li took out her phone. The guard really spooked her.

“You bitch! No wonder Zhu Wei has been targeting us! You’ve been feeding him lies behind our backs!” The other guard rushed over to grab Huang Li’s phone. Just as the situation was about to spiral out of control, the sound of a heavy object falling came from the top floor. The mall was very quiet at night so everyone heard it clearly. They stopped fighting and turned to look deeper into the mall.

The mall was dark except for the green emergency light near the safety exit. The faded green light made the place look like hell. Han Fei and the guard let go at the same time. The 2 guards shared a look and then Lee Daxing took out his baton. “It came from upstairs?”

“Was it 3rd floor or 4th floor?” Lee Daxing was nervous. He glared at the deliveryman and Han Fei. “This is not over yet! Wait here for us to come back!” The two guards ran into the mall holding the deliveryman’s id. The deliveryman chased after them and in the process accidentally shut down his phone. “Give, give it back!”

The guards ignored him as they hurried upstairs. They were the night security. If something happened to the mall at night, Zhu Wei would deduct their pay. Since they took away the deliveryman’s id, it was clear that they weren’t done with him.

“Did you hear that?” Huang Li hid beside Han Fei, her face was pale. “Earlier... What Lee Daxing said, those are not true, don’t believe him.”

“Sister Huang, don’t worry, my mother needs to do an operation at the hospital so I need this money. No matter what, I won’t quit.” Han Fei said with a smile, that smile was filled with pain. Seeing this, Huang Li’s mouth opened like she wanted to say something but in the end, she didn’t.

“Can I borrow your phone? I wish to call this deliveryman’s father and tell him the truth so that he wouldn’t be scammed by Lee Daxing.” When Han Fei spoke he kept his eyes on the deliveryman, he radiated a sense of justice.

“Okay.” Huang Li unlocked her phone and handed it over to Han Fei. Holding Huang Li’s phone, Han Fei walked towards the deliveryman. When he was facing away from Huang Li, he scrolled through the phone to check the messages and phone records. Huang Li maintained constant contact with 3 people. They were the Boss, Zhu Wei and the Bastard. The Bastard kept messaging Huang Li, but Huang Li never responded. The Bastard was Huang Li’s ex-husband. At first, he begged to see the child but later, he threatened to kill Huang Li’s family.

“Wang Pingan, can you remember your home phone number?” Han Fei asked the deliveryman gently while scrolling through Huang Li’s phone. The Boss also chatted a lot with Huang Li but most of the messages were sent by Huang Li. She had discovered many strange things when she worked the nightshift and she said she might go crazy if this continued.

“Pingan, don’t worry, take your time, we know you did nothing wrong.” Han Fei’s voice was soft and warm. Han Fei scanned through the message history. When he saw the message from 3 days ago, his pupils trembled. 3 days ago, Huang Li sent a message to her boss saying, the clocks started to turn backwards at midnight, the black cloth over the altar fell and someone was knocking from inside.

The boss’ reply was simple, there was only one word—Run.

After some time, Huang Li messaged the boss again to say that the sound had disappeared but she was too afraid to go back. The boss told her to guard outside the door. He consoled her saying that there would be a newbie coming to take over the nightshift soon.

From these messages, it was clear that the 2 already knew there were some problems with the altar. As Huang Li approached, Han Fei returned to the homepage and went close to the deliveryman. "Don't be nervous, we're not bad guys."

After some time, the deliveryman stuttered out a few numbers. Han Fei tried to give it a call. Actually when the guard pulled out the deliveryman's id, Han Fei already memorized the man's phone number and address, he only did this to look through Huang Li's phone.

"Grandpa, I'm sorry to call you at this time but Wang Pingan ran into some trouble, someone is trying to bully him." After the call was connected, Han Fei told the old man everything. Wang Pingan's father was still awake because he had been waiting for his child to come home, even though his child was almost 30 already.

Han Fei snapped a few pictures of the takeout boxes and the deliverybox and then sent them to Wang Pingan's father. "If they demand compensation, show them these pictures. Pingan didn't do anything wrong, they are the ones in the wrong."

"Thank, thank you!"

"Grandpa, do you mind coming over to fetch Pingan? He seems to have been frightened and doesn't know what he's doing." Han Fei didn't dare to wander around the memory world before he understood the secret of this place.

"Okay, I'll head there now, you're at the mall, yes?"

"Pingan and I will be waiting for you at Entrance C." Han Fei hung up. He was about to mop up the floor when the robotic voice announced again, "Notification for Player 0000! You've triggered a random mission—Go home."

"Go home: the way home can be both short and long, sometimes it's so long you can't ever reach home."

"Mission requirement: Escort Wang Pingan home safely." Han Fei didn't care much about it at first but when he read the mission description again, something felt wrong. 'Wang Pingan's father is coming to

fetch him, I only need to wait so why would there be an escort mission? Or something would happen to Wang Pingan's father on his way here?'

Han Fei narrowed his eyes as he read the mission description again. 'Home might not be a house. For Wang Pingan, home is his father! If his father is gone then he'd never return home.'

Han Fei decided to make a move but he was worried about Huang Li. The shop would turn strange at night and she just got into an altercation with the guards.

'If I'm the altar owner, what choice would I make?' After some hesitation, Han Fei asked Wang Pingan, "Your father has health issues, right?"

The deliveryman grabbed the unresponsive phone and he was on the verge of tears. He nodded vehemently. His mouth opened wide but no words came out.

"I knew it." Human life was on the line so Han Fei didn't waste time. He returned Huang Li her phone. "Sister Huang, I'll bring Pingan home, I'll be right back." Before Huang Li could say anything, Han Fei picked up the deliverybox and led Wang Pingan towards the exit.

"We'll use your bike. Just take the same route your father told you to use every time." Han Fei had dealt with autistic children before. Their parents had to work extra hard to make sure that the children could be independent. Something as simple as going back home, they had to practice many times.

Holding the deliverybox, Han Fei sat at the back while he had Wang Pingan bring them home. The night was dark. Once they left the mall, the temperature dropped like they had triggered some kind of taboo.

Chapter 434 Good Person

'Is it possible that I can't leave the mall at night?' Han Fei was cautious. Wang Pingan wasn't affected. He put on his helmet, checked all the stuff and then hopped on the bike. Based on how serious he looked, he was like a student riding the bike for the first time.

"Pingan, can you ride faster?" Han Fei was nervous. He left the mall with Wang Pingan but Huang Li showed no response, in fact, the lights at the 2nd hand shop became dimmer.

“O, okay.” Wang Pingan rode down the dark road. The darkness was suffocating. The streetlights that lined the road were mostly broken. Their lights looked strangely twisted. In this dark night, light brought no sense of security. Wang Pingan rode out from the alley and reached a main junction. The light turned red. Even though there was no traffic, Wang Pingan obediently stopped at the red light. His fingers tapped on the handle, his lips mumbling something that only he’d understand.

As desperate as Han Fei was, he didn’t have Wang Pingan run the red light. He knew Wang Pingan’s father would have spent a lot of time teaching him to follow the traffic rules. To learn to be a good person is hard, to destroy a good person is very easy.

Han Fei’s eyes kept darting about. The bad feeling within him grew. ‘Something is watching me, I can feel its gaze.’ His heart raced and Han Fei was highly stressed, it caused his mood points to lower from 50 to 48. ‘Calm down!’ The night wind crawled into his sleeves. Han Fei glanced at the traffic light, it would be green in a few seconds.

“Pingan, when it’s green, leave immediately!” Han Fei said seriously. He didn’t feel so good. It was against the rules to leave the shop at night because his mood points kept decreasing.

“3, 2, 1!” Han Fei stared at the red light. At the last second before the red light disappeared, Han Fei noticed the red light turned into a bloodshot eyeball! The bike moved forward and the traffic light turned green. ‘That was the thing watching me?’

Han Fei opened his character profile. His mood point had dropped to 45 and he merely had passed a junction. With Han Fei’s constant urging, Wang Pingan slowly picked up speed. They moved out from the main street and entered a pedestrian alley. The street was lined with various shops. The colorful sign boards were everywhere and the merchandise could be seen through the windows.

‘The windows...’ Han Fei looked at the windows and his reflections looked back at him. But even after they rode past the windows, his reflections were still looking at him. The alley was not that wide. Rubbish from the day littered the ground. There were some curious items among them, like a coke bottle that smelled of blood, a black shadow that was strung beside the counter. It looked like a stray cat but sounded like a crying baby.

'This place sure is crowded.' Han Fei's mood point dropped to 42, he had no idea how long he could hold on. Compared to Han Fei, Wang Pingan was unaffected. The end of the alley was a very deserted road. There were houses meant to be moved and a sandy river not far away.

"Almost, almost... home." Wang Pingan sounded happy when he said that but Han Fei only became more anxious. At the mall, he called Wang Pingan's father and the latter said he'd come to the mall but so far, they had not seen the father.

"Pingan, do you use this road every time you go home?" Wang Pingan didn't answer. He focused on driving and he kept making this strange laughing sound. "Brother, I'm trying to help you, so can you cooperate with me?" Han Fei's arms that grabbed the deliverybox pulsed with veins. He could feel the bike turning slow like the wheels were stuck in darkness.

Down the distance came the sound of the river gurgling. Han Fei stared at his character profile. After his mood point dropped below 40, his anxiety was amplified and he could see the things hidden at the corner clearer. The road was badly damaged and there was little light. Han Fei stuck close to Wang Pingan. He had this feeling that if he fell from the bike, he would be dragged deep into the darkness.

When Han Fei's mood point reached 36, they finally exited that dark road. The rushing water echoed in his ears as his field of vision widened. Beside them was the bank of the river and further down was an abandoned pond which was filled with smelly mud. Han Fei took a deep breath and planned to pull his gaze back when he saw something moving at the bank. It was a person crawling, a wheelchair was tipped over beside him.

'What's that?' Han Fei wasn't given much time to think. Wang Pingan didn't notice the man at the bank because he was eager to go home.

"Stop!" Han Fei tapped Wang Pingan's shoulder and said, "Stop!" When the light of the bike shot past the bank, Han Fei confirmed it was a person on the bank. With his mood points dropping, Han Fei led Wang Pingan to the bank after the bike stopped. Hearing their footsteps, the struggling man waved and called weakly for help. When the man spoke, the dazed Wang Pingan suddenly ran with anxiety on his face.

"Slow down, it's too dangerous!" Ignoring his mood point, Han Fei chased after Wang Pingan. They jumped over the broken fence and landed on cement, grass and mud. The closer he came to the bank, the greater his fear. For the altar owner, this river appeared to represent death and misfortune. When

the person on the bank saw Wang Pingan, he called Wang Pingan's name, his voice filled with shock and pain.

"Do you 2 know each other?" Overcoming his fear, Han Fei rushed to the man. The man lying on the bank was around 60. His legs had atrophied and he was very weak. "Are you Wang Pingan's father?" Han Fei and Wang Pingan dragged the old man to the cement road. The old man grabbed Wang Pingan and Han Fei's hands, his face filled with gratitude.

"Sir, you should have told me that you have problems with your legs!" Han Fei was scared for the old man. He had seen too many scary things that night. If he didn't insist on stopping, the old man would sink into the mud.

"I've taken this road for decades already and this has never happened. But it was too dark and the fence was destroyed so I accidentally fell." The old man thanked Han Fei while the latter studied the fence. At the broken part of the fence, there was a piece of cloth, it appeared to come from a children's outfit.

'Have I missed something?' Han Fei's brain spun. 'The mission of Go Home hinted for me to send Wang Pingan back as soon as possible or he might not see his father again.'

'That was proven right because his father did fall into the bank. Even though this place is isolated, the river didn't reach the old man. He would struggle for some time.' Studying the cloth in his hand, Han Fei's eyes narrowed. He noticed the cloth was similar to the shirt of the boy who came to the shop earlier!

'The river, the abandoned pond, the mud...' Han Fei examined the fence, and the destruction appeared manmade. 'Could this be where the father buried the bodies? When I told him the toys were bought by a boy, could he have rushed back here to check on the bodies?' Han Fei sucked in a cold breath. If that was true, the boy's father should still be nearby!

'I get it now, the real danger for the old man is not the river but the boy's father! Because of what I said, the murderer had returned to the crime scene. When he encountered the old man near the pond, he would silence him.' Han Fei's blood chilled. It was he who called the deliveryman's father and sent the boy's father away. He did those things out of kindness but he almost caused someone's death.

'Is it one of the altar owner's regrets?' Han Fei had Wang Pingan pick up the old man. Han Fei jumped down the bank. When he helped pick up the wheelchair, he turned towards the abandoned pond. The wind had died down but the grass at the pond moved. There was a person lying on the muddy ground. Through the grass, he stared at Han Fei quietly.

'Is he watching me?' Han Fei picked the wheelchair up. With the company of Wang Pingan and his father, they went home. Wang Pingan's father kept thanking Han Fei and Han Fei reminded him to be more careful in the future. The three of them walked very fast. When they turned a corner, Han Fei heard a sound coming from behind them. He glanced from the corner of his eyes and he saw a human shadow flit through the broken hole in the fence.

"What are you looking at?"

"It's nothing." Han Fei said with a warm smile. "Sir, what's wrong with your legs? You shouldn't run about like this anymore, you should stay at home and lock the doors and windows."

"I got into a car accident a few years ago and my legs were ruined because I had no money for surgery. If my legs were fine, I wouldn't have sent Pingan to do all this work." The old man grabbed Pingan's arm, he really loved his child. "But Pingan is very good now. He even knows how to make delivery on his own, he'll only get better. I don't need much in life, as long as Pingan is safe and sound, that's enough." The old man's words chased away the chill of the night. After a few minutes of walking, Han Fei finally escorted both of them home.

After Wang Pingan entered the door, Han Fei noticed his mood points had stopped dropping but instead it was slowly increasing.

"Notification for Player 0000! You've completed the random mission—Go Home.

"You've corrected 5 percent of the altar owner's regret! You've obtained a lot of EXP and Wang Pingan's trust! You've gained the title—good person.

"Good person: The biggest mistake of his life was trying to be a good person. With this title, your mood point will decrease slower.

“Notification for Player 0000! You’ve completed a random mission, you obtain a chance to open your inventory. You can choose an item to bring into the memory world.”

Chapter 435 Diary Entry

‘The mission is completed?’ Wang Pingan’s father invited Han Fei to stay. Han Fei sat on the old sofa, holding a cup of tea. The old man and Wang Pingan were busy inside the kitchen. Han Fei used this opportunity to check his character profile.

The reward provided by the mission was much better than Han Fei anticipated. The title of good person could make his mood point decrease slower. This was a crucial ability because it meant that he could stay outside the mall longer. Other than that, the mission reward also gave Han Fei another surprise and that was the EXP gained.

The missions in the memory world were rather different from the missions in the cryptic world. There was no clear level delineation but the EXP gained after completing the mission was similar to a Grade F Hidden Mission. Since Han Fei had chosen both sides of the black box at the same time, it meant that it was very difficult for him to gain EXP. At his current level, he wouldn’t gain much EXP from completing Grade G Mission. Grade F and E Missions were not that common, so his level was stuck at 16.

‘While I’m here, I should try to complete as many random missions as I can to level up!’ Leveling up was the most direct way to gain attribute points. Thanks to Han Fei’s hidden profession, Midnight Butcher, each level up would strengthen his physique. In the past, he had to run away from Animated Regrets but now he could chase after normal Lingering Spirits, that was the perk from having an increase in stamina.

‘The difficulty of random missions is different. The harder the mission, the greater the EXP!’ Han Fei studied his EXP bar. Based on his analysis, he would level up after completing another 3 or 4 random missions.

Before Han Fei closed the menu, he opened his inventory. After he entered the memory world, he didn’t think much of his inventory. The memory world intended to lighten the presence of these items. Outside objects shouldn’t be able to change anything in the memory world.

‘I can only take one?’ Han Fei picked the paper doll without hesitation. It would give him a sense of security. After making his choice, something surprising happened. The life-size paper doll suddenly changed size. When Han Fei took it out from the inventory, the paper doll became only the size of Han Fei’s palm, the blood on it faded away and Han Fei couldn’t sense any Yin energy from it at all.

'Is it because my mood points are recovering that I can't see its actual property?' The palm-sized paper doll was very well made. The face looked just like Xu Qin. It looked less like a paper doll but more like a piece of paper art.

The kitchen door opened. Wang Pingan walked out with an open smile. He was holding a cup of hot tea. Han Fei put the paper doll away and then stood up to help Wang Pingan.

"Sit, sit! Pingan wants to thank you too." The old man sat on the wheelchair and had an honest smile. "There are still good people in this world. Young man, what's your name?"

"Han Fei."

"Brilliant name." The old man passed the only 2 apples on the plate to Han Fei. "It's already getting late, why don't you stay here until dawn?" Wang Pingan served the dinner. The old man invited Han Fei, "Since Pingan would return home late every day, I would leave dinner for him. Why don't you join us?"

"Then I shall infringe on your kindness." Han Fei was indeed hungry. So far he only had porridge. Han Fei and Pingan picked up the chopsticks. Even though they were leftovers, they were delicious.

The old man studied Han Fei and Wang Pingan with big smiles. "Pingan hasn't brought a friend home for so long already. This kid is different from others, he learns things slowly but he is really kind. After my accident, he took on this delivery job to help support the family. He works until very late every night. I know he's often bullied at his job but he never complains to me. Every time he sees me, he would smile like a child."

"Sir, don't worry, I'll be Pingan's friend from now on." Han Fei swallowed the food, he realized his mood points had recovered to 45. Since Wang Pingan's home could help recover his mood points, Han Fei decided to come to this place more often. Han Fei placed his arm over Wang Pingan's shoulder. "Pingan, if you run into any trouble during your delivery runs, come to the 2nd hand shop at the mall to come find me, if I can, I will help you. But remember do not enter the shop, the shop is not that safe."

Wang Pingan nodded repeatedly but it was unclear whether he really understood Han Fei or not. After he had his fill, Han Fei's mood points returned to 50. Honestly, he was worried about Huang Li but he wasn't capable of going back to the mall alone yet.

Once he left Wang Pingan's home, his mood points would drop. Furthermore, he had to be cautious of the boy's father while he walked down the scary streets and alleys. Just the thought of them made Han Fei shiver. His best option was to wait until dawn. The old man was physically weak so he rested quite early. Han Fei used his psychology knowledge to try to diagnose Wang Pingan's situation. He tried to communicate with Wang Pingan to gain his further trust.

At 4 am, the sun came up and the darkness of the night faded away.

"Pingan, before you go to work, you have to remember to lock all the windows and doors!" Then Han Fei rushed out from Wang Pingan's home to head towards the mall. 'I hope Huang Li is fine or else I'll be the shop's last employee.'

Running down the road, Han Fei realized his mood points decreased very slowly when it was daylight. This was good news because it meant that he could explore the world further when it was in the day. Sound of rushing water entered his ears. Han Fei walked to the hole in the fence, he remembered there was someone following them yesterday night. He slowed down and took out his phone to take pictures for evidence.

'Why are there only footprints from me and Wang Pingan?' Han Fei narrowed his eyes. He noticed the ground had been cleaned but the person was very unprofessional. They accidentally cleaned away parts of Han Fei's footprints. 'The fabric on the fence was similar to the boy's clothes. If the man hadn't moved the boy, the boy would probably be buried here!' The fabric was inside Han Fei's pocket, which was a valuable piece of evidence.

'Should I go down to the pond to look?' Han Fei hesitated. 'I think I should head back to the shop first. It doesn't feel good staying outside all alone...' Han Fei retreated when he heard rapid footsteps!

'Someone's coming!' Instead of turning back to look, Han Fei's first reaction was to jump forward in evasion! A sharp knife cut through his shirt and almost stabbed into his back. Han Fei rolled on the ground and then quickly readied himself. He crawled up from the bank and turned. The blade came again.

"I know you were lying to me! You must have seen something!" The middle-aged man growled. The man's face was dark. He was wearing a cap, dark-colored clothes and a mask covered in mud was poking

out from his pocket. This man had been to the 2nd hand shop yesterday night, he wanted to buy back the boy's toys!

"You have killed your own child and wife!" At this point, there was no reason to keep pretending. The man was crazy. He attacked Han Fei even though he only suspected Han Fei.

"You sure know quite a bit." The man was large and muscular. He attacked Han Fei again, he was incredibly fast, he must have some kind of training. Han Fei's eyes narrowed as he evaded. Evasion was not something he was familiar with. He was forced to retreat. The river soaked his shoes. Han Fei led them deeper towards the river. The terrain was uneven. Han Fei finally caught an opportunity when the man stepped on a soft spot. Han Fei immediately started to counter!

After his experience in the cryptic world, Han Fei was quick and ruthless. He elbowed the man's throat and then locked the man's arms. Han Fei's attacks aimed at the weak points. This was not street fighting, this was an assassin completing his mission. The man was larger and stronger than Han Fei but he felt fear. The young man who pretended to be innocent really wanted to kill him!

The man used all of his force to struggle loose but his knife fell onto the rock. The knife was now closer to Han Fei. The man immediately jumped towards the knife, without the knife, he didn't feel so safe. Han Fei didn't even glance at the knife. While the man moved, Han Fei swung a fist at the man's chin. The man resisted the pain from the punch as he continued to lunge at the knife. At that moment, Han Fei's knee came towards the man's body. The man groaned in pain. He had to give up the knife and rolled away. He then turned to escape. Han Fei was not going to let him go so easily, he chased after him. They ran for about 10 metres when the man was tripped by something and fell into the river. Water splattered everywhere. Han Fei removed his jacket and planned to jump into the river to chase after the man when he noticed the man's body was rapidly sinking into the river. Han Fei saw toys in the river grabbing onto the man's clothes and rain, pulling him down.

The man struggled but he still slowly descended into the depths. 'Just how deep is this river?' The slow river gave Han Fei a deep sense of foreboding. He didn't want to stay by the river for too long. 'Is the man dead?'

As Han Fei moved away from the river, he noticed the thing that tripped the man over. It was a child's puppet. It was covered in mud, it looked similar to the headless puppet at the shop.

"Notification for Player 0000! You've completed the random mission—Toys. You've helped the boy save his toys.

“You’ve fulfilled 10 percent of the altar owner’s regrets! You’ve obtained a large amount of EXP as well as a unique item, toy.

“Toy: When he was dismantling the boy’s ‘toy’s, he had no idea he’d one day become the boy’s toy. Function unknown, might change after dark.

“Notification for Player 0000! You’ve completed a random mission, you obtain a chance to open your inventory. You can choose an item to bring into the memory world.” Han Fei opened his inventory and after some hesitation chose Rest in Peace. ‘One more mission and I can level up. Everything is progressing nicely but how come I have this bad feeling?’

As the day brightened, more people appeared on the streets. Han Fei didn’t dare to stay by the river for too long. He ran back to the mall. It was 5 am so the mall hadn’t started for the day, there was no one around. Han Fei opened the door silently but the alarm chimed loudly. Hurried footsteps came from inside the shop. Soon Huang Li appeared rubbing her eyes. Her hair was tousled and she looked tired.

“You’re finally back!” Huang Li became spirited when she saw Han Fei. “You skipped several hours on your first day of work! I thought something bad had happened to you! You gave me such a fright!”

“Sister Huang, I ran into some problem when I escorted the deliveryman home, I’m so sorry.” Han Fei studied Huang Li. The woman looked fine. Looks like nothing happened after he left.

“I’ll forget it this time but no more next time!” Huang Li said sternly. “What happened to your clothes? Did you go for a roll in the mud?”

“The deliveryman’s father’s wheelchair fell into the river bank, I went down to help him pick it up.”

“You are a kind person but don’t let people take advantage of it.” Huang Li sighed and she stopped scolding Han Fei. “You better go home to rest. Tonight, you’ll have to work the night shift alone.”

“Okay.” Han Fei looked around the store. “Sister Li, did something happen at the mall last night? Did the two guards create more problems for you?”

“No, after those two came back from the 3rd floor, they have been acting very strangely. They kept wandering around the mall but they never came this way.” Huang Li stretched lazily.

“It’s best to be careful, those two might be up to something. You should lock the door before going to bed.” Han Fei didn’t trust those two guards. Plus with what Huang Li said, he suspected something had invaded those 2 guards.

“It’s fine, the shop has many surveillance cameras, they won’t be that daring.”

“Okay.” Han Fei then left the 2nd hand shop. He walked out from the mall but he felt someone was looking at him. He moved slowly until he reached Entrance C. He turned around and saw the 2 guards standing at the rails of the 2nd floor. Their faces were unnaturally pale.

The sky was lightening. Han Fei didn’t stay at the mall but headed home. His body was weakened after a whole night of work. His mood points was dropping, so he needed to rest. After crossing the cement bridge, the small garden and 2 alleys, Han Fei finally reached home. Opening the door, the smell of mold hit him but Han Fei was already used to this. He entered the room. When he closed the door, the system came again. “Notification for Player 0000! You’ve successfully cleared the first night, your diary has been updated!”

‘My diary? But I have not written anything.’ Han Fei opened the fridge to take out the notebook. When he turned to the new page, he realized it was filled with scrawling handwriting.

“Today, I found a new job. It’s a night shift so I can find other jobs during the day. The new job is not difficult, I’m already familiar with it, but the mall is quite scary at night.” The content was very everyday but the handwriting showed the writer’s pressure. “I memorized the location and prices of all the merchandise. My mother told me to be a responsible person and she also told me to be a good person. Because a good person will have good karma.

“I helped a delivery person, I stopped him from being bullied by the guards. I only wanted to do good so why? Why did it turn out like this? I didn’t want this! Really! Who can help me? I just wanted to help so how did he die? He’s dead, I saw him die. The knife cut into his chest but it was because he wanted to kill me!” The handwriting was tipped over and the writer rambled on like he had lost his mind. As Han Fei read on, his face darkened. He didn’t write this diary but the altar owner did.

Everything went as Han Fei predicted. The altar owner helped the deliveryman but he didn't escort the man home immediately. He waited for a long time but the man's father didn't show up and he didn't answer the phone. Only then he escorted the man home. When they passed by the bank, they saw the old man's wheelchair. They went down to look and accidentally ran into the boy's father.

The boy's father attacked immediately. When they fought, the man's knife fell and it landed closer to the altar owner. He picked up the knife to defend himself but he accidentally harmed the man's vitals. The man fell into the river. The only witness was Wang Pingan.

'I didn't even touch that knife yesterday night but the boy's father was still killed. Looks like there are several things in this memory world that can't be changed.' Han Fei's fists tightened. If certain key things couldn't be changed, how was he going to rectify the altar owner's regrets and hold onto the only light in this despairing world?

Chapter 436 Loan

On his first night of work, the altar owner memorized the price and location of all the merchandise, helped a bullied deliveryman and accidentally killed a criminal. This was recorded in detail inside the diary. He was already under a lot of pressure and accidentally murdering a person didn't help. His mother was at the hospital and desperately needed the money. He worked 2 jobs but fate played a huge joke on him.

"Murder?" Every entry in the diary radiated suffocating despair and anxiety. From the handwriting, it showed the bad mental state the altar owner was in. Reading the entry caused Han Fei's mood points to drop, it was like he had written these things and they influenced his emotions.

'The altar owner has to save his mother so he needs all the time he can get. If he is roped into a murder investigation, he would lose the chance to even see his mother for one last time.' Han Fei stared at the ugly handwriting. He tore off the page and used a pencil to black out the words. To be sure, Han Fei blacked out the back of the page too and then tore the page into pieces and soaked it in water. When the page dissolved, Han Fei poured it down the pipe in batches. 'My emotions are being affected by this diary and my mood will fluctuate because of the diary entry. I can't change the key plots in this memory world and I am slowly acclimatizing to this memory world, eventually I will be like the altar owner.'

Bang! Bang! Bang! Knocking came from the door, Han Fei hurriedly hid the diary. "Coming!"

Opening the door, Han Fei saw a large woman standing there. She wore a red jacket that was several sizes too small for her and she was covered in a haze of cheap perfume.

“I pity you so I allowed you to delay paying the rental for a month but you’re taking advantage of my kindness! Didn’t I already warn you from sneaking back here to live?” The woman’s voice was shrill. “I am not doing charity work. Hand over the rent you owed or else pack up your stuff and leave now!”

“I owe a month of rent?”

“Trying to act dumb?” The woman’s face darkened. Her large fist slapped on the door. “Trying to scam people when you’re so young?”

“Big sister, please hear me out. I will pay you the rent, but I hope you can give me some more time, I just found a job. I have no money on me.” Han Fei made it sound like he was alone in the world and he had no one else to turn to. Han Fei used both his masterful acting and the talent he learned from the cryptic world and finally managed to get the landlady to give him a few more days. After the landlady left, Han Fei’s mood points dropped for 3 points. ‘In this memory world, humans are harder to deal with than ghosts.’

Closing the door, Han Fei glanced at the small bits of rice left in the kitchen and he sighed. ‘These are the altar owner’s experiences? But at least I can go to Wang Pingan’s place to solve the issue of hunger.’ Removing the muddy jacket and shoes, Han Fei rummaged through the dressers to find a change of clothes. At the same time, he checked all the pockets for small change. After some time, Han Fei gave up. The original owner of this house was truly poor beyond belief.

‘The owner has a bank card but unfortunately I don’t know the password.’ Han Fei desperately needed money for his daily needs. ‘I can’t carry on like this, at least I have to be able to guarantee that I’ll be able to eat every day.’ Eating was not just for filling up the stomach, in this world, eating also influenced one’s mental state and mood greatly. Drinking a large cup of water, Han Fei lay in bed. He took out his phone to search for some kind of day job. However, before he could do any searching, there was another knocking and this time it was louder than before.

‘Who is it?’ Han Fei stood up to open the door. A man about 30 and wearing a colorful shirt stood outside the door. He looked like a gangster. “So how did your work go last night? Are you satisfied with the job I found you?” The man appeared to be familiar with the house owner because he walked straight into the room and sat on Han Fei’s bed, “It fits your requirement perfectly, nightshift with high

pay. To find this job for you, I have to pull a lot of strings.” Han Fei had no impression of this man at all. He didn’t close the door but stood beside it studying the man.

“Why are you looking at me like that?” The man lit a cigarette. “I’ve already found you the job, shouldn’t you pay me the agent fee already?” Han Fei then confirmed the man’s identity. He was an underground agent. The altar owner was desperate so he sought help everywhere. It was through this agent that he found the job at the 2nd hand shop at the mall.

“How much is it?” Han Fei was a good citizen, he rarely used illegal methods to deal with his problems, unless it was truly necessary.

“1500 RMB! We discussed this already!” The man took out a signed contract from his pocket. The altar owner had signed it with a red thumbprint. “Are you thinking about weaseling out from it?” Slowly closing the door, Han Fei believed this was a necessary situation. He had no idea what the owner’s choice was but he planned to deal with this his way. “Can you give me a few more days? I just started the job, how about I return the money next month?”

“I know you’re lacking in money but we can’t violate the contract, I’m just a runner.” The man lit the cigarette and pretended to think, “How about this, I’ll bring you to a place, it’ll help with your situation.” Perhaps the man sensed the danger or his luck was that good. He stood up to open the door. “Come on, don’t just stand there.”

Han Fei needed to rest. He was very tired already. He glanced at the time but in the end decided to follow the man. “Where are we going?”

“We’ll know when we’re there.” The man led Han Fei out from the neighbourhood. They cut through many alleys and corners before they arrived at a mahjong centre. The place was filled with the smell of smoke. The place was quite deserted.

“Why did you bring me here? I don’t know how to play mahjong.” Han Fei acted like a perfectly innocent student. He wanted to leave but was held back by the man.

“Since we’re already here, we should stay for a while.” He pulled back the bamboo curtain at the end of the room. Beyond it was a relatively clean office. The windows were closed and grilled. Blood stains

could be seen on the floor. The ashtray was filled with cigarette butts. The figurine of Guan Yu sat on the office table and the wall behind the table hung a picture of dragon and tiger.

The sound of leather shoes clicked against the floor. Not long after Han Fei and the man arrived, the bamboo curtain opened again. A tall man with a scar on his face entered the room. Without saying anything, he planted himself on the room's only couch. Not long after the man entered, the door behind Han Fei was closed. A fatty around 200 jin guarded the door. The fatty was covered in fat. His exposed skin had the tattoo of a ferocious tiger.

"Brother Li, this is the student who asked me to find a job for him." The man acted so obediently before the man with the scar. He didn't even dare to speak too loudly. The man with the scar said nothing but extended his hand. The man in the colorful shirt understood the meaning immediately. He handed over Han Fei's contract. The man with the scar glanced at it and then took out 600 RMB and placed it on the table.

"Brother Li, the amount is not right! It's too little..."

"Is it too little?" The man glanced at the man in the colorful shirt. The latter cowed, he picked up the money and ran. After he left, he closed the door.

"Your name is Han Fei, right?" The man with the scar put the contract away and then took out a new object and placed it on the table. "I've paid the money you owe him."

"Thank you." Han Fei's expression changed, his eyes were filled with terror. He staggered backwards but was stopped by the fat guard.

"Don't be afraid. I heard that your mother is sick and you need money so I'm here to lend you some." The man tapped on the table. "Once you sign this contract, you can have the money."

"It's that simple?" Han Fei walked to the table to pick up the contract. The man had offered Han Fei a contract with an impossibly high interest. If he signed the contract, Han Fei would have to pay for the rest of his life. 'Was the altar owner forced to do this too?' Han Fei put down the contract and his expression was fearful.

"I've already cleared the debt you owed, if you don't sign this new contract, you might not be able to leave this place." The man lit a cigarette, he didn't see Han Fei as a threat. "I'm sure you know what to do." The fat guard walked over to stand behind Han Fei. For a student, the pressure created by these 2 gangsters was high.

"I can sign this but can you lend me more money?" Han Fei asked in a shivering tone.

"How much?" The man's interest was piqued. He was not afraid of Han Fei borrowing money, he was afraid that Han Fei refused to return the money.

"50000 RMB, I will return it to you in the middle of the next month."

"50000?" The man stared at Han Fei and then smiled. "Okay, but you'll not be signing this contract then." He took out 2 more contracts from the drawer, one was a contract to sell away one's body. He placed the contracts on the table. As if to persuade Han Fei, the man took out 20000 RMB from a locked drawer and placed it on the table. "Sign them and then you can take the money with you."

Picking up the contracts, Han Fei studied them and then shook his head. "I won't sign the ownership of my body and life away. Furthermore, your interest rate is too high, at most I can accept a 2 percent annual rate."

"Are you seriously bargaining with us?" The guard chuckled. "I've seen naïve people before but you have to be the most naïve one I've met." He cracked his knuckles.

"If you can't agree to that, then there's nothing for us to discuss anymore." Han Fei tore apart the contract, he was never going to sign these things. He didn't care if the altar owner had signed these things or not but Han Fei would not.

"I'll return you 1500 RMB once I get my salary." Han Fei turned towards the exit. Then he heard the wind howl. Han Fei leaned back and the fatty missed. His punch landed on the office table.

"Quite an agile man." The fatty was surprised. Not many people could survive his ambush.

“It was you who made the first move.” Han Fei knew that they never planned to let him go in the first place.

“So what if we did? What can you do about that? We’re merely going to teach you a lesson when you refuse to pay what you’ve owed!” The fatty grabbed a solid wooden club beside the table and swung it at Han Fei. Han Fei didn’t hold back, his speed was much faster than the fatty. He avoided the club. While the fatty readied for his second attack, Han Fei kicked at the man’s knees and pulled on his wrist. As the fatty fell forward, Han Fei twisted the fatty’s arm upwards. The man’s shoulder immediately dislocated, the crack sounded eerie in the office.

Scream echoed inside the room. One of the fatty’s arms was incapacitated. Normally a person would stop at this point but Han Fei grabbed the fatty’s other arm and snapped it as well.

Han Fei’s ears perked. Han Fei raised the fatty’s noodle arm and blocked it behind him. The wooden club fell on the fatty’s arm. The fatty screamed again but no one cared about him.

Han Fei kicked the table over. While the man with the scar had to retreat to avoid the flying table, Han Fei grabbed the ashtray and threw it at the man. At the same time, Han Fei charged forward. Just as the man evaded the ashtray, he was rammed into by Han Fei. Before he reacted, a punch landed on his temple. His world spun. Just as the man tried to stand back up, he felt his wrists being grabbed and a bad feeling rose in his heart.

AH! His wrists were bent into an impossible angle. Before the man could feel pain, his head was slammed into the desk. His ears echoed and pain came from all parts of his body. His mouth was bleeding. 30 seconds later, the man with the scar regained consciousness. He realized he couldn't feel his arms anymore and someone pressed on his head.

“I will return you the 1500 RMB when I get my salary next month, do you have any problem with that?” Han Fei didn’t violate his contract. After all, he did owe them money.

“Of course, of course! We have no problem!”

“Calm down, there’s no need to do anything rash for 1500 RMB.” The man with the scar pleaded, “You are still a student, you have a great future.”

“Future?” Han Fei looked at the 20000 RMB on the table. “I’ll be taking this 20000 RMB, I will loan them according to standard bank interest. I will return the money with interest before next year.”

“That’s not so good.” The man with the scar said, “We’re just runners, if we can’t collect the interest, we’ll have to make up the difference ourselves.” Han Fei ignored the man. He opened the drawer and realized there was no money left.

“If not for the fact that taking a loan from the bank requires plenty of identification, do you think I need to come to you? Using the same interest rate as the bank is already the best I can do.” Han Fei could have just taken the money directly but he had a feeling bad things would happen if he did that so he decided to make the same choice as the altar owner—which was to take out a loan.

The altar owner was scammed by the agent and was brought here. With the owner’s capability, he would have been forced to sign the disadvantaged contract.

“Erm... Okay.” The man looked at the fatty who was still screaming in pain. He didn’t really have a choice, if he didn’t agree, he might lose his arms too. “We’ll sign a contract according to your conditions.”

“I’ve already given you a verbal promise, so don’t worry, I will return it within the year.” Han Fei took away the money. “Unlike you 2, I’m a good guy.” Han Fei released his grasp on the man’s head. “You know where I work and where I stay, you can send people to watch me. But remember if you dare to go after my mother at the hospital...” Han Fei picked up the solid club and swung it at the office table. The club shattered and splinters flew everywhere.

“Understood! Understood!” The man with the scar responded quickly.

“I will return the money, see you.” After Han Fei left, the man finally sighed in relief. “Are all students so dangerous nowadays?”

When Han Fei left the room, the man with the colorful shirt had disappeared. Han Fei didn’t go to find him because he needed to rest. His mood points had started to drop again. ‘Why is my mood point dropping? I’ve used my own power to borrow the money I need, I should feel happy. Is it because I’ve violated some kind of rule?’ Han Fe left the mahjong centre and walked back home. Pedestrians filled

the streets but Han Fei couldn't fit in, he was different from these puppets. Han Fei sped up. He passed the cement bridge. When he entered the second alley, he encountered the homeless man again.

The man who was curled at the corner was bruised and bleeding. He was probably just beaten up. The man grabbed his tattered comforter and hugged the limping dog, they looked pitiable.

'Am I qualified to give others charities?' Han Fei tightened his grip on the money in his pocket. He walked away from the alley and turned towards a shop to buy meat buns for 3 and 2 bottles of water. He returned to the alley. He didn't give the homeless man money but instead placed the buns and water before him. "Eat them while they're hot. I promised you I'd help when I have money."

The homeless man was very surprised. He kept thanking Han Fei and repeated, "Good person, thank you. Good person has good karma." Han Fei had a feeling the homeless man said these things for a reason. However, no matter how he asked, the homeless man would only repeat that.

'Will good people really have good karma? The owner's mother has taught him that, he even mentioned it in his diary.' Leaving the homeless man behind, Han Fei walked back to his rental. He reached the end of the alley when he saw a boy carrying a blue school bag cowering at a corner, he appeared to be crying.

'It should be way past school hours now.' Han Fei didn't plan to mind the extra business but when he passed the boy, he noticed several toys were placed before the boy and the toys were from the same series as the toys in the paper box at the 2nd hand shop. He stopped. Han Fei knelt down before the boy. "Boy, why aren't you at school?"

The boy raised his head. Tears stained his cheeks. "Father didn't want me to go to school, he also didn't want me to play with other children. He said bad things would happen if I go to school and it was me who caused my mother to get sick."

"This is the first time I heard a parent telling their child to stop going to school. Is your father a doctor?" Han Fei asked.

"Don't know." The boy shook his head. "My father never did tell me what he does for a living. He left home after dawn and then returned before dark. His body is extremely smelly and he needs to shower for a long time to remove the smell."

“Extremely smelly?” Suddenly the boy picked up the toys and looked behind Han Fei nervously.

‘Someone’s here?’ Han Fei turned around and saw a man in western suit standing silently several metres behind him.

“Yi Yue, haven’t I told you not to talk to strangers?” The man ignored Han Fei. The man’s tone was more than stern, it was like he was threatening the child. The man walked over to grab the boy. “Come home with me! If you keep on running away, your mother will get sicker!”

“Toys, father, the toys are still on the ground...” The man ignored his child as he walked towards Han Fei’s rental apartment.

“Such a strange man, his presence is different from the other residents I’ve met...” Han Fei stared at the man and his eyes widened. When the man moved, Han Fei spotted the tattoo of a human skull on the back of the man’s neck!

‘Ten fingers?’ In the cryptic world, members of Ten Fingers would carve a human skull on their body whenever they killed a person to trap their victim’s soul.

‘This shouldn’t be a coincidence, I’m surprised they live still so close to me!’

Chapter 437 Ten Fingers in the Memory World

Han Fei picked up the toys the boy left behind and shoved them into the plastic bag used to carry the buns. ‘After the man left, I should use these as an excuse to visit their house.’ The boy’s toys were from the same series as the victim’s toys at the shop, which was interesting to Han Fei.

Ten Fingers had explored the altar owner’s world for years, they would have mastered a lot of info. They might have seen the real image of this world. ‘I wonder if the world they see is different from what I see.’

Holding the toys, Han Fei didn’t chase after the father and son. It was not yet the time to reveal himself. After waiting for some time, Han Fei entered the neighbourhood. The entrance door was suddenly

pushed open and a bespectacled balding middle-aged man was hauling several large rubbish bags out. Seeing how inconvenienced the man was, Han Fei moved to help. When the man saw Han Fei, he was surprised. Then he shook his head. "Even if you help me with these chores, I can't lower your rent. I know you are a kind and good kid but this world is not easy."

"You are..." Han Fei was confused.

"What are you doing at the door?! You'll only throw them away then they start to smell! How disgusting!" The door at the corner of the 1st floor opened and the landlady shouted at the middle-aged man, "Once you come off from work, you slump on the couch like a dead man. Do you think you're the only one who is tired? I am tired too."

The middle-aged man sighed. He picked up the trash and continued to move. However as he passed Han Fei, he whispered, "I was smoking on the balcony earlier. I saw you pick up the toys of the boy from Room 7. I'd advise you to throw those toys away and stay away from that family." The man then moved away. Seeing how slow the man was, the landlady was angry and she slammed the door.

It was clear that the man didn't want to get involved so he whispered to Han Fei. Han Fei should appreciate his warning and then just walk away. However, Han Fei was never one to follow normal conventions. In the altar owner's memory world, there were not many good people so he had to get to know as many of them as possible!

Instead of returning home, Han Fei picked up the toys and followed behind the balding man, this startled the man.

"Uncle, what is wrong with the family in Room 7?"

"Why are you following me?" The man frowned. "Don't ask too many questions, it has nothing to do with you anyway."

"But I have picked up his child's toys and I notice they are extremely smelly, it's a stench that I'm not familiar with..."

“Shush!” The balding man led Han Fei away and then lowered his voice, “The stench is not a normal stench, it’s the smell of human decomposition?”

“Decomposition?!” Han Fei was shocked.

“The father from Room 7 works at a hospital morgue. He’s a nurse and spends his time with dead people. His mind is not that stable, so you better stay away from him.”

“A nurse? Do you know which hospital he works at?”

“It’s the hospital where your mother is—third people hospital. I heard that the man used to have many different jobs but none of them last long, I doubt he’ll work this job for long either.” The balding man dropped the rubbish in the trash can. Due to a lack of cleaning, the cans were already filled and the trash was forming a mountain. It attracted plenty of flies.

The balding man returned to the house but Han Fei stopped beside the rubbish pile. ‘Ten Fingers is working at the hospital where the owner’s mother is being treated? This can’t be a coincidence. Ten Fingers has been changing jobs, it feels like they’re looking for something, are they looking for me?’ Han Fei also noticed something interesting. In this memory world, he had taken the perspective of the altar owner, experiencing the things the owner once did, however Ten Fingers adopted the worldview of other people. Perhaps they were looking for the persona of the altar owner?

‘Why is there such a difference? Is it due to the black box, the system or the Mirror God?’ Han Fei still remembered the sacrifice the Mirror God made to send him into the altar. When he touched the altar, the mirror shattered. The pieces were like stars in the sky. ‘The memory world is not small either. Everyone here has their own story. Without the aid from a Pure Hatred or Lingering Spirit, surviving will be difficult, much less discovering its secret.’

Han Fei had no idea how powerful Ten Fingers was, but when he saw the man earlier, the man looked just like a normal person. ‘Perhaps it’s not that they can’t use their power here but once they did, they would be kicked out from the memory world.’

Han Fei took out the red paper doll. This Grade F Cursed Object became so normal in the memory world. ‘Only by helping the altar owner rectify his regrets that I will be given a chance to access my inventory.’

This shows how much the memory world rejects outside items. This world is the last trace of the altar owner's existence; he probably didn't want his memory to be ruined by outside power.'

Ten Fingers was far more powerful than Han Fei but even now they hadn't inherited the altar because they couldn't get the owner's approval. 'This is a good chance for me.' Lowering his head, Han Fei revealed a smile. He was used to using a warm smile to hide his real intention.

Han Fei was about to take the toys and leave when a paper plane landed on the trash pile. Han Fei turned to look and saw a woman standing beside a window on the 3rd floor. The woman had a rope around her neck, she looked like she was ready to hang herself.

'The left room on the 3rd floor? When I went to work yesterday night, there was someone hiding inside that room to watch me!' Han Fei rushed into the building to stop the woman from hanging herself. He ran to the 3rd floor and then banged on the last door on the left side. "Is anyone there?"

The dust fell and the door shook. Han Fei knocked for a time but no one answered. In the end, it was then 2nd floor Room 8 which was situated closest to the staircase that opened. "Are you crazy? I just finished my nightshift and you are making so much noise! People need to sleep!" A young man in his pajamas walked out from Room 8 and shouted up the stairs.

Han Fei ran back to the stairs to explain, "There's someone who is committing suicide in Room 13! I saw a woman trying to hang herself from downstairs!" Han Fei looked very shocked and afraid, just like a student should.

"Suicide?" The young man scoffed. He pushed Han Fei to the side. "Are you kidding me? There is no one living in Room 13."

"But it's true! I saw it with my own eyes!" While Han Fei lifted his head, he glanced into the man's room. "We should go and find the landlady to open the door! We're talking about human life here!"

"What does that have to do with me?" The young man was annoyed, "If you want to be crazy, go and find someone else to entertain you! If you continue to disturb my sleep, you see this fist? I doubt your flimsy body can survive this punch!"

“Room 13 is really unoccupied?”

“There are more and more crazies moving into this place. Thankfully I shall be moving out next month and I wouldn’t need to suffer you people anymore.” The young man grumbled as he closed the door.

When the young man opened the door, Han Fei got a chance to look into his room. All the things were neatly arranged. Half of the shoe rack was dominated by high heels. The wallpaper and decoration were very feminine. There were many pictures of the young man and a woman hanging on the wall. He probably lived with his girlfriend. The young man worked nightshift. Even though he had a bad temper, he loved his girlfriend, he was hardworking... but Han Fei remembered that before he went to work yesterday night, he heard the sound of people having sex coming out from this room. At that time, the young man should be at work already...

“Perhaps I heard it wrongly.”

Han Fei came to the 1st floor and steeled himself to knock on the landlady’s door. When the landlady heard Han Fei’s voice, she thought he was there to return the rental. She jogged to open the door. But when Han Fei told her about the things in Room 13, her face dropped immediately. “There is no one living in Room 13! You must have seen it wrongly!” The landlady huffed, “If you have time to worry about others, you should worry about yourself first!” Then she planned to close the door but Han Fei stopped her.

“Sister, wait!” Han Fei rummaged through his pocket before taking out 600 RMB. “My boss is very nice. He saw how quick and fast I work so he gave me 600 RMB in advanced. I’ll return you some of the rent I owed. I will pay the rest soon.” Han Fei’s face was covered in sweat. His hand that held the money was covered in wounds. He just got in a fight. Through the gap, the landlady looked at Han Fei and then at the money, her expression softened. Opening the door, she took the money. She sighed and then returned Han Fei 300 RMB, “You still need to eat, take this 300 RMB for yourself, you can pay me the rest by the end of the month.”

“It’s okay, I’ve already saved some for myself, I can skimp on my food.”

“Stop being so stubborn, just take it!” The landlady took the 300 RMB and then said seriously, “Pay attention at work and focus on healing your mother. Ignore the rest, okay?”

“But I really saw a woman hanging herself in Room 13...”

“There was indeed a woman who lived in Room 13 and she did hang herself.” The landlady said with impatience, “But that was 3 months ago, she was pretty and she worked at the mall. Her death was very sudden because she looked so happy normally.”

“She also worked at the mall?” Han Fei shivered. “Sister, my new job is also at the mall and I work the nightshift. Can you at least let me see that room or else I can’t sleep at night.” After some persuasion, the landlady finally agreed. She had her husband accompany them and the 3 of them went up the stairs. As they walked, Han Fei and the balding man slowly fell behind. The landlady walked in front alone. “Hmph, useless men!”

They came to the 3rd floor and the landlady opened the door to Room 13. The room was empty. All the furniture was covered in white cloth to prevent dust from gathering. “The both of us found these white clothes. After the girl died, we couldn’t contact her family so we kept this room like this. We didn’t dare to throw her stuff away.” The balding man stood at the door. As he hesitated whether to enter, he was shoved in by his wife.

“Are you done seeing everything? I wasn’t lying to you, right? There’s no one here.” The landlady signaled for Han Fei to exit but Han Fei walked through the living room and entered the toilet. Earlier he saw the hanging woman from the bathroom window. The wooden door was pushed open and he was stunned by what he saw. The bathroom was filled with strange paper balls covered in symbols. The paper balls reeked. The strangest thing was some of the drawings on the balls were wet and new.

“These paper balls were here 3 months ago?” Han Fei turned around to ask the landlady. The couple looked confused. “They weren’t! When I cleaned this room 3 months ago, it was very clean. Did someone sneak in here?!”

“Someone must have made a spare key!” The couple didn’t think of the supernatural.

Han Fei picked up one of the balls and opened it. He felt the symbols look familiar. As he was about to unravel the next ball, his mood points plummeted. His heart almost jumped out from his throat. Han Fei opened the paper balls one after another. When he opened the 10th ball, he saw a black and smelly arm hidden inside the ball!

Without hesitation, Han Fei reached for the arm! However before he could touch it, the arm disintegrated into shredded paper!

Then a strange thudding sound came from the house. It sounded like a hanged woman knocking her legs against the window.

'The sound is just beside me!'

His mood points flew downwards, Han Fei had trouble breathing. He was about to fall when the balding man grabbed him by his arms and dragged him out from the toilet. "You've worked the whole night already. You are tired. You need to go back and rest. We'll change the lock to this room as soon as possible."

The couple retreated out of the room. They sent Han Fei home and then left.

Lying in bed, Han Fei's mood points slowly returned to normal. He wanted to explore the truth but he was too tired. He slowly closed his eyes. This was the first time Han Fei fell asleep in the memory world.

Chapter 438 Organize the Storeroom

"Even if your heart stops, you can live here forever..." Han Fei's eyes flew open. He sat up in bed and his clothes were soaked in cold sweat. 'I fell asleep so easily? Why?' Checking his character profile, Han Fei noticed that his mood points had returned to 60, which meant he could venture out already.

'Sleeping can only raise my mood points back to 60. Now that I think about it, I haven't really felt the feeling of joy in this memory world yet.' Rubbing his heavy head, Han Fei changed into a dry set of clothes. 'How long have I slept? It feels like my memory is blurred, have I forgotten something?'

Pulling back the curtains, the sky outside was already dark. Han Fei had slept through the afternoon. 'I was probably too tired.' After some cleaning up, Han Fei entered the kitchen and cooked the last bit of rice into porridge. 'If I can survive tonight, I need to buy some food to store at home. Also I should visit the owner's mother at the hospital, perhaps I can get some clues from her.'

At 9 pm, Han Fei changed into his uniform and walked to the door. Han Fei left early because he didn't want to walk around the town at midnight. It was rare to find a worker who loved his job as much as he

did. As he opened the door and stepped out, the robotic voice came, "Notification for Player 0000! Your hunger points is 20, your physical condition is good, your mental condition is rather disappointed, your mood points is 60, do you want to leave?"

"Yes." The system notification woke Han Fei up immediately. He was inside the altar owner's memory world, he needed to be more cautious. 'The system will remind me every time I leave the house. The system has become more understanding and chatty when we're inside the memory world... Wait, is the voice really the voice of the system?' Han Fei stood at the door. He knew that he couldn't rely on the system notification to keep himself conscious. This was only the second day. If one day the system disappeared or if it had forgotten to remind Han Fei of certain things, Han Fei might get lost.

'This should be the hardest mission I've ever attempted.'

Han Fei left his room and walked down the corridor. Many sounds entered his ears, the sound of the television commercial, the argument between couples and children being scolded. The sounds comforted Han Fei, it was like he had been living there for a very long time already. 'Am I being acclimatized by the owner's memory? But I have not died, why would I have this feeling? Is it because I have fallen asleep? However, if I don't sleep, my mood points will decrease and my physical condition will be affected, in the end, I'd die too.'

Han Fei reached the staircase. He glanced up at the 3rd floor. All the sounds disappeared between the 2nd and 3rd floor, it felt like the stairs leading to the 3rd floor also led to another world. Han Fei took the steps one by one. When he arrived at the door of Room 13, his mood points started to drop again.

'O well, I should focus on work for now.' When Han Fei left the rental building, his breathing was ragged, he had no idea why he was so afraid. He turned back to look, one of the windows on the 3rd floor didn't close shut. Two hands grabbed the edge and half a face peeked out from behind the window. 2 hollow eyes stared at Han Fei. A piece of paper was slid through the window gap. The mouth opened as if talking. After some hesitation, Han Fei picked up the paper and unfolded it. The paper was painted with dark symbols. Han Fei turned it around and realized a statement was written on the back in uneven handwriting—you will die too.

'Is this a curse or a warning?' Han Fei placed the paper inside his pocket. He turned and walked out from the neighbourhood. When he reached the first alley, the homeless man was still there. He smiled when he saw Han Fei and then he said, "Good people will have good karma."

“Good people will have good karma.” Han Fei replied casually but when the homeless man heard him, the smile on his face stopped immediately. He pulled his wooden box and hid at the corner. ‘What is wrong with what I said? Or did he see something on me?’ Han Fei didn’t let go of this detail. However, no matter how hard he tried, he couldn’t get anything valuable from the homeless man. The limping dog kept barking at him. “Your dog is quite feral.” Han Fei remembered that the dog had never once barked before this.

Han Fei stopped wasting time and entered the 2nd alley. The houses on the side had no lights so they looked deserted. ‘2 alleys, the small garden and cement bridge...’ Han Fei already memorized the route. Like last time, he wanted to walk around the garden but then he noticed with shock that the boy from Room 7 was sitting on the swing alone. The boy had his blue school bag, and his clothes were muddied. He appeared to be talking to someone but there was no one around him.

“Hey!” Han Fei shouted at the boy outside the garden, “It’s already dark, you should go home! And not stay outside on your own!”

When the boy heard Han Fei, he quickly whispered behind his hand as if worried that Han Fei might see his friend. Then he ran over to Han Fei carrying his large school bag. His face was sweaty and his clothes were muddy, it appeared like he had just gone to the river bank to play. “Uncle, please don’t tell my father about this.”

“Do you know what time it is now? Why are you still outside?” After Han Fei knew the boy was Ten Fingers’ child, he paid him extra attention.

“My father wanted to cure my mother so he chased me out. He told me to stay outside until 10 pm.”

“Even so, you shouldn’t go to those dangerous places!” Han Fei helped wipe away the mud from the boy’s face. “By the way, what kind of sickness your mother has, I don’t think I’ve seen her before.”

“Mother hasn’t left the house for years already. She always sleeps in the bedroom. She doesn’t speak. It’s like she cannot wake up from her sleep.”

“Then how do you normally talk to your mother?”

“Father would lock the bedroom door before he goes to work, I can only see mother after he comes home.” The boy’s words shocked Han Fei. He suspected the boy’s mother was already dead.

“No matter what, you shouldn’t wander about all alone. You need to be more careful. Only by being alive can you protect the people you want to.” Han Fei knew he was being a little more severe than he needed. After he let the boy go, he glanced towards the small garden. The swing was swaying as if inviting him to play. “This world is becoming more and more absurd.”

Han Fei took the long detour to reach the cement bridge. When he saw the gurgling river in the dark, he had the urge to jump into it. ‘Focus, I need to get to work!’ Han Fei ran past the bridge and arrived at Entrance C. He glanced at his character profile, his mood points had dropped to 55.

As he entered the mall, Han Fei saw the male guard from the night before—Lee Daxing. “Oh, you’re still alive?”

“You’re the one who is working at a dead man’s shop, so you’d die before I do.”

After they greeted each other, they went off to work. Han Fei entered the 2nd hand shop. Huang Li was talking to a young employee. The employee didn’t finish the work so they had to work overtime. Perhaps because Han Fei had arrived, Huang Li lowered her voice to give the young employee face.

“What’s wrong?” Han Fei believed that scolding was not going to solve anything, especially in this world.

“A new batch of stock just arrived. The boss wants us to have them organized before tomorrow morning but this kid was too lazy, he didn’t even check on the stock in the storeroom!” Huang Li was angry, “I have already worked 2 long nights already, I thought I could finally rest but it looks like I’ll have to stay for overtime again tonight!”

“Sister Huang, there were too many customers this morning, I didn’t have the time.” The employee argued, “I’ll go arrange it now, you won’t have to work overtime.”

“I’ll go with you. This is the perfect chance for me to get to know the storeroom.” Han Fei stood beside the young employee. Han Fei was the kind of employee bosses would love.

"I guess that's the only way." Huang Li stayed at the counter to go over the accounts. Han Fei followed the young employee through the employee staircase to the underground storeroom. This underground storeroom was adjacent to the mall's warehouse, there was only a wall between them.

"Hey, newbie." The young employee was more at ease around Han Fei, probably because they were about the same age. "Why did you come here to work the nightshift? Not that I want to scare you, but you better be more careful at night. This place is not clean." As they walked, the young man whispered to Han Fei, "The old man who trained me just died not too long ago. He died inside the shop, it was very scary."

"I have no choice, I need the money." Han Fei smiled shyly.

"The salary for the nightshift is indeed higher, it's about twice the salary we get for doing the dayshift but not everyone can do the nightshift." The young man took out his phone. "We should add each other as friend, the name's Fei Yang."

"You're making me worry. Can you tell me more details so that I can be more prepared?" Han Fei took out his phone. As he added Fei Yang as his friend, he tried to draw out more information.

"The boss forbid us from talking about these things, I think it's mainly because he doesn't really understand what's happening either. Just remember that you shan't fall asleep after midnight, do not stay inside the shop, and it's best to sit near the door. If there's anything strange, just run out immediately." Fei Yang warned Han Fei seriously.

"I can't sleep? But when I was here yesterday night, Sister Huang just woke up from a nap and she seems fine."

"Have you not noticed..." Fei Yang stopped before continuing in a careful tone, "how strange has Huang Li been recently?"

"What do you mean?"

"The old man who trained me was also acting strangely before he died. His personality, tone and mannerism, it was like he was a different person." Fei Yang's fingers tightened. It was clear that he was

nervous and afraid, "Anyway, we should get to work." Fei Yang really did end the topic then. He focused on his job and stopped chatting with Han Fei. They moved the new batch of stock and categorized them. They worked for 40 minutes before Fei Yang escaped using the excuse that he needed to catch the last bus. Huang Li was angry when she found out. She wanted to call Fei Yang back but Han Fei stopped her.

After learning how to do the accounts and memorizing the categorizing standards for the stock, Han Fei told Huang Li to go rest, he'd do the rest on his own. A person's ability was limited. Huang Li worked the nightshift yesterday night and she had the dayshift this morning, she was already very tired.

"You're so much better than that kid. The boss must have done many good things to have hired a good employee like you." Huang Li was visibly drained. "I'll leave the stock in the storeroom with you. But if you can't finish it, it's fine, I'll explain to the boss tomorrow."

"It should be fine." Just as Han Fei said that, the robotic voice announced, "Notification for Player 0000! You've triggered a random mission—Organize the storeroom!"

"Organize the Storeroom: You need to organize the storeroom before dawn and price all the souls."

Han Fei thought arranging the storeroom would be something inconsequential but now he didn't dare to put his guard down anymore. 'The storeroom also contains the owner's regret?'

Leaving Huang Li, Han Fei entered the storeroom with the account book and inventory list. This time, his mood points started to drop. 'It appears like whenever there's a ghost, my mood points will drop and the speed it drops is related to the strength of the ghost.' Han Fei moved around the storeroom, opening the old boxes and bags. He priced the items based on the standards used by the shop. After about an hour, Han Fei's mood points dropped to 42. The surroundings felt very quiet. The mall above him had no footsteps or sound of people talking, it was like he was left stranded in the world. 'With the good person title, the decrease rate for my mood points is lowered. Does that mean that without that title, I wouldn't even be able to survive the second night?'

Han Fei arranged the stock and labeled them with prices. He placed them on the shelves in the storeroom. He moved quickly but even so he couldn't organize so much stuff in a short amount of time. When his mood points dropped to 30 plus, Han Fei decided to leave the storeroom for now. But as he turned, the lights in the storeroom went out. The darkness descended and Han Fei took in a cold breath. He could hear his heart beating in his chest. His mood points started to plummet.

He tried to make his eyes get used to the darkness. Han Fei had memorized the location of all the shelves, he retraced his steps and managed to escape without bumping into anything. However, when he was about to enter the employee staircase, he noticed the door was locked!

“Even if your heart stops, you can live here forever...” A voice spoke. It sounded like it came from his brain but also from deep inside the storeroom. It was calling for Han Fei.

Chapter 439 Free Bodyguard

“I’ve heard that voice before, it is calling after me, who is it?” Darkness swallowed the storeroom. All the light disappeared. His heart jumped, Han Fei had no idea what was hiding in the dark. He rammed against the door but the door didn’t even budge. He doubted that anyone would come find him. The only thing he could do was to find another way to leave.

“Why try so hard to live? What is so bad about staying here? I pity your stubborn soul.”

Han Fei was certain that the voice came from the storeroom. Resisting his fear, he walked back into the storeroom. ‘My mood points are still dropping. If this continues, it’ll reach 20 points in the next 10 minutes. Then I might die here.’ Without any hesitation, Han Fei passed through the shelves based on the memory in his mind. He charged down a direction. Even if it was a dead end, at least he had done something.

While Han Fei charged forward, a second hand laptop fell down from the shelf. Its monitor glowed coolly. ‘Isn’t this one of the stuff that I’ve just organized?’ The laptop was barely used. Earlier it was Han Fei who placed it on the shelf. The light from the monitor became the only light source in the storeroom. Han Fei’s eyes were involuntarily drawn towards it.

Someone had operated the laptop because it started to play a video. The video was a boy tied to a chair, he was being tortured and beaten, his body was covered in wounds. The boy was shouting something but the video had no audio. Han Fei had a feeling that he had seen this video before but he couldn’t remember where. The more he looked at the video, the more he felt like the boy was his younger self.

“Can pain be healed? If it can, how do you plan to heal this broken world?” All the 2nd hand electronic products flickered on. All the screens played the same video. Different children were tied to chairs. They didn’t have a name, they only had a number. It went from 0001 to 9999. The videos had no sound so all

the children were screaming soundlessly. They were being subjected to various training and inhuman 'healing' until they died in that cold and small room.

As the children died, their faces would start to change and blur. The soundless torture and endless treatment caused all the dead children to take on the face of the first child.

The first child could act out different expressions and personalities based on the orders given but he couldn't reveal a sincere smile. After all the children adopted the same face, the partition in the storeroom was opened. There was a darker room beyond it, like a black box.

The boy sat on the chair dumbly. He was led to another dark room. In the new room, he seemed to have grown slightly and he was given a new number—0000.

"Is this the meaning of your existence? Then you should stay, why don't you stay?"

Han Fei's heartstrings were pulled, the shocking image froze him to the spot. He was drawn by the face of the child, and memories which didn't belong to him exploded in his mind.

Spending days with his mother, the memories from childhood, happiness and bliss blossomed like flowers on the edge of the cliff, bringing 4 seasons to this despairing world. But soon, the mother was diagnosed with cancer, and his father escaped on his own. All the pressure fell on the child. Pain, work, money, all these things became problems in life.

The memories which didn't belong to Han Fei were forcibly melding with Han Fei's memory. The person knew many things about Han Fei. It didn't touch the deepest part of Han Fei's memory, it only wanted Han Fei to become him. His mother was sick, he needed the money, he was scammed at work, he owed the loanshark, but most importantly he had killed someone. The memory was heavy. Han Fei felt like he was underwater, the giant pressure was pressing on his nerves and arteries.

"Everyone around me tells me that good people will have good karma. I donate to the homeless, I feed the strays, I help the bullied deliveryman, I believe in justice and fairness, I always put other people first, so why does this happen to me?"

Han Fei's mind was muddled as he moved towards the other room. His hand touched something. At the deepest part of the storeroom, Han Fei saw an altar. The black altar was similar to the one placed at the 2nd hand shop but the presence it radiated was completely different. The doors were also nailed shut but someone had written something on the doors. "It is not embarrassing to sell your soul and principle, the embarrassing thing is that your soul can't fetch a good price. This is an opportunity for you to begin anew. Open the altars and you will obtain all the answers you want." It sounded like the system but also something else. In any case, with the guidance of the voice, Han Fei picked up the hammer that was beside the altar. After the doors were open, all the nightmare would disappear and truth would surface.

Han Fei's memory was already corrupted by others. He was under the influence of another force. He was dominated by hatred, resentment and sadness. Raising the hammer, Han Fei's eyes were bloodshot. He was under unimaginable pressure as he swung the hammer. There was a dull thud as the hammer smashed into Han Fei's pinkie. The bone shattered and Han Fei bled. The pain helped Han Fei regain temporary sanity. He dropped the hammer and grabbed the black cloth to cover the altar back up.

"So this is your choice?" Different voices appeared in the storeroom, there were male and female, young and old. Their voices overlapped like they were standing behind Han Fei. "You will regret this..."

The storeroom lights flickered before they came back on. As the light chased away the darkness, the cold and robotic voice echoed in Han Fei's mind. "Notification for Player 0000! You've completed the random mission, organize the storeroom! Not every soul in this world can be priced, you have made your choice!"

"You've rectified 15 percent of the altar owner's regret! You've obtained a large amount of EXP! Notification for Player 0000! You've completed a random mission, you obtain a chance to open your inventory. You can choose an item to bring into the memory world."

"Notification for Player 0000, you've reached level 17, gained 1 free attribute point!"

Leaning against the shelf, Han Fei slid to the ground, he was still reeling from what had happened. After the lights came on, his mood points rose from 19 to 25. 'The mission requires me to organize the storeroom before dawn... No, the mission didn't really specify that, it only reminded me to organize the merchandise before dawn and price all the souls.' Only then Han Fei realized the soul which was being priced included his own. If he had made a different choice, he might have ended up a merchandise on the shelf. 'I've rectified another 5 percent of the owner's regret. Looks like he was faced with the same choice but he couldn't resist the temptation and open the doors.' Han Fei raised his head to look at the altar under the black cloth. 'The real altar is hidden at the deepest part of the 2nd hand shop's storeroom. One wouldn't know it's here unless one works here.'

Climbing up from the ground, Han Fei held his pinkie which he couldn't feel anymore. "It's painful but this is a good thing. At least I can remind myself I'm alive." Han Fei examined the altar again and he noticed something strange. "The black cloth can cover the altar fully but I remember when I first encountered it, part of the altar was already exposed! Someone has been in here to lift up part of the black cloth before I did!"

There were only 3 people who could have done that, Huang Li, Fei Yang and the boss Han Fei hadn't met. 'Who could it be?' Han Fei didn't waste too much on this, he added his new attribute points to stamina. His arms became more powerful. He felt more energetic. He was less than level 20 but his stamina was already 28. 'At every 10 point, the attribute will break through a new threshold. After I have 30 stamina, perhaps I can unlock some new power related to stamina.'

Walking towards the staircase, Han Fei's attitude was completely different from before. After he made his choice, he would lead a path different from the altar owner, he wouldn't be controlled by the altar.

'It's relatively easy to level up in this memory world. All the missions here are equivalent to Grade F missions, I have to make use of this opportunity!' Pushing open the door and walking up the stairs, Han Fei looked around for Huang Li but he couldn't find her. 'Where is she?'

Han Fei came to the counter to find the first aid kit. He used the bandage to deal with his finger and then turned to examine the computer. The inventory wasn't completed but Huang Li had left the shop. "The water inside the cup is still warm, she probably left not too long ago."

Han Fei's mood point was recovering. As long as he didn't leave the mall, his mood point wouldn't be affected, at least that was what his experience from the night before told him. 'It's almost 1 am, it's not safe around the mall, should I go find her?'

Han Fei was stunned when he saw 2 men in cast sitting outside the shop. They had been sitting there for a long time already. They were in the same black suit. The fatty had both of his arms in cast and the tiger tattoo was peeking through his suit. He was so large that the buttons of his suit couldn't close. The other man had a knife scar on his face. It should look scary but with the bandage slung over his neck, he didn't look that terrifying.

The man with the scar used his two fingers to hold a cigarette. Perhaps because the mall was anti-smoking, he didn't light it. They sat on a piece of old newspaper. Shells of sunflower seeds scattered before them. Perhaps they were too bored so they had been snacking on sunflower seeds.

The door chimed. When they saw Han Fei come out, they finally got up using each other as support.

"You've taken the 20000 and we couldn't answer to our brothers so you have to pay us back today." The man with the scar demanded angrily. His eyes glared at Han Fei. The loanshark was beaten up by the person who took out the loan. If people found out, how were they going to show their faces anymore?

"What if I refuse?" Han Fei looked around for Huang Li.

"Then we will follow you forever until you return the money!" The fatty said.

"Free bodyguards? Wonderful, follow me then." Han Fei glanced upstairs. The mall was dark. Neither the two night guards nor Huang Li could be seen.

"You..." The man with the scar gritted his teeth. "We will stay here and scare all your customers away."

"Go ahead, it's not my business anyway. But be careful, not every customer is alive." Han Fei walked towards the fatty which caused the fatty to retreat in fear.

"Don't worry, I was just worried about you because you have to wear a suit in such cold weather." Han Fei helped fix the fatty's buttons. But he gave up after a few failed trials. "By the way, have you seen a woman walk out from the store earlier?"

"Yes, she went up to the 3rd floor." The fatty answered but he was glared at by his partner. Then he coughed and said, "I mean, I don't know."

"The 3rd floor is where they sell female outfits and it has been quite busy lately." Han Fei then heard a loud sound. It sounded like a heavy thing falling.

“This sound occurred yesterday night too! The 2 guards became abnormal after they went to examine it.” Looking at the dark mall, Han Fei waved at the 2 loansharks. “I’m going to the 3rd floor, you two coming?”

Chapter 440 What is Scarier than An Ex-Wife

The mall was dark and creepy after midnight. “Aren’t you two going to follow me?” Han Fei chided after he noticed the 2 guards hesitate. “I’m going to the 3rd floor.” The two loansharks hesitated for a long time before they decided to follow. Han Fei was confused by their hesitation because these 2 didn’t work here, they shouldn’t know about the scary things that happened here.

He turned back and saw the man with the scar used his single arm to pick up the sunflower seed shells and collect them inside a plastic back. The spot they occupied earlier was spotless. The newspaper they sat on was cleared away and not one sunflower seed could be seen. “You loansharks are quite principled.” Perhaps because Han Fei had taught them a lesson they didn’t dare to dirty his place.

“Stop mislabeling us.” The fatty shook his cast. “We are in the financial business, offering aid to small businesses and individuals...” The fatty was interrupted by the other man. He glared viciously like a lone wolf in the snow but then the swaying plastic bag ruined that illusion.

“Temporarily, I won’t be able to return you the money so if you insist on following me, then we would be spending some time together.” Han Fei waited for the 2 loansharks. That way, if there was danger, he could push them forward. “What are your names? It’s best that we get to know each other.” The man with the scar’s forehead pounded but there was nothing he could do.

“My name is Lee Hu, and he is my big brother, Lee Long. We are orphans and grew up on the street.” The fatty answered. He didn’t think sharing their names would pose any problem. The young man wouldn’t be able to kill them with just their names after all. The man with the scar coughed and stared sternly at Han Fei. “Kid, I know you are a good fighter but if you don’t return the money, we will follow you forever like a pair of ghosts! Even if you return home, we’ll disturb you. No matter what you do, we will not let you out of our sight.”

“My rental place is rather cursed, if you’re not afraid, then sure. By the way, do you have more members? I saw from movies that gangs like yours often have large groups.” Han Fei asked sincerely but Lee Long thought he was mocking him. Lee Long scoffed and then stopped talking.

With the 2 brothers accompanying him, Han Fei wasn't that nervous anymore. Previously he needed to run faster than the ghost to survive but now he only needed to run faster than these two. With this in mind, his mood points slowly rose back to normal. The elevator was out of service so they walked to the 3rd floor. This was the first time Han Fei entered the inside of the mall. The shopping area of the mall appeared so deserted at night. He took out his phone and the 3 of them appeared deserted in the darkness.

'Why would Huang Li come to the 3rd floor and where are those 2 guards?' Han Fei didn't forget about the strange looks those two guards had yesterday night. They were probably not humans anymore. 'The two guards hurried to check on the sound yesterday night. When they returned, something had changed within them.'

Han Fei had no idea where Huang Li went so he moved towards the direction of the sound earlier. On the 3rd floor, every shop had mannequins showcasing the latest fashion. As Han Fei's group walked past, it felt like the mannequins were looking at them.

'I must be careful, perhaps not all are mannequins.' The flashlight hit the window, lighting up the plastic mannequin as well as Han Fei's reflection.

"Aren't you a worker at the 2nd hand shop, why are you doing the job of the mall guard? Can you just mind your own business?" Lee Long whispered. One of his arms was broken, he felt very insecure.

"I also don't want to take on extra work but have you seen the guard around?" Han Fei walked ahead. Lee Long used his hand to pull on the fatty's shoulder and they slowed down. Noticing this, Han Fei frowned. "I am curious. Did you two work here before? You seem to be afraid of this place. Do you know something?" Han Fei was very sensitive. Just from their small actions, he could see the problem. He grabbed Lee Long and asked with a smile.

"The both of us lived on the streets so we do know some legends about this place." Lee Long glanced at the centre of the mall. "When the mall was being built, a woman fell from the 3rd floor, she was impaled by the exposed steel pipes. She died horribly."

"Was it an accident?"

"I heard from the aunties that the dead woman was the mall boss' ex-wife. The boss and his wife were not locals. They had a business along the coast when they were young, the boss had a 2nd hand shop while the woman had a fashion business. The boss' shop had very little business but the woman's shop was very popular. In fact she managed to open several chains." Lee Long looked unapproachable but he knew quite a bit of gossip.

"What happened next?"

"The boss pursued the woman and then they got married. However, after the marriage, the situation turned around. The woman's chain stores started to close one after another due to various reasons. In contrast, the man's 2nd hand shops became more and more popular. He also became luckier and his business expanded. After they divorced, the man brought his money home and opened up this mall." Han Fei was surprised that the mall had such a deep history. He slowed down and listened carefully. "After the project for the mall started, strange things kept happening but the boss had suppressed all of them, including the woman who purposely came to the mall's construction site to kill herself. According to rumors, she sneaked into the site after midnight wearing all red and very thick makeup.

"No one knew what happened between the two but after the boss found out about the woman, he hurried back from another state. The woman was sent to the hospital but it was already too late. Based on what the doctor said, the boss was very sad. He hugged the cold body and started to weep. The boss was a philanthropist so everyone consoled him, telling him to look towards the future.

"The strange thing was, after his ex-wife died, the construction of the mall became so smooth and the accidents ceased. Slowly people forgot about it. However, the people here said that the boss made the 3rd floor the female fashion floor in memory of his ex-wife.

"After the death of his ex-wife, the boss became an even bigger philanthropist. He even became famous for it. He started his own foundation and donated many things to help the orphans. Everyone had good things to say about him."

After Lee Long was done, Lee Hu added, "After you're on the streets long enough, you'll know that you shan't ever target the mall's boss. Even the seniors of the underworld told us to stay away from this mall."

"Huh? Why would they say that?" Han Fei was intrigued. "Do they know some secrets about this mall?"

They walked forward when the light from Han Fei's phone flickered. At that moment, Han Fei saw a person standing not far ahead. "Huang Li?" Han Fei called out softly. There was no answer but it frightened the two loansharks. "Did you see someone?"

"I believe so." Han Fei slowly moved towards the spot where the figure was standing. Suddenly his body froze! He slowly turned his head around. Han Fei looked from the corner of his eyes and then his face colored with shock. He whipped his body around and aimed the light from his phone on the window of one of the shops.

Between 2 mannequins stood Huang Li in a red dress. She leaned against the window! Her face was pale which highlighted her bright red lips. Her eyes were round and wide!

As the 3 men staggered backwards, their hearts raced.

"Sister Huang? Sister Huang!" Han Fei screamed. Huang Li appeared to have just woken up from sleepwalking when she heard Han Fei's voice. She fainted to the ground. Han Fei approached with his phone but at that moment, there was a sound from the shop next door. It sounded like the curtains of a dressing room being yanked off.

"Look after her!" Holding his phone, Han Fei rushed into the next shop. Out of the 4 dressing rooms, only 3 of them had curtains. Han Fei raised his phone and slowly inched into the shop. The curtains of the dressing room fluttered like there was someone behind them. The darkness thickened. The light from the phone could only reach so far.

Han Fei's hand went into his pocket to grab the bladeless blade. He slowly moved towards the 4th dressing room, there was no one inside but a bunch of new red clothes. Han Fei took a step back because his mood points started to drop for no reason. And then it really started to plummet. He had not encountered something like this before. Without any hesitation, Han Fei ran out of the shop. As he ran, Han Fei glanced at the mirrors on the walls.

In the darkness, other than Han Fei, the mirror also reflected dressing room 4. Among the pile of red clothes stood a woman facing away from Han Fei. Her chest was hollow and her finger kept on writing the character death inside the dressing room.

As he rushed out from the shop, Han Fei shouted, "Quick, we need to head downstairs!" However, the two loansharks didn't move. "What's wrong?"

"I... think she's dead..." The fatty stammered. Even though he was a loanshark and often got into fights, he had never seen an actual dead person before!

"If she is dead, she wouldn't be able to stand up alone earlier." Han Fei sounded very professional. He didn't abandon Huang Li. He grabbed her and ran out of the shop. The 3 of them raced downstairs. Han Fei could feel Huang Li's body temperature dropping and her heart was weakening.

"Do you guys come in a car? Quick, we need to send her to the hospital!" Han Fei's mood points was only 20 plus. He couldn't leave the mall so he had to rely on the two loansharks.

"How do you expect us to drive?" Lee Long shook his broken arm.

Han Fei carried Huang Li to the back of the mall. Han Fei called the emergency number. About 10 minutes later, an ambulance drove through the darkness. "I need the 2 of you to send her to the hospital, I will return you the money as soon as possible!"

After getting Han Fei's promise, Lee Long had his brother accompany Huang Li to the hospital while he stayed to watch over Han Fei. After the ambulance left the mall, Han Fei received a system notification.

"Notification for Player 0000! You've triggered a random mission—Money.

"Money: If one day you can use money to buy a person's life, what choice will you make?"

"Mission requirement: Reach the Third People Hospital before dawn and make the right choice."

Han Fei didn't rush into action but instead pulled over a chair to sit before the shop. "Lee Long, if we cycle to the Third People Hospital, how long will it take for us to reach there?"

"About half an hour. Why did you want to know?"

“No reason.” Han Fei temporarily didn’t mean to leave the mall, he needed to wait for his mood points to rise back to 50 first. ‘The altar owner’s mother is at Third People Hospital. Looks like I’ll have to be prepared.’ Han Fei stared at his character profile. While he waited for his mood points to recover, lights suddenly came on the 5th floor. Then it was followed by Lee Daxing’s voice, he was shouting his partner’s name. ‘The man is still alive?! Then where was he when we were on the 3rd floor?’

Soon Lee Daxing ran down from the 5th floor, his face was filled with fear and anxiety. When he saw Han Fei, he said, “Did you see Ma Yang? The guard who worked the shift with me yesterday.”

“No, what’s wrong with him?” Han Fei shook his head.

“He has gone missing! We were patrolling the 5th floor and he was suddenly gone!” Lee Daxing’s face was pale and there was blood on his lips. His hand that held the flashlight was clammy.

“Don’t panic.” Han Fei held Lee Long and took a step back. “I’m sure he’s still around the mall somewhere, probably using the toilet.”