

## Iyashikei 481

### Chapter 481 Excited

The mall was the first building Han Fei owned. With the help of the altar and Mirror God, he could sense all the souls inside the mall. Han Fei emptied himself and tried to connect with the building. Souls of varying strength drifted through the mall. Most of them were fixed to the shelves, only one red resentment was madly dashing about.

“Ten Fingers is not in the mall. He purposely left 9th Finger behind.” There was a connection between all the Ten Fingers. They left behind 9th Finger. If 9th Finger could kill Han Fei, then good; if 9th Finger was killed, they would find another solution.

“It is as I expected, Ten Fingers became a Pure Hatred not because of the strong resentment within him but he is extremely cruel. He step on the others and slowly grew from normal merchandise into a Pure Hatred.” Mirror God shook his head. “This type of Pure Hatred is hard to kill, but don’t worry, one day I will kill him and make him vomit out everything he has taken from me.”

“Such a waste. I wanted to trade using Ten Fingers’ soul and see how much it weighs.” Han Fei touched the altar. He revealed a smile similar to the figurine inside. Han Fei took out the phone Drake left for him and called everyone from the tenancy committee to enter the mall. After doing that, Han Fei touched the altar again, he wanted to find Weep and the female streamer at the mall. The mall had the same layout as the one in the memory world, but the one in the cryptic world was scarier and darker. Most of the shelves were filled with strange objects. Just paper dolls alone, there were more than 100 types. There were some ‘valuable’ at the mall but Ten Fingers had taken them all when he left. “But the leftovers are enough to last my neighbors for a long time.”

Han Fei looked for a long time when he finally sensed Weep’s presence on the 6th floor, near the furniture section. It just so happened that 9th Finger was running that way. “Why doesn’t he leave directly and run upstairs? Is something hidden there?” Without any hesitation, Han Fei and Mirror God gave chase.

When they exited the underground storeroom, Han Fei reunited with his neighbors. They were worried about Han Fei. Mirror God went to chase after 9th Finger while Han Fei found Zhuang Wen and used the last wish on her. The flame of greed burst from the altar. Zhuang Wen howled in the flames. But after a while, Zhuang Wen stopped. Her split souls were joined back together and rationality shone in her eyes. The key part was her rotten heart was reborn in flames. After the flame of greed disappeared, a weak black flame of hatred burned in her heart.

“Notification for Player 0000! Friendliness level with Zhuang Wen increases by 10, you are now officially friends.” Zhuang Wen’s soul which was tortured by the Butterfly was healed. The presence from the altar weakened immediately. It was a Grade 3 Altar but it looked weaker than Han Fei’s Grade 1 altar.

Zhuang Wen didn’t go on rampage anymore, at least she wouldn’t accidentally kill Han Fei. Zhuang Wen flew to help Mirror God. When Han Fei and his neighbors reached the 6th floor, 9th Finger only had a head left. The Large Lingering Spirit was nothing compared to the 2 Pure Hatreds.

“Don’t haste to kill him.” Han Fei stopped Mirror God. Han Fei moved through the furniture zone and found an old urn among a shelf for the discounted items. As he opened the urn, crying echoed through the 6th Floor. When Han Fei saw the boy in the urn, he sighed in relief. He carried the urn and used Soul-depth Touch to hug Weep. Han Fei was really worried about him. The weeping boy was brought out of the urn. The despair around him twisted.

“Notification for Player 0000! Friendliness with Medium Lingering Spirit, Weep increases by 20! He sees you as his closest friend, he trusts you unconditionally, do not disappoint him.” Weep’s father was his killer and he was fearful of his father. He lived in endless despair. After helping the other neighbors escape, Weep stayed inside the mall and fell into darkness again. Despair fed on his heart. But the ending this time was different. When Han Fei opened the urn, the boy cried for real. But his tears were different from normal tears.

A man carried a crying boy out from a ceremonial urn at midnight, it looked scary but it touched the ghosts around them. Holding Weep by his hand, Han Fei walked towards 9th Finger. He wanted Weep to take revenge himself but Weep told him that the red dress had decided to tail Ten Fingers after she realized he had been weakened. They left the mall together. Ten Fingers grabbed something from the mall and that something was very important to the red dress.

“The red dress should be waiting for us.” Han Fei took out Rest in Peace and questioned 9th Finger. However 9th Fingers only knew that his brothers had headed towards the hospital. Han Fei believed the man would rather die than tell them the truth so he fulfilled his wish. The group brought 9th Finger to the underground altar and Han Fei used the altar’s power for the first time. The black cloth fell and the doors opened. The scale in Mirror God’s right eye swayed and then the flame of greed consumed 9th Finger.

“Soul Trade activated, please pick from one of the 3 options.

“1 Finger: This finger contains resentment, it can greatly improve the power of a Medium Linger Spirit. However, the spirit will be affected by the resentment inside the finger and there is a chance they might lose their mind.

“EXP.

“Afterlife Karma +5.”

Han Fei looked at the options. He eliminated afterlife karma, since he could earn that in real life why pick it now? “The Finger can improve the power of a Medium Linger Spirit and I have many friends who are on that level. People like Weep and Drake but it comes with a dangerous side effect. Ten Fingers might sense it too.” After some deliberation, Han Fei chose the EXP. He wanted to see how much EXP a Large Linger Spirit could bring. The flame and 9th Finger disappeared. According to the system, Han Fei had earned basically half of the EXP from a normal Grade F Mission.

“I need around 9 Grade F Mission to go from level 19 to level 20. If I don’t do any mission, I need 18 Large Linger Spirits to gain the equivalent EXP?” Han Fei wanted to kick the altar before him but considering his own figurine was inside, he changed his mind. “Is this because I chose to open the black box from both ends? It’s doubly hard for me to gain level compared to Fu Sheng who only picked one side?” Han Fei had a feeling that his situation was different from Fu Sheng but he had no evidence. “When I find Fu Sheng’s memory fragment next, I need to ask for an explanation. I can’t let him slip away again.”

Han Fei calculated the time. Even though it had been days in the memory world, time didn’t pass that much in the cryptic world. The memory world was a frozen place in time. It was more like a temporal cage.

Han Fei led his neighbors to check out the mall. If he found something valuable, he would give them to his neighbors. In the past, this mall was only used by Ten Fingers but now Han Fei shared it with his neighbors. Resentment, yin energy, paper dolls, Han Fei had no use for them so he gave them to his neighbors. “I need to watch myself before I get used to shopping in the afterlife.”

Han Fei wanted to do more shopping when Laughing who stayed at Ziggurat sent a message. “A few people entered Ziggurat. They look like wandering spirits or perhaps something else. They came out of the room where Butterfly died in.” Before the mall was taken down, the Ziggurat was Han Fei’s base. Laughing was worried so he immediately contacted Han Fei.

“Wandering spirits?” Han Fei suspected they might be players.

“Not only that, the monsters from the plastic surgery hospital are seen wandering deeper into the mist.”

“Understood, we’re coming back now.” Now that the mall was stabilized, Han Fei only needed to leave Mirror God behind to guard this place.

“We’ve already saved Weep, the next location, the plastic surgery hospital.” Han Fei’s plan didn’t change. He was slowly taking down this area. Leading his neighbors laden with many items, Han Fei was about to leave the mall when Mirror God appeared beside him. “Han Fei, can you do me a favor?”

“What is it?”

“Do you remember the drowned boy from the memory world? Your first customer at the 2nd hand shop.” Mirror God whispered. “The boy’s father killed Wang Pingan’s father and when he was burying the body, Wang Pingan and I walked into him. We tumbled together and I accidentally killed the man.” Han Fei remembered this clearly. “In reality, Wang Pingan took the blame for me. After his father died, he lost his mind. The police decided he was the killer. I could have told the truth but I was captured by the gangs from the western city as I journeyed to the police station. After that, I fell into darkness.”

“You mean Wang Mingan might still be alive?”

“Yes.” Mirror God nodded. “If you find him, help him.”

“Okay.” Han Fei led his neighbors through the alley and returned to Ziggurat. Han Fei found Laughing and asked him for updates. “We are certain that some of the wandering spirits have entered Ziggurat but beyond the spirits, there are other weird things.” Laughing pointed at the room where Butterfly’s dresser was. “We have cleaned this area and there shouldn’t be any monsters nearby anymore. The wandering spirits and unknown things charge into the mist after they escaped from the dresser.”

“But I couldn’t sense them in the mist. Did they escape to another area?”

“The closest is the hospital, perhaps they have escaped there.” Laughing shrugged. “For some reason, all the wandering souls were very excited. I was confused. What was so exciting about a city covered in permanent darkness?”

“Perhaps that’s their kink.” Han Fei had his neighbors check the area connecting Ziggurat and the hospital. If possible, he wanted to save the wandering souls. Han Fei had done everything he could. The extremely dangerous altar inheritance mission had drained him fully. After bidding farewell to his neighbors, Han Fei found a quiet room and logged out. The blood froze the world. Han Fei saw a blood sea gushing towards Ziggurat from the horizon.

“I...” A voice came from behind him. The bloody person behind him only said one word. Han Fei’s consciousness was pulled away. He wanted to remove the helmet but he realized he was too weak. It was more than physical exhaustion. Han Fei fainted inside the gaming hub.

After who knew how long, Han Fei felt the pain coming from all parts of his body. He moved his limbs and removed the helmet.

“My physique is already better than most but even so, it’s not good enough.” His skeleton felt like breaking. Han Fei had no idea why he was so tired. Han Fei crawled out of the hub and chugged down a big bottle of water. He crawled to the fridge and grabbed the cans of meat. After eating a lot of meat, Han Fei felt better and his brain was no longer that painful.

“The inheritance mission sure is hard.” Sunlight cut through the curtains, it was already noon.

Han Fei looked at the empty meat cans that littered the ground. He licked his lips. “Why do I fancy meat so much? Is it because of Xu Qin? But these non-cursed canned meats don’t taste that delicious. Something is missing in them.”

## Chapter 482 Reunited with Wang Pingan

His appetite had grown bigger and he liked to eat meat. Han Fei looked at the empty fridge and touched his stomach, “The other actors have to go to extra lengths to keep fit but how come I can’t gain weight at all?”

After starting the game, Han Fei's physique and mind had improved. He used to be so defeated and now even murderers would walk away from him. He had changed a lot. "I like to eat meat, especially after I'm tired. Eating meat can help me relax, that might be the influence from Midnight Butcher..." Han Fei stood up quietly. If that was the case, Han Fei needed to calm down, or else he might be infected by the despair from the cryptic world.

After some rest, Han Fei took out his phone to call Li Xue. "Why the sudden desire to call me?"

"Can you help me look for someone?"

"How come I feel like I've heard that before? Shoot, who do you want me to look for?"

"His name is Wang Pingan, he was once a deliveryman. He has intelligence deficiency and was captured by the police for murder when he was 20." Han Fei didn't forget his promise to Mirror God.

"If he has a criminal past, then it shouldn't be too hard to find." Li Xue hung up but called again soon after, "Found the man, but he is out of prison now. With the help of a charity organization, he found a new job. You should look for him at Xin Lu Zoo."

"Xin Lu Zoo?" Han Fei took down the address.

"Is this man related to the Butterfly? You sound so nervous." Li Xue was a detective and she picked out the strangeness in Han Fei's voice.

"He is not related to Butterfly but he has saved a world."

After a quick shower, Han Fei put on a relatively clean shirt and took a cab to Xin Lu Zoo. In this technologically advanced age, virtual technology could simulate everything, whale-watching at the north pole, flying with the birds in the sky. Therefore traditional zoos like this had gone by the wayside.

The zoo in the old city was not huge. If not for the donation from the government and kind people online, the zoo would have closed down already. Han Fei purchased the ticket. The place had few visitors but it was very clean. There was no smell in the air. The workers here took their job seriously.

"I'm sorry but do you know Wang Pingan?" Han Fei accosted a uniformed worker.

"Wang Pingan?" The worker studied Han Fei. "Why are you looking for him? Are you his family?"

"I have something to tell him."

"Okay, come with me." The worker led Han Fei to the enclosure for snub-nosed monkeys. He shouted up the hill. "Pingan, someone is looking for you!"

Han Fei looked up the hill. A middle-aged man in uniform was cleaning the hill. The monkeys around him looked at him quietly. They squatted on his shoulders or hung on his neck. This looked very serene. Hearing his name, the man and the monkeys all turned around. The man looked no different from the man in the memory world, but he was older in real life.

When he saw Han Fei, his crooked lips turned up with a smile. Then he ran over happily, calling, "Big brother! Big brother!"

"Don't mind him. There is some problem with his mind. He calls everyone big brothers. It was as if this is the only word left in his mind after his father died." The worker beside Han Fei sighed. When Wang Pingan was close, he held Pingan's hands and said in a tone reserved for kids, "You are at least 20 years older than him, he is younger than you. We call people younger than us our little brother, so what should you call him?"

Wang Pingan was happy to see Han Fei. He smiled and kept gesturing at Han Fei, "You, you just like the actor from tv!"

"You should call him little brother because he is younger than you." The worker wanted to add something else but Han Fei stopped him. "He is not wrong. Other than his father, he only trusts that big brother."

"What?" Hearing this, the worker decided to leave the two alone.

Han Fei and Wang Pingan walked through the zoo. The animals were very close to Wang Pingan. The giraffes would lean down to lick Wang Pingan's face; the foxes would bounce excitedly when they saw Wang Pingan; the elephants would spray Wang Pingan with water. Everything was peaceful and beautiful. It was like a paradise. Han Fei didn't say anything. Wang Pingan walked beside Han Fei quietly. At that moment, they didn't feel the other was a stranger.

"Pingan, your big brother didn't save you, do you blame him?" As the sun was about to set, Han Fei asked the question. Wang Pingan shook his head with a bright smile, he didn't seem to remember that incident anymore.

"Your big brother actually did want to help you but he ran into an accident when he was on his way to the police station. That was his regret." On the way here, Han Fei asked Li Xue for the case details. Wang Pingan lived in a district adjacent to Xin Lu. When the police found him, Wang Pingan was extremely uncooperative. He was detained for a long time. But not long after that, the police found more bodies near the river. After investigation, it showed that all the bodies were killed by the person whom Wang Pingan murdered. Therefore, the lawyer immediately helped to fight the case on the basis of self-defense. Considering Wang Pingan's mental state, and the death of his sole guardian, they sent him to the mental hospital for treatment. After Wang Pingan calmed down, they started to go through the case and helped Wang Pingan to reenter society.

After many years, Wang Pingan was assigned work at Xin Lu Zoo. He started from the cleaner and became the most welcomed zookeeper. Many animals would only calm down when he was around.

Compared to the altar owner who became an Unmentionable, Wang Pingan was lucky. They were once at the same starting point but they had led completely different lives.

"Big brother!" Wang Pingan remembered something important. "I have to go feed the monkeys."

"Okay. I will come to visit you often in the future. This is my phone number. Come and find me if you have any trouble." Han Fei keyed his number into Wang Pingan's phone.

"Okay." Wang Pingan ran away because he was worried about the monkeys. But suddenly he stopped. "Big brother! I saw you in my dreams last night, really!"

"I know. Go, the monkeys are waiting." Han Fei looked at Wang Pingan and he really wanted to smile.



“Okay.” Wang Pingan grinned at Han Fei as he ran ahead. “Big brother! You really look like the actor on tv! Next, next time, you should come on Saturday to see the elephants!”

The setting sun shone on Wang Pingan. He was so normal but he shone brighter than the Gods in the altars. Han Fei stood up and walked towards the setting sun. “This world is horrible but there are many beautiful things too. For you all, I need to guard this gate to the cryptic world.”

### Chapter 483 Han Fei's 3rd Movie

Han Fei received another call from Li Xue after he left the zoo. The police hadn't found anything on the altar owner but they did find out about Boss Gu. The man had gone missing but his charity organization survived. Today the organization was very strong and became a famous organization at Xin Lu. Han Fei asked for more details about the organization and realized something shocking. After Boss Gu's death, the charity organization soon faced trouble due to a lack of funds. It was Immortal Pharma who invested in them. Therefore, from that moment on, the organization's ownership moved from Boss Gu to Immortal Pharma. Over the years, they helped a lot of orphans and sick kids. Their specialty was psychological illnesses and brain issues within children. Most of the projects were done at Immortal Pharma's private hospitals. Most surprising to Han Fei was the charity organization had a close relationship with the now-closed private plastic surgery hospital. The hospital had helped many orphans with free treatments.

“Li Xue, who is the person running the organization?” The private plastic surgery hospital had been abandoned, all the files had been destroyed. To uncover its secret, one had to seek another route.

“What do you plan to do?”

“I wish to make a donation and see how they plan to use the money.” For his investigation, Han Fei decided to use ‘some’ money. If the organization really used it for good, the money would increase his afterlife karma; if his afterlife karma didn't change, then it meant that there was something wrong with this organization.

“The man's name is Kong Dongliang but he should be very busy. If your donation is too small, I don't think he's even going to meet you.” Li Xue said clearly, “Plus I don't think this is a good idea.”

“Don’t worry, it’s not that easy to scam me.” After gaining the ability, Soul Trade, there was an inconspicuous change to Han Fei’s mind. He was a lot sensitive to business transactions. He wanted to see if his business acumen had improved and thus wanted to give this a try. Since he was going to have to increase his afterlife karma anyway, why not do something beneficial with it?

After hanging up, Han Fei was confused. The police couldn’t find anything on the altar owner. Even now Han Fei had no idea what was the altar owner’s real name. “The Unmentionable in the cryptic world has no name in the real world too?”

Han Fei thought about it and realized the situation was similar to Fu Sheng. People knew about Immortal Pharma’s former director but no one knew he had an older brother. The lights lit up. Han Fei was about to go home when he got a call from Director Zhang. The movie shoot was over so Han Fei had no reason to answer the director’s call anymore. However, considering Han Fei might work with the director again, he hesitated and answered it. As he pressed the accept button, Director Zhang questioned, “Han Fei, did you get into some altercation with Bai Xian?”

“Huh? No.” Han Fei was shocked.

“Then how come he instantly book a flight to leave the country the moment he heard that he had to attend an event with you?” Director Zhang said seriously. “You two are very good actors and we should solve any conflict instantly. It’s no use hiding it.”

“I have a good relationship with Brother Bai. In fact, we just caught a criminal a few days ago and it was Brother Bai who drove me home.”

“Are you sure there is nothing unhappy between you two? To avoid you, Bai Xian has changed his phone number. I thought he was about to migrate.” Director Zhang’s Thriller Novelist still hadn’t been released. If there was a conflict between the first side character and the main character, it might affect the box office.

“Something unhappy?” Han Fei thought about it and then it hit him. “Director Zhang, I think I know what happened!”

“Tell me, I can help you talk to Bai Xian. He should give me face.” Director Zhang offered.

“It’s like this. During the event a few nights ago, Brother Bai drove me to follow the killer to the countryside. Then we discovered a suitcase inside an abandoned building. I was curious so I had Brother Bai take down a video while I opened the luggage.”

“And then?”

“We found a dead body inside.” At this point, the other line became silent. “Director Zhang, are you still there?”

After a long time, Director Zhang said, “Okay, I think I can understand Bai Xian now.”

“Think about it logically. If I didn’t suspect there is a body inside the luggage, why would I open it? Since I’ve already prepared for it, what is shocking about finding a body?” Han Fei tried to reason with Director Zhang.

“Han Fei, you are a very good horror actor but you have to understand that not everyone is as good as you.” Director Zhang could imagine what Bai Xian looked like. “Can you come to Bai Xiang Ge Restaurant tonight? Star Entertainment’s CEO and Bai Xian will be there. The shoot has been tough, we should try to relax.”

“I’m afraid I don’t have the time.”

“All work and no play make Jack a dull boy.” Director Zhang chuckled sadly. “I worry about self-discipline in other actors but for you, I worry that you treat yourself too seriously. Just come tonight. Star Entertainment’s boss wants to meet you. Even though they are an A-list company, they don’t have any famous artists. Other than an action star that can’t catch the break, the only star they have is Xia Yilan. If you meet him, you’ll get a very good contract.”

“Xia Yilan?” Even after staying for so long inside the memory world, Han Fei still remembered this woman. The woman had taken a full body treatment at Immortal Pharma’s plastic surgery hospital when she was young. She appeared to have taken another woman’s face. When she was young, she was impossibly beautiful. With her face alone, she became an A-listers. However, due to time and age, she slid down to the B list. Now she rarely took on new projects and mainly showed herself at public events to maintain her popularity. Han Fei had met her once at Thriller Novelist’s premier. To investigate the hospital, getting to know its patients should be the fastest way.

“Okay, I will go there now.” Leaving the zoo, Han Fei hurried to Bai Xiang Ge between the intelligent city and old city. The restaurant had many different entertainment amenities. It had the convenience of new technology but didn’t lose the feel of the old city. After giving his name, the waiter led Han Fei to the booth on the top floor. Star Entertainment’s boss valued this meeting with Director Zhang. He had booked the most expensive booth. Inside, one could not only eat and drink but also enjoy various entertain. You could try a huge party there.

As the door opened, music and singing drifted out. The booth had very good sound insulation, no matter how noisy it was inside, the people outside couldn’t hear it.

“Han Fei is here!” Director Zhang waved at Han Fei. “CEO Lee, I’m not exaggerating but this young man is the best new actor I’ve seen in the past decade.” Director Zhang was not stingy with his compliment when it came to Han Fei. “The shot was taken at the 4th floor, even the stunt double thought it was dangerous but he just leaped and jumped. His acting and emotion were on point too! You’ll see when Thriller Novelist is released. This is bound to be a classic.”

CEO Lee was not that tall. He was a mature middle-aged man with a beard. He was formally dressed. When Han Fei came over, he rose to shake Han Fei’s hands. For most agency bosses, actors were just tools. There were not that many who was as sincere as CEO Lee. But this also showed that the situation within the industry was not that optimistic.

“From Twin Flowers to Thriller Novelist, you’re the actor whom I’ve met to have gained the quickest improvement.” CEO Li was very kind and Han Fei responded with professional smiles.

Han Fei sat down beside Bai Xian. “Brother Bai, nice new phone!”

“Brother, can you just let me go? Now whenever I close my eyes, that image will appear before me. I can’t even eat meat now.” Bai Xian held the wineglass. He appeared graceful but he panicked once Han Fei appeared.

“Why? The body was quite complete.”

“Wait, you have seen incomplete bodies?”

“Basically any shape that you can imagine, I’ve seen them.” Han Fei still had some social anxiety. He didn’t like crowds so he stayed to chat with Bai Xian. “Why exactly did Director Zhang call us here?”

“Star Entertainment wants to cooperate with Director Zhang. The company is not doing so well and they plan to place everything they have left on a movie. They are once the biggest company in the business but...” Bai Xian pointed at the booth next door. “See those young people? Star Entertainment has been trying to push them but they are not that good at acting. However, they are quite arrogant.” Only someone like Bai Xian would say something like that. After all, he was a senior already.

“But haven’t Star Entertainment produced many A-listers?”

“Most have left after their contracts ended. I have a feeling Star Entertainment wants to use this project to sign a long-term contract with you. Just remember, they need you and not the other way round. Don’t get scammed.” Bai Xian shared his experience.

“Han Fei, we meet again.” Xia Yilan walked down from the small stage. She was singing earlier. The woman was over 30 but her actions were still very seductive. Her beauty was untouched by time. When Han Fei smelled that soul rot, he knew she had arrived. He smiled politely as he greeted Xia Yilan.

“Loosen up, we might be in the next movie together.” Xia Yilan very naturally took the seat beside Han Fei. “I envy you. Based on the pre-sales of Thriller Novelist, it has already broken many records. You are meant for great things.” Xia Yilan took away the tea and swapped them for alcohol. “CEO Lee wants to cooperate with Director Zhang on a movie, using the popularity of Thriller Novelist to produce another horror film.”

“Horror films are not so easily made. The script has to be good. What you see now is the result but you have no idea how much effort we’ve placed behind it.” Bai Xian didn’t touch the alcohol. He took out his phone to warn Han Fei from drinking too much and signed himself into a disadvantageous contract. Bai Xian was a nice guy but he was worried for no reason.

In the booth, only Han Fei was immune to Xia Yilan’s charm because he knew where she got her face and there was that soul rot.

“There’s no need to worry about the script. We plan to adopt one from real-life events too.” CEO Lee heard the conversation and walked over with a smile. “A few years ago, during the breakthrough in biotech, there was a plastic surgery wave. Due to human’s endless pursuit of beauty, there were many unlawful companies and sad tragedies.”

Han Fei originally was not interested but what CEO Lee said hooked him. He raised his head. “The movie you’re making is based on plastic surgery?”

“Yes. Real horror might not come from ghosts. Plastic surgery can’t change one’s soul.”

“Then is the female lead going to be Xia Yilan?” Han Fei looked at the woman.

“Yilan has always been the second lead but this time we wish to help her. But we are lacking a male lead who can act beside her.” CEO Lee caught Han Fei’s interest but he had no idea where that interest came from.

Han Fei nodded. “If Director Zhang agrees, I can help.”

The movie was secondary. Han Fei wanted to investigate the truth. Making the movie meant that Han Fei would have more time to uncover the secrets of Xia Yilan.

Chapter 484 Should be Fine

Han Fei was averse to joining an entertainment agency and CEO Lee believed that it was because Han Fei’s former agency didn’t treat him well. It was why he had invited Director Zhang, one was for the cooperation, the other was for Han Fei. He wanted to build a relationship with Han Fei through collaboration. If the movie was popular, then he’d sign Han Fei.

Before the party started, Han Fei was very detached but since Xia Yilan sat down beside him, Han Fei opened up. CEO Lee noticed this and he kept giving Xia Yulan signals. Xia Yilan was not a good actor but she was very clever and was good at social events. She sensed that Han Fei care about her a lot. At the movie premiere, Han Fei actively came to talk to her and this made her feel that Han Fei was very willing to communicate with her.

She was very happy and felt quite proud. 'Every man is the same, no matter how frosty they are, their hearts will tickle when they encounter beautiful things.' Xia Yilan chatted with Han Fei with great passion. Due to his professionalism, after knowing the movie was related to plastic surgery, he asked Xia Yilan many questions about plastic surgery. To preserve a good image in Han Fei's mind, Xia Yilan answered every question that she knew.

She wanted to pull Han Fei over but all Han Fei wanted to do was to push her down the abyss. With another woman's face, she was acting every day.

The booth was a microcosm of real society. CEO Lee, Director Zhang and the guests sat at the main table, the other actors sat at the side tables. They looked about as young as Han Fei but they were just there for the numbers. Their gazes that shot at Han Fei and Xia Yilan were filled with envy.

Music, singing, and alcohol, everyone was laughing, discussing different things. Only Han Fei was intensely focused. He talked to Xia Yilan about plastic surgery and the tragedies that had happened because of it. Xia Yilan was very happy. She assumed that no one knew about her past so she revealed a lot of info to Han Fei. Xia Yilan even assumed that Han Fei had fallen for her. After all, this man was famed for his reticence but he had been clumsily starting conversation with her around a movie that hadn't even started. If that was not affection, what was?

There were younger female artists in the booth but Han Fei didn't even glance at them. That confirmed Xia Yilan's thought. She nudged closer to Han Fei as if she was drunk. Han Fei moved backward and his nose twitched. Xia Yilan was charmed by this act of shyness. She was about to say something when the door of the booth opened.

A muscular man about 1.8 meters tall stood at the door. He was in branded casual wear. His muscles were well-defined. A blanket lay across the man's left shoulder and a pair of sunglasses hung from his shirt pocket. He was quite arrogant. "CEO Lee, why didn't you call me along when you're having such a great party?" The man's voice was so loud that it overwhelmed the music. When he walked in, the younger artists from Star Entertainment became honest and the people stopped singing.

"Ol' Wu? I knew you were in the middle of a shoot so I didn't disturb you because I was worried that you'd be too tired." CEO Lee stood up and made the introduction. "Director Zhang, this is Wei Wu, our company's most experienced action star. He is our top-ranking actor too. He doesn't use stunt double even for the most dangerous shoot."

“I’ve heard about him, perhaps we can collaborate in the future.” Director Zhang wasn’t impressed by Wei Wu. He knew a lot of action stars and due to the pressure from new technology, all action stars had to say that they didn’t use stunt doubles.

“Nice to meet you, Director Zhang.” Wei Wu greeted Director Zhang and then glanced at Han Fei and Xia Yilan who sat together. Wei Wu licked his teeth and then sat down beside Xia Yilan. He tried to talk to Xia Yilan but she was all focused on Han Fei. Han Fei couldn’t care less about the atmosphere in the booth. All he wanted to do was to destroy the plastic surgery hospital so he had been talking to Xia Yilan about plastic surgeries.

After being ignored multiple times, Wei Wu’s hands that held the wineglass pulsed with veins. He suddenly filled up the two glasses with white wine. Then he shoved one to Han Fei, interrupting his conversation with Xia Yilan, “Brother, I heard that you jumped down from the 4th floor in Thriller Novelist and fell right on the safety net?”

Han Fei didn’t think that was anything to gloat about so he just nodded.

“Even action stars like us don’t dare to attempt things like that. You’re just a horror movie actor and you dared to do that?” Wei Wu’s tone was dripping with suspicion. He smiled as he placed the full wineglass before Han Fei. “Come, how about a toast?”

Han Fei glanced at the glass and shook his head. He still had to play the game that night, he needed a clear mind. “I have something else to do later, I can’t drink.”

Wei Wu didn’t expect a clean rejection. After all, Han Fei was just a newbie. Including Thriller Novelist, he only had two projects under his name.

“If it’s driving, the restaurant will find a driver for you.” Wei Wu tried to keep his voice even and he added jokingly, “This is just a glass of wine, you aren’t going to give me face?” Wei Wu was an action star but he was extremely narrow-minded. At Star Entertainment, he was the biggest artist, he had all the company resources but suddenly the management wanted to pull in a new artist and decided to pour all the resources into the new artist instead. This angered Wei Wu.

The singing had stopped and the young artists all glanced at the main table. The atmosphere was awkward.



CEO Lee didn't expect this. Director Zhang also shot Bai Xian a glance hoping he could help Han Fei. Before Bai Xian could speak, Han Fei said directly, "Do I know you? Why should I give you face?" Han Fei just gained Xia Yilan's trust, he was about to get more valuable information when he was interrupted by this man. He was annoyed.

"Kiddo, one can't get too proud from a little result. I can see that Director Zhang admires you a lot. He talks about your stunt scene whenever he meets someone new. Jumping from the 4th floor into the safety net sounds impressive to an outsider but I came from a stunt double background." Wei Wu was already angry, what Han Fei did only angered him further. "You were lucky to get the chance to work with Director Zhang but it is rather disgusting that you think that luck means you are a good actor."

After Wei Wu was done, Han Fei glanced at his watch, it was time for him to go home. "Some people will blame others' real effort on good luck to make themselves feel better." Han Fei buttoned his jacket. "I can't jump down a building to prove myself now so how about this." He extended his hand to Wei Wu, "It was impolite of me to reject your toast so we shall shake on peace. We can use this opportunity to compare our grip. You can use all your strength until your anger dissipates."

Wei Wu looked disdainfully at Han Fei's hand. "You are an action actor and I'm just a horror actor, you're not afraid, are you?" Han Fei had an innocent smile on his face. He would show this smile in the cryptic world before he killed a spirit.

"You two need to calm down, it's just a glass of wine. I'll drink it for him." Bai Xian picked up Han Fei's glass. He was the most nervous there because he had seen Han Fei in action. He was not worried about Han Fei being bullied, but he was worried that Han Fei might bully Wei Wu.

"The youngsters need to be taught a lesson to go far." Wei Wu said and then gripped Han Fei's hand. His arm bulged with veins as he tried to break Han Fei's bones. He gritted his teeth and used all of his energy. He looked at Han Fei with glee but Han Fei was only smiling innocently. His brows barely twitched. The glee in his eyes slowly turned to anxiety. Wei Wu had used all of his power. He wanted to pull his hand back but he realized he couldn't move his hand at all.

"I hope you can forgive me for my impunity earlier." Han Fei's fingers tightened and Wei Wu's hand changed shape immediately. The sound of bones breaking was clear in the booth.

“Fuck! Let go!” The pain was intense. Wei Wu’s other hand swung at Han Fei’s head. Han Fei kicked at the man’s knee and the tall man half-knelt to the ground. “You’re an action actor and I’m just a comedy actor. Why won’t you forgive me?” Wei Wu gritted his teeth in anger. He was not satisfied. He believed that Han Fei wouldn’t dare to do anything to him before so many people. He wanted to threaten Han Fei when Han Fei leaned in to whisper, “Do you want to lose your other leg too?”

Wei Wu looked up and saw a ball of darkness behind Han Fei. It caused him to feel suffocated.

“Looks like I have to admit that I am getting old. The youngsters these days are very impressive.” Wei Wu lowered his head and forced out this statement.

“I still have something else to do. I’ll be leaving.” Han Fei finally let go. “We’ll fight again next time.”

“Let me recover first.” Wei Wu’s expression was normal but he was still half-kneeling on the ground.

Han Fei walked out of the booth, Bai Xian moved to follow him. “Han Fei, you don’t need to use force to solve every problem. We can rely on a more civil method.”

“I know but I have something important to do tonight so I don’t have time to waste on him.” Han Fei really thought Bai Xian was a good man. He was a senior actor but he was still so humble.

“What are you doing tonight? Is there another case?” Bai Xian couldn’t believe he was asking a fellow actor these questions.

“I can’t tell you the details.” Han Fei reached the entrance. “Since we’re here, Brother Bai, do you mind driving me home?”

Bai Xian shivered and he reached for his phone. “Damn, I forgot my wallet back at the booth.” Bai Xian then turned and hurried away. Han Fei looked at Bai Xian’s pant pocket. It looked like his wallet was already there.

Han Fei knew Bai Xian was afraid but with practice comes perfect. "Brother Huang resisted it at first too but later it not only healed his internal trauma, but he also became the top player. Such is human nature, if they are willing to change, they will improve... provided that they didn't die first."

Han Fei walked to a deserted corner and called Huang Yin. The dial tone came through and then Huang Yin picked up. "Brother Huang, did any players die unnaturally in Perfect Life recently? A few people have arrived at my place yesterday night."

"I was about to tell you that." The sound of machine running came from Huang Yin's end. Soon Han Fei received a video file. "After hanging up, watch the video. The video will auto-delete after 10 minutes."

"Did something happen?"

"Your world of darkness seems to be calling after the normal players. Yesterday night, 2 teams of players from Absolute Truth went into the maze at Lost Theme Park at 4.44 am and they haven't been seen since."

"Lost Theme Park?"

"It's the place Perfect Life built for players who prefer thrillers and scares. It combines many scary, absurd, and gory things. One needs to provide id, health checks, and has more than 10 San Value to enter the park. One also needs to be older than 18." Huang Yin described and it reminded Han Fei of the theme park next to the plastic surgery hospital.

"They were lost inside the maze?"

"The maze is the park's most unique feature. One has to satisfy greater requirements just to enter it. The players who are missing are all more than Level 10. They are already the top players at this moment. I have included their info in the file I just sent you." Huang Yin had many identities in Perfect Life. He had already infiltrated many organizations.

"They are all more than Level 10?" Han Fei nodded. "Good, at least normal spirits wouldn't be able to harm them."

“Brother, why would you say that?”

“When I was level 10, I was already a building manager. Plus there are so many of them together, they should be fine.”

Chapter 485 Boss Han Fei

“They should be fine?” Huang Yin’s pitch rose. “Are 10 kg of cotton and 10 kg of gold of the same value? Before level 30, I don’t think any normal player can beat even your pet.”

“That’s true.” Han Fei thought about Big Sin. “But I can’t beat it too.”

Han Fei had Huang Yin stumped. Huang Yin paused before he laughed, “Han Fei, you look like you’re in a good mood tonight. Normally you wouldn’t spend time to joke with me and you always seem like you are in a hurry but tonight you sound more relaxed.”

“Really?” Han Fei didn’t notice this but after he completed the inheritance mission, his presence had changed. He became more confident and calm. He had no idea if this was an influence from the personality fragment or it was an influence from Wang Pingan.

“Feels like you’ve really been healed.” Huang Yin was truly glad for Han Fei.

‘The inheritance missions can really heal one’s heart?’ Han Fei shook his head. He felt that it was just a mere coincidence. The other Unmentionables wouldn’t help him as Mirror God did.

After chatting some more with Huang Yin, Han Fei hung up. He was about to call a taxi when a very fancy car stopped before him. The car looked familiar. The car window rolled down and Bai Xian looked at Han Fei helplessly. “Come on, I’ll go with you, but this time I’m staying inside the car.”

Bai Xian turned around halfway he was up to the booth. He knew Han Fei was very impressive but he still worried about him so he came back to find Han Fei.

“Brother Bai, you really misunderstand me this time, I’m just going home.”

“Really?” Bai Xian didn’t believe it. “Then why didn’t you want to drink tonight?”

“I have a game to play later. I’m going to start a new mission with my neighbors and I need to be in my best condition.” Han Fei told the truth. Bai Xian didn’t realize that his life was about to change.

“That’s all?” Bai Xian was speechless. “I thought you were on a case! I did so many things for you!” Bai Xian took out the many tools he had hidden in his pocket. “Get in, I’ll drive you home!”

“Thank you, Brother Bai.”

“By the way, Director Zhang wants me to tell you that the movie festival is only in a few days so you need to be prepared. This is a big annual event. The awards are very important so you need to fight for them. Don’t be absent when you are being announced as the winner.” Bai Xian sighed. He was very nervous earlier.

“I’ll try my best.” Han Fei felt some disappointment from Bai Xian. Humans were curious creatures, they wanted action but were afraid of the consequences. If there was a chance, Han Fei wanted to bring Bai Xian into the game to open a new door for him.

At 11 pm, Bai Xian dropped Han Fei at the convenience store near the neighborhood. After Bai Xian left, Han Fei swept the meat aisle. ‘This should last me some time.’ After he reached home, Han Fei took a shower, glanced at the city development plan, and then crawled into the gaming hub. “I have two Pure Hatreds now. Things should be easier for this period of time.” The inheritance mission had drained Han Fei and he needed to rest for a bit.

At midnight, Han Fei put on the gaming helmet. The blood was everywhere. The blood-red city appeared before him. The man behind Han Fei wanted to say something but he only got out one word.

Opening his eyes, Han Fei was inside Ziggurat. He walked out the door and saw Weep and Ying Yue. The two kids were very nice to each other. Weep was a young gentleman. He gave Ying Yue who carried the fishbowl to sit on his urn. Ying Yue gave Weep her homemade doll to play with. ‘The neighbors at Happiness Neighborhood are slowly finding happiness.’

After Han Fei left the room, the two children followed obediently behind him. He was like a real Piped Piper. Using Drake's phone, Han Fei logged into the tenancy chatgroup to see what had happened when he was away.

Laughing found the lingering presence of the wandering souls between the Ziggurat and the plastic surgery hospital. They had entered the hospital's zone. All the unruly monsters within the Ziggurat's zone had been cleared away, it was why those people managed to leave so easily. Those players thought the misty Ziggurat was the most dangerous but actually it was the safest place.

After confirming the general location of the wandering spirits, Han Fei asked if they had received any news from Bai Sinian. Han Fei gave Bai Sinian and Big Sin the mission of destroying the altars. They strayed from the team and weren't heard from since. Han Fei was worried whenever he logged in, afraid that he might find a new Unmentionable's curse on his status bar. After all, for Unmentionables, their altars were their graves. Disrespect would not be tolerated.

"There is a connection between me and Big Sin so I can sense its general location." Looking out the window, Han Fei believed Bai Sinian and Big Sin had entered the theme park's zone. They hadn't destroyed any more altars so they probably ran into some trouble.

"Brother Huang said the elite players lost themselves inside the theme park maze. I also have a theme park here. But Mirror God can't leave the mall, I don't have enough power to go save them yet. O well, they are elites, they should be able to survive on their own." It appeared like two batches of players had entered the cryptic world. One was the elite players at the theme park, they asked for this; the other batch wandered in through the Butterfly's dresser. Han Fei couldn't guarantee they were elites, but they were extremely unlucky. Players with more than 3 luck wouldn't encounter the dresser.

After staying at Ziggurat for more than 3 hours, Han Fei and his neighbors came to the edge of the mist.

Han Fei had no more missions inside the Ziggurat's zone so to log out, he had to complete the mission in the other zone. "I hope the other players won't disappoint me."

Putting on the Beast Mask, Han Fei looked more like a wandering boss than a player.

"Resurrection can only be used on one player, the rest can stay to work for me."

## Chapter 486 Room Service

Han Fei had stayed for 3 hours inside the cryptic world already. He only needed to finish one mission and he could log out. Plus he had his neighbors with him this time so he was not that worried. After gaining the altar owner's personality fragment, Han Fei became more confident. This confidence had nothing to do with ability, it was a presence imbued in the soul, it was a present from an Unmentionable.

Han Fei had no idea if the personality fragment had any use. He merely felt his mood had improved recently. It was as if parts of his soul had been fixed and his personality was becoming more complete.

"Pure Hatred and Large Lingering Spirits would be noticed instantly if they crossed into the other zones, I didn't want to wage war with the plastic surgery hospital yet so the few of us will go first." Han Fei stood beside Xu Qin and assigned different missions to his neighbors. Some would go to the mall to gain items to improve themselves and to inform Mirror God about Wang Pingan. Some tenants had to stay behind to defend Ziggurat. The rest would follow Han Fei to infiltrate into the hospital zone.

Among them, the least easy to be discovered was Han Fei, who was surrounded by Soul Mist. Even Unmentionables couldn't see into his secrets. That combined with the passive of the Beast Mask was double security. As long as Han Fei didn't show himself, others wouldn't discover him. With absolute invisibility and a number of passives that increased his speed, Han Fei could look after himself already.

"There has to be more than 1 Grade E building at the hospital zone. We are not going near the abandoned hospital at the center of the zone. Our goal tonight is the residential area connecting the hospital and Ziggurat." Han Fei had memorized the map Fu Sheng left behind. To help his neighbors, Han Fei drew out the map of the hospital zone and the buildings that they needed to pay attention to. "Overall, the hospital zone is smaller than Ziggurat. However, there are at least 3 Pure Hatreds there, so we can't be too careful. We will do this step by step. If we run into like-minded friends, we can get them to join us; if we encounter people who are too stubborn, then we'll consume them. The conclusion is nothing shall go to waste. Every encounter is a chance."

Han Fei's words gained everyone's approval. The rise of Ziggurat depended on the tenants' willingness to make friends. After setting up the plan, Han Fei departed.

Drake, Lee Zai, Weep and Ying Yue entered the urn. Xu Yin walked beside Han Fei. They exited the mist and entered the strange cluster of buildings.

“Sis, thank you for your meat and paper doll, without them, I wouldn’t be able to leave the altar.” At the corner of the dark city, beside the twisted buildings, Han Fei and Xu Qin walked in the shadows.

“You don’t need to thank me. I’m very happy that you like my cooking.” Xu Qin’s pale skin was covered in curses. She was a unique presence made from endless curses. If her curses were unsealed with 13 table knives, then she was as powerful as a Large Lingering Spirit.

“The pattern of curses on your body seems to have deepened.” Han Fei walked closer to Xu Qin. She didn’t wear any perfume but she carried a very special smell of meat. It was very alluring.

“Perhaps I’ve assimilated too many curses lately.”

“Assimilated?”

“Yes, the way I become a Pure Hatred is different from normal. I need to collect 1000 types of female curses.” Xu Qin was calm when she said these things. “If I can collect 10000 types of female curses, perhaps I can become a Cursed Unmentionable.”

“I think you are perfect right now.” Han Fei still remembered how Xu Qin was when she lost control at Cattle Alley. At the time, there were only several hundred curses inside Xu Qin. If a Xu Qin with thousands of curses lost control, no one could stop her.

“Right now is not bad but to preserve this present, then I have to ingest more curses.” The curses in Xu Qin’s eyes burned. Her red eyes regarded the street. “I’ve been meaning to come here a long time ago. This place hides many curses I want. It hides many people’s desire for beauty. This kind of twisted desire is my best food.” Hearing that, Han Fei felt like he needed to improve himself too. After all, it sounded like he had to take responsibility for implanting that thought in Xu Qin’s mind. Walking down the street, Han Fei’s group finally came to their first destination.



“According to Laughing, this is the where the wandering souls disappeared.” In front of them was a hotel. It was 11 stories tall. It was one of the tallest buildings inside the hospital zone. “There are no ghosts around, so there might be a Large Linger Spirit inside this building.”

Once a powerful ghost entered the hospital zone, they would attract the Pure Hatreds. For the sake of security, Han Fei had Zhuang Wen stay at the mist closer to the Ziggurat. If they ran into danger, Zhuang Wen would rush over.

They observed at the entrance and went around to the side door. ‘The few players sure know where to hide. A hotel is a good choice but in the cryptic world?’ Han Fei checked the side door. The door had been jimmied with. The lock was on the ground. This signaled that the person who ruined the lock hadn’t gone far. ‘At least they know to use the side door.’

The chill wind blew as the door opened. Han Fei officially entered the building.

“I haven’t visited a high-class hotel before, who would have thought my first time would be in the afterlife.” Han Fei looked at the classy décor and stuck close to Xu Qin.

“I also didn’t expect that my first trip to a hotel would be with you.” Xu Qin’s lips parted to reveal a smile. Han Fei felt like there was a deeper meaning to Xu Qin’s statement but he didn’t have time to linger on it. He took out Rest in Peace. “Be careful.”

The hotel had 11 floors and there were many rooms on each floor. Han Fei had no idea where the group of players had hidden. Han Fei found the map of the hotel beside the safe passage. The hotel was called Wen Hwa Beauty Hotel. It was a modern art hotel. The first floor was the lobby, the 2nd floor had 3 ballrooms, the 3rd floor had the buffet restaurant and art fusion restaurant; the rooms were from the 4th to 9th floor; 10th and 11th floors were the galleries.

The décor was highly artistic. Various oil paintings hung on the wall. There were also introductions to the hotel owner. The hotel owner was a talented but also narcissistic person. His artworks and pictures could be seen everywhere. They all came with long-winded explanation.

“Can the elevators be used?” Han Fei was very cautious of elevators in the cryptic world. The enclosed metal box was the perfect space for ghosts to kill. Soon the elevator opened on the 1st floor. The

elevator was empty. No one entered it but the doors closed and it started to move on its own. Other than the elevator, Han Fei didn't discover anything on the 1st floor. He led Xu Qin upstairs.

Normally at this kind of high-class hotel, most guests would use the elevator. The safety staircase would only be used in emergencies. However, Han Fei noticed the safety passage was covered in traces of footprints and heavy objects being dragged.

Han Fei planned to stop on the 2nd floor to check out the ballrooms but he spotted a strange book on the landing between the 2nd and 3rd floor. "How to negotiate a good relationship with your mother-in-law?" Han Fei picked up the book and to his surprise, this was a skill book from the surface world. "This should be left behind by the players. But what kind of players are they that they carry this kind of book with them?"

Han Fei paused when he reached the 5th page because the latter half of the book was covered in blood. Han Fei looked up the stairs, there were all sorts of trash there. It appeared like the player had dropped everything in their inventory to stop the ghost. Looking at the pots and pans as well as vegetable on the ground, Han Fei believed one of the players was a casual player. They played Perfect Life to enjoy the scenery, grow some vegetables, and decorate houses.

"They must have had an exciting night last night." If pots and pans could scare away ghosts, Han Fei's life wouldn't be so hard. He followed the trail of everyday items and stopped on the 4th floor.

'The trail ends here. The player had gone hiding on this floor?' Han Fei pushed open the safety passage door. He didn't walk far and saw a person standing at the end of the corridor. It was too far and too dark so Han Fei only caught the silhouette. Han Fei blinked and the silhouette became clearer and closer. Holding the knife, Han Fei was ready for battle when the figure disappeared. "Has it entered one of the rooms?"

Han Fei walked down the corridor and he realized the paintings had changed. They became gory. The paintings had the same style so they seemed to be telling the same story. "The first painting is a travel group arriving at the hotel, the 5 laughed happily. Then from the 2nd painting onwards, the style changed. The people in the paintings became less and less. More red is used. They appeared to have turned on one another."

Han Fei stopped before Room 404 because a bloody statement was written on the door—do not enter the room at the end of the corridor!

Perhaps it was the influence from Ziggurat, Han Fei was sensitive to every room that had the number 4 in it. Han Fei pushed the door and realized the lock had been destroyed. He easily entered Room 404. The scary scene didn't greet him. There was no dead body on the floor. The only interesting thing was the electric stove on the table and the poker deck on the bed. "They sure know how to have fun."

Han Fei was about to leave when the phone in the room rang. In the dead silence, the ringing was scary. To prevent the ringing from attracting more ghosts, Han Fei answered the call immediately. The static was piercing to the ear. It sounded like the other party was grinding meat. After about 10 seconds, a female voice said, "Hello, did you call for room service?"

Before Han Fei spoke, the system said, "Notification for Player 0000! You've triggered Grade F Mission—Special Room Service."

"Special Room Service: Wen Hwa Beauty Hotel near the plastic surgery hospital offers a very special room service. No user has given it a negative review before."

"Mission requirement: Find out the content of the room service within the next 90 minutes."

After the system notification ended, Han Fei was rather disappointed that it was just a Grade F Mission.

"O well, at least I can log out after doing this mission." With this in mind, Han Fei became reenergized. He said into the phone. "What kind of service do you offer? I want the most special kind."

"Hello, did you call for room service?" The woman repeated.

The woman kept repeating the same question. Eventually Han Fei surrendered and said, "Yes, I did. Arrange it now." The call ended right after.

"Such a horrible attitude and they have zero negative review? Is it because no user is left alive?" Han Fei turned around and saw Xu Qin sitting on the hotel bed. Her red jacket was a great contrast to the white bed. 'It doesn't feel right being alone with her inside a hotel room.'

Han Fei moved to the study table. He was about to sit down when the doorbell rang. A cleaner appeared at the door pushing a cart filled with toiletries.

#### Chapter 487 0 Luck

The woman looked around 40 plus. She wore the hotel's cleaner uniform. Her lower body was blocked by the cart. "Do you need your room cleaned?" The cleaner's voice was very young, it didn't match her appearance.

Han Fei frowned because he noticed the cleaner had the same voice as the person on the phone earlier. 'The cleaner is also the receptionist?' Han Fei walked towards the cleaner with a smile and his hands inside his pocket. "I don't need the room cleaned but I did call for a room service."

"Room service? What room service?" The cleaner looked like she had heard that for the first time.

"I'm not sure. The person on the phone recommended it to me, I felt bad rejecting her so I took her offer." Han Fei looked like a shy young man.

"You better be careful." The cleaner looked down the corridor. When she was sure there was no one there, she whispered, "This hotel's former boss was a pervert. He always went around charming young people. As long as the person was good-looking, he would approach them regardless of gender. Then he would kill them. The police found many dead bodies at the hotel and they were all his victims."

"Sounds like I'm in great danger." Han Fei's investigation had reached a dead end so he decided to chat with the cleaner.

"From then on, the guests at the hotel would receive strange calls and the guests who answered would die in strange manners." The cleaner's face turned pale.

"Auntie, are you sick? Why do you look so white?"

"You better worry about yourself." The cleaner's voice lowered. She slipped Han Fei two bottles of water. "Don't come out at night and don't open your door to random people." Han Fei extended his

hands to receive the bottles. When he touched the cleaner's hand, he felt like he was touching ice. "Auntie, if you don't feel well, why don't you come in to rest?" Han Fei opened the bottle. "Drink some water." When he opened the cap, a black worm crawled out from the bottle of mineral water. Han Fei handed the bottle to the cleaner.

"We can't take items from the guests." The cleaner wanted to leave but she was dealing with the kindest person in the cryptic world. Han Fei used Soul-depth touch to hold the cleaner's arm. "Where is your manager? How can he let you work when you are sick? Bring me to go see him. I'll talk to him."

"There's no need, let go!" The cleaner flung Han Fei's hand back. She pushed the cart and readied to leave but Han Fei rushed out of the room to block her way. "What is it that you want?" The cleaner finally noticed something was wrong. She saw Han Fei take out a hilt from his pocket.

"Auntie, don't worry, this knife only kills bad people."

"So?" The cleaner looked at Han Fei in confusion.

"I want to see if you're bad people." Han Fei smiled innocently. Sunlight glowed in his right hand. Warmth bloomed on the cleaner's neck and her body dissolved into nothingness. The cart tipped over and revealed the other side Han Fei hadn't seen. The cleaner's lower body was connected to the cart. It was a mess of guts and flesh, it looked disgusting.

"You are a bad person." The yin energy was absorbed by the urn. Han Fei squatted down to inspect the cleaner's 'weapons'. The inheritance mission was very hard so coming back to do these Grade F Missions, they were very easy for Han Fei. "Just a normal animated regret. Looks like the ghosts here aren't that scary. The probability of the players being alive is very high."

After some rummaging, Han Fei found a bracelet inside the woman's clothes. It had many charms and talismans. "The handicraft is bad. It reminds me of the things Huang Yin first brought from the surface world." The surface world provided the players with many 'ghost-fighting' items but actually they were just decorations.

Shaking his head, Han Fei lost all hope of relying on items from the surface world. For Han Fei, there were only 2 ways to kill a ghost, one was to gain help from another ghost and two was to become a ghost.

Han Fei pushed the cart into Room 404. Han Fei used the broom to recover the scene outside the door and he returned to the room. Xu Qin was still seated on the bed. She stepped on her 'pet' anaconda.

"Sis, shall we..." Before Han Fei finished, there was another knock at the door. But different from before, there was a weak glow that accompanied it. It felt like someone was walking around with a flashlight.

"Is anyone there?" A man's voice came from outside the door. The man was very cautious like he'd die if he was too loud. Han Fei walked to the door and opened a small gap. He looked at the man outside the door silently. The man was dressed in a suit. He looked like an office worker. He looked handsome but his glasses were cracked. "I heard you talk to the Slayer earlier, are you a player too?"

"Slayer?" Only a player would give an Animated Regret such a name. Han Fei put on the Beast Mask and slowly opened the door. The man looked anticipatorily into the dark but when he saw Han Fei in the mask, he was frightened. He staggered back a few steps. "You, you are a player, right?"

"You can say so." Han Fei walked out of the room. His voice was comforting. "Why are you doing in the hell-difficulty hidden map? One has to satisfy very difficult conditions to arrive here." Han Fei's casual words hinted to the man that this was a very unique map and only the top players could be here.

Hearing Han Fei, the man sighed in relief. "Oh my god! I finally met a player! Big brother, my friends, and I got here by accident. We have been trapped here for a night already, can you lead us out?"

"I'm more curious about how you and your friends got here." Han Fei extended his hands. "My name is Wei Youfu, what is your name?"

"Shen Luo, I'm a financial expert."

The man shook Han Fei's hand. Han Fei successfully saw the man's status. '0 Luck Point?! How did he manage to survive to level 8?'

Chapter 488 The Lucky Five

Han Fei pulled back his hand and then rubbed it against the cart by the door. Huang Yin's 1 Luck point was ridiculous enough but now there was a 0 one. To have luck be 0 was very special because a player's starting value for luck in the surface world wouldn't be in the negative. The lowest was 0.

The urn vibrated. Lee Zai sensed the presence of misfortune. The others had a hard time keeping the urn's lid on. Han Fei took a step back before asking Shen Luo. "Where are your friends hiding?"

"I don't know, we got separated." Misfortune followed this man. "They said to meet up at the 7th Floor but I didn't dare to wander around due to the Slayers. So I haven't reunited with them."

"Are you sure they didn't abandon you on purpose?"

"No, they are very good people." Shen Luo looked curiously at Han Fei. "Brother Youfu, why can't I see your status? What level are you?"

"My mask is a rare item that can hide my status. It's normal for you to not see it." Han Fei checked Perfect Life's ranking that morning. The player with the highest level was still Huang Yin. He was level 19 and the second place was level 17. After some thought, Han Fei said, "I just reached level 15."

"My god!" Shen Luo didn't dare to make too much noise but he was very excited, "We're saved this time!" Shen Luo started to play when the game entered OB but even now he was only level 8.

"Don't be too excited, level doesn't mean anything." Han Fei glanced inside the room. The urn was moving on its own. He was worried that it might frighten Shen Luo. "Come, bring me to the 7th floor, we'll meet up with your friends."

"We're going like that?" Shen Luo was worried. "This hotel is very dangerous. The Slayers are everywhere. It's like a horror movie."

"Don't worry. For someone as lucky as you, you'd be the main character in horror movies." Han Fei could read the man's status after he touched the man. Other than the 0 Luck, Shen Luo's intelligence was very high. Its starting value was 7 and he added all the attribute points from leveling up into it so his intelligence was now 15. However, Han Fei noticed through his observation that player attributes in the

surface world and the cryptic world appeared to be different. At least Shen Luo didn't look like a player with 15 points in Intelligence.

However, it was worth nothing that Shen Luo had a level C Hidden Talent—Rescue during Desperation. Only players with 0 luck had a chance of obtaining this hidden talent. The effect was simple. When the player was in an absolute death situation, there would still be a chance for rescue. For the casual players in the surface world, this talent was absolutely useless but a light flashed across Han Fei's eyes. 'Without any talent related to the supernatural, and he has gotten here based on pure bad luck. That is amazing.'

After Shen Luo knew Han Fei was level 15, he was filled with confidence. He turned to lead the way. A clink came out of Room 404 as the urn fell to the ground. Lee Zai was crawling out but was slapped back into the urn by Xu Qin.

"Brother, brother Youfu, did you hear that?" Shen Luo's voice shook.

"Don't be afraid. Let me make some introduction." Han Fei held Xu Qin's wrist. "This is my family, her name is Xu Qin. We came to do some missions tonight."

"Another big boss?" Shen Luo greeted Xu Qin. Just looking at Xu Qin, Shen Luo knew she was a powerful character. The beautiful face, the incomparable presence, the red-colored contact, and the penetrating chilling presence... Shen Luo felt something was wrong but he couldn't pinpoint it. In the end, Shen Luo chose to trust Han Fei because he had no other choice. Shen Luo was very cautious as he led the road ahead. Han Fei and Xu Qin walked behind like they were on holiday.

"Shen Luo, what is your life goal in the game? What kind of profession will you choose?" Han Fei asked casually.

"I'm in finance in real life. The pressure is very high so I want to change a career in this game. I plan to become a landscaper." Shen Luo answered.

"There's a company who dares to take you in? I mean, you must be lucky to have found a workplace." Han Fei tried to make his words sound less offensive.

"Of course, my bonus is always the highest at work."



“Wow, do you have any money-earning secret?”

“There is no shortcut to earning money.” Shen Luo became more professional when he talked about his job. “Every day, I have to spend a lot of time doing market research. I attend meetings at big companies and interact with financial analysts. When I have all the info, I would come up with my report.”

“And that’s how you’ll earn money?”

“Then our company’s other investment manager and foundation manager would come over and look through my analysis. They will avoid my choices and invest in the opposite choices. Then they will give me bonuses.” Shen Luo said with a smile. “I once thought about changing company but my boss and colleagues refused to let me go. They said I am the company’s lucky charm even though I have been losing the company money.”

“Your company sounds kind to its employees.”

“But things are not going so well now. The boss has just been arrested. I have no idea when he’ll be able to come out. I was worried when he was brought to court. I went to see him. His lawyer was a horrible one and my boss was given an extra 5 years of imprisonment.” Shen Luo shook his head. “My boss treated me very well. After leaving this map, I plan to use my own money to hire a lawyer for him, hoping to lighten his sentence.”

‘Are you planning to get him executed?’ Han Fei didn’t dare to stand too close to Shen Luo. He moved closer to Xu Qin. The trio reached the 7th floor. Shen Luo looked at the room number and stopped before Room 709. “Brother Iron, Ah Tang, are you there?” He knocked on the door but there was no answer. Shen Luo looked embarrassed.

“Are you sure you haven’t been abandoned?”

“I... don’t think so.” He pressed on the doorbell. About another 10 seconds, footsteps came from Room 710. Then the door of Room 710 opened a gap. “Xiao Shen, come over here!” It sounded like a middle-aged lady talking.

Shen Luo turned to Room 710. But after Shen Luo got in, the door closed in Han Fei's face. Then a thick male voice demanded, "Who are the people behind you? You did bring the ghosts to us! I knew we should have separated or you'd bring us all down!"

"But he's a player too!"

"You'll be able to see the level and status of a player! You have to know how cunning these ghosts are!"

"He has an item that can hide his level. The brother is level 15 already!" Shen Luo was agitated. It was not easy for him to find Han Fei.

"What nonsense! Do you know what level 15 means? In our tactical group of 5000 people, our highest level player is only level 15!" The man sighed. "The nature of Perfect Life is not a casual game. That is only used to fool normal players like you. The main purpose of the game is to explore human nature. I've been a part of the CB. How dark human nature is equated to how dangerous this game is!"

Shen Luo was stumped but he tried to say, "Why don't you ask him yourself then? See if he's really a player or a ghost?" The room was silent before the man said, "Fine, I'll trust you this once."

The door slowly opened and a very large and muscular man appeared at the door. The man was alert looking at Han Fei in the mask. He grabbed a chair from his room and used his body to block the door. "I'll ask you a question. If you can answer it, I'll believe you're a player."

The chill wind blew in the corridor. Cold sweat slid down the man's forehead. The atmosphere was tense. "Listen carefully." The man lifted one finger. "You only have 1 chance." The clock ticked. The man asked, "Who is the current president of America?"

"Biden."

Hearing that, the man sighed in relief. "Okay, he is a player." This was common knowledge so Han Fei was quite confused why the man would ask that. Then he realized that the ghosts in the cryptic world wouldn't have cared about the politics and current events in real life so this was a good strategy to tell if the person was a local or a player.

The man opened the door with some embarrassment. "We've really run into a top player. It was my fault earlier. Boss, I hope you don't mind it."

"Caution is good. After all, we're in a hellish difficulty hidden map." Han Fei led Xu Qin into the room. When the man heard the word hidden map, his eyes glowed. Han Fei looked at the players in the room and shook their hands.

5 players entered the cryptic world this time. The player with the highest level was the muscle man, his ID was Ironman. He was level 12 and focused on stamina. His profession is a fighter. He was part of the CB and he was a professional gamer. His luck was 2 and he had a Level D talent called, Doesn't Believe in the Supernatural. With this talent, he would be targeted by the supernatural.

The second-highest level player was a student called Yan Tang. He was level 10, his starting intelligence was 9 and Luck was 2. He hadn't acquired a profession. He had a strange Grade B Talent, called Daydream. The more he worried about something, the more likely it would occur. This was a very strange talent. Other than Han Fei, this was the highest grade talent Han Fei had seen on a player.

The third-highest level player was a tik toker called Seaglass Cat, she was about to reach level 10 soon. Her luck was 1. She normally liked to sing and dance and she would release videos of her dancing and singing at various maps in Perfect Life. Other than the luck, Seaglass Cat's other attributes were normal. Han Fei had seen her talent before, sleepwalking.

The last player surprised Han Fei. She was an auntie over 60. Her Id was Auntie Lee. Her son was the manager of a big company. Since he had no time to accompany her, he bought her Perfect Life to play. But this son probably didn't expect that Auntie Lee would be sent into the cryptic world when she was only level 3. The auntie didn't know anything about gaming. She was the one who left behind the trail of garbage on the staircase. However, among this group, Auntie Lee had the highest luck at 3 points. Her talent was Mourn. The stronger her desire to meet someone, the more likely she would meet them, this was a very rare Grade C Talent.

Looking at the room of 'lucky' players, Han Fei didn't know what to say. They were unlucky because they were dragged from the surface world into the cryptic world where they could die at any moment. They were lucky because they managed to run from Ziggurat to the hospital without dying.

'5 negatives make a positive?' Han Fei calculated the time. He planned to lead the 5 players back into the mist and then returned to finish his mission. "Come with me, I'll bring you to somewhere safe." The players wouldn't expect that the safe place Han Fei meant was the place they just escaped from.

“Boss, can I add you as a friend?” Ironman walked to Han Fei. He wanted to find out more about hidden maps. “Based on my knowledge, there are many deleted maps in Perfect Life. These maps contain the things mentioned by the Immortal Pharma CEO in his will.”

On the day before the game’s OB, Deep Space Tech and Immortal Pharma CEO’s will. All the players were willing to trade the thing in the will for the company share.

“We’ll talk about that when we’re safe.” Han Fei felt a chill from his ring. He knew something was rapidly approaching. “Shush. When I give you the signal, you need to run downstairs as fast as possible.”

#### Chapter 489 Focus on Stamina

The people in the room didn’t notice anything out of place when Han Fei suddenly tensed. They looked at each other, they had no idea what Han Fei meant. “Go downstairs? But there are Slayers down there.” Ironman reminded Han Fei. From his perspective, the cleaner was already a very scary boss. The other players were casual players, they didn’t have this kind of experience before.

“We don’t have time! I’ll help you delay the enemy, you need to go down the stairs!” Han Fei kicked down the door, his eyes stared straight down the other end of the corridor. The other players helped each other as they shuffled out of the room. They looked around. “But... there’s nothing?” Ironman focused on his stamina. He was a fighter so his senses were sharper than a normal player.

“I can’t tell where the enemy will come from. But remember, once it appears, run down the direction opposite from it.” Han Fei spoke quickly. The chill came from the landlord’s ring, from the intensity of the chill, he could determine the enemy’s strength. This was between a Medium and Large Lingering Spirit. If Han Fei didn’t have his neighbors, he would have a hard time. At least, he didn’t have confidence he could protect himself and the other 5 players.

All the players were in the corridor. The darkness and silence were anxiety-inducing. Auntie Lee’s legs were weak. She just wanted to grow some flowers and vegetables in the game, but once she opened her eyes, she was here.

“Sister Lee, we’ll definitely get out of here. Brother Youfu told me that this is a hidden map, most players can’t even get here when they want to.” Shen Luo was very kind. He guarded the auntie as they stood beside the elevator.

When Shen Luo approached the elevator, the signal light suddenly came on. Han Fei felt the yin energy coming.

“It’s the elevator!” Han Fei whipped his head around. As the doors opened, black hair crawled out of the gap. Instantly the hair consumed Shen Luo and Auntie Lee. “Why did you stand beside him?” Han Fei rushed forward but Xu Qin was faster. She grabbed Auntie Lee and used her knife to slash through the hair. The elevator door closed. The hair and Shen Luo disappeared. Auntie Lee collapsed on the ground, she couldn’t stand on her own anymore. The 5 just reunited and now one of them was missing again. But based on the others’ expressions, they were used to this already.

“Whenever there is danger, Shen Luo would be the first to be targeted. He has separated from us a few times already but he appears to have the highest luck among us because he’ll always return to reunite with us.” Seaglass Cat explained. “Should we go downstairs first?”

“The scariest thing hasn’t arrived yet.” Perhaps because the 5 had gathered together, their misfortune had amplified. The scarier ghosts inside the hotel were awakening. A twisted shadow appeared at the end of the left corridor. It stood inside the dark corridor and left blood under its feet. It had a human silhouette but its limbs were twisted into impossible angles. Instead of a human, it was more like a human worm. After the figure appeared, the temperature in the corridor dropped.

“I’ve seen her in the oil paintings on the 4th floor.” Yan Tang spoke. “Every floor of this hotel features different artful painting but each floor has a different number of paintings. The 4th floor has 5 paintings. They describe a travel group of five coming into the hotel. One of them was a killer and the crazed killer murdered the other 4 travelers.” Yan Yang who had high intelligence had been observing the surrounding. “The figure is wearing the clothes of the people from the travel group. In the 3rd oil painting, a female traveler was killed and then had her limbs broken as she was stuffed under the bed. The killer slept on top of her through the night.” Yan Tang added quickly, “There is an interesting detail in the 4th and 5th paintings. In the 4th painting, the killer murdered the other 3 travelers and fitted them under the same bed. The 4 bodies were twisted and bent to fit under the bed. This is only one of the ghosts, I believe the other 3 are also out there.”

As he finished, the safety door on the other end of the corridor opened. 3 figures crawled out with their limbs shuffling on the ground.

“In the last painting, the killer was shown lying on top of all the dead bodies. He encountered a devil with an apple. This painting is very interesting because it told us that as scary as the killer was, he was not the real culprit. The scary one is the devil with the apple. The killer was an outsider, the real scary element is this hotel filled with dead people.”

After Yan Tang said that, a door slowly opened. A hand covered in blood and holding a knife reached out.

“Brother, you have a point but I need you to stop analyzing.” Han Fei had to agree that Yan Tang was right but the things that Yan Tang analyzed could easily become the truth. If Yan Tang continued to ramble, he might attract the Pure Hatreds from the hospital. Han Fei originally didn’t believe that luck could affect destiny until he met these five.

“You guys better head down, I’ll open the road for you.” There was 1 figure on the left corridor and 3 on the right. Han Fei was about to turn left when Yan Tang spoke again. “I notice that the ghosts at this hotel are very cunning and they share some kind of connection. The key point is, have you noticed that they also share the same voice?!” Even though Yan Tang was afraid, he calmly shared his thoughts. “I suspect there is the scariest ghost controlling everything here. It might be looking at us through the cameras. It creates an opening for us on the left but that is a trap.”

Hearing that, Han Fei immediately changed his direction and turned to the right. Since Yan Tang had said that, even if the culprit didn’t have that intention, the left side would be dangerous now.

Ironman was frightened when he saw Han Fei charge towards three ghosts with no weapon. “Brother, calm down! He’s just analyzing things!”

Ironman was a good person. He knew this was a dangerous moment. He took out boxing gloves from his inventory and put them on. “I’ll help you.” Ironman took the fighter role in the surface world so his skills and attributes were to protect his team. As a CB player, he knew that Han Fei who was level 15 was stronger than him but there was only a 3 level difference between them. Plus he focused on fighting so he believed he shouldn’t be weaker than Han Fei. As an old player in this hidden map, Han Fei only knew more about the map than he did.

Without thinking about it, Ironman followed behind Han Fei. At this point, they had to give it everything. They got to escape from this place.

“It’s rare for us to get into a hidden map, it’s a waste to die like that!” The punishment for death in Perfect Life was extremely harsh. Once the character died, all the collected resources would be gone. It was like real life, there was no chance to restart. Ironman was a professional player, if he died, then he would be kicked out of his gaming guild. “For my life in the game and in reality, I have to do this!” Gritting his teeth, Ironman roared as his skin turned red. He punched at the ghost closest to him. “Die!”

Ironman activated his skill. His punches left behind shadows. He hit the enemy’s head heavily but the enemy didn’t evade at all. The punches eventually pierced through the head and then landed on the wall. The oil painting was shattered but the figure before him was uninjured. The person even tilted its head to look at Ironman, as if asking, ‘what are you doing?’

“But my boxing gloves are a Grade G rare item...” While Ironman was shocked, pain bloomed on his abdomen. A pale hand landed there. Yin energy blossomed on his skin like a flower. Chill froze his stomach, he couldn’t feel his lower body. The figure was leaning towards him when a force knocked him away. When he came to his senses, he saw Han Fei occupying his original space.

“Brother, thank you for saving me, but what about you?” He looked at Han Fei who was cornered. He thought it was over for them this time. He couldn’t do any damage to the monsters so what could the man who was only 3 levels higher than him do?

Ironman had no hope. He knew hidden maps were dangerous but he had no idea it’d be so dangerous. The female ghost was approaching from the left. The 3 figures hadn’t been dealt with and the armed killer walked out of the room.

“It’s over.” Ironman was in despair. He tried to get up but he heard Han Fei say coldly. “If you don’t want to die, stay there quietly.” Han Fei was gentle with them so Ironman didn’t think Han Fei was different from other players but when Han Fei gave this order, Han Fei carried an inexplicable pressure on him. It was like Ironman would die if he didn’t listen to Han Fei. “Let me help you, I only focus on my stamina. Even though your level is higher than mine, your stamina should be lower than mine.” Ironman tried to get up using the wall. But before he did, Han Fei already made his move. The bright blade glowed in the dark corridor. The warm light pierced through the ghosts.

When one of the men screamed, the 2 other ghosts bound to his body pounced at Han Fei. They blocked all exits but Han Fei wasn’t afraid. He cut at the other ghost’s neck. Wiggling inside the narrow space, the bloody fingers could only graze Han Fei’s clothes and not the man.

Not only Ironman but the other players were also stunned. The gnarly ghost tattoo moved on Han Fei's skin. His cold presence and the light from Rest in Peace bound together. Han Fei in the mask was like a God.

"He's level 15 and you're level 12?" Yan Tang's eyes wandered between Han Fei and Ironman. Finally, he turned to Ironman uncertainly. "You sure you haven't been holding out on us?"

"Of course not!" Ironman held his stomach. He started to suspect his eyes.

The blade pierced through the shadowy figures' hearts. A trail of blood floated before Han Fei's eyes. He used his other hand to grab the figure by his neck. He closed his fingers and with the buff from Nine-Lives, Han Fei yanked the figure out of his friend. "Compared to pain, your heart consists of more fear. Someone is indeed controlling you." Han Fei decapitated the figure. He charged ahead. "Follow me!"

Yan Tang and Seaglass Cat picked up Ironman. The four players raced towards the stairwell.

"What ability was that? He tore through the ghosts with his bare hands! I haven't seen such a cruel attack ability before!" Ironman was a CB Player but Han Fei had turned his world upside down.

Han Fei suddenly stopped on the stairs.

"What's wrong?"

"Look at the room number in the corridor. We've been running for a long time but we are still on the 7th floor." Han Fei was calm because this was not his first time encountering something like this.

"What? How can this be?" Ironman wanted to cry. When he led the other players out of the mist, he thought the hidden map was boring because there was not even a ghost around to scare them. But just as they entered this hotel, so many supernatural events occurred.

"Then what should we do now?" Yan Tang turned to Han Fei. He was very clever, he knew their only hope was Han Fei.



“A scary ghost is hiding inside this hotel. He killed everyone. He is controlling everything. This endless loop should be his doing too.” Han Fei thought about it and said, “We shouldn’t waste our strength. We need to observe the strange happenings inside the hotel to figure out the ghost’s location to kill him.”

Only Han Fei would come up with such a plan. The other players were shocked.

“Erm... I have something to say.” The pale Auntie Lee suddenly raised her hand. “I don’t know much about this game, but I think I’ve been to this hotel before.”

#### Chapter 490 The Gallery

Auntie Lee’s words grabbed everyone’s attention immediately. Han Fei was shocked too. “Auntie, you mean you’ve been here in real life?”

“Yes, I felt this place look familiar when I first arrived. I confirmed that I’ve been here after seeing these paintings.” Auntie Lee referred to the paintings on the 7th floor. All the paintings on this floor had to do with human anatomy, paintings like severed limbs, and so on. “My husband was a famous doctor at Xin Lu, he had brought me here to stay before. At the time, I was shocked by these paintings but he thought they were beautiful. He wanted to find the manager and offered a high price to purchase them.”

“Then, did the hotel sell them to you?”

“No, the paintings were the hotel owner’s artwork and they were not for sale.” Auntie Lee shared the story from when she was young. “I can’t remember the details, this happened 30 years ago. At the time, my husband was still alive. He loved me but ever since we came to this hospital. He had more out-of-town duties and became stranger in person.”

“Could... he have an affair?” Ironman’s EQ was as low as his muscle was large. Auntie Lee glared at him immediately. “My husband loved me, it was the luckiest thing in my life to have met him. Until now I can’t forget him, unfortunately, I won’t be able to see him again.” Auntie Lee was sad. It was obvious that she still hadn’t walked out of the grief. It was to make her happy that her son spent a lot of money to buy her the gaming hub. This was a happy family. The couples loved each other and the child was filial. But something went wrong along the way.

“Auntie, do you mind continuing?” Han Fei signaled everyone to quiet down. He originally just wanted to send these people back to the surface world to earn some afterlife karma but he felt like he was onto something.

“My husband worked for Immortal Pharma. 30 years ago, Immortal Pharma wanted to build a high-class nursing home in Xin Lu countryside. The place would serve the rich and famous. My husband was one of the first batches of doctors sent there. The whole thing was strange. The nursing home was not that far from Xin Lu but it forbade its employees from leaving the premises. I couldn’t even go to see him. We could only meet at the hotel close to the nursing home.” Auntie Lee pointed to the wall. “I saw this painting at that hotel and it was since then that my husband’s taste became very strange.”

Auntie Lee adjusted her emotions. “After we left the hotel, my husband was moved from his original post because he met me in private. He needed to leave home more often. Sometimes he didn’t come home for 2 weeks. When he was at Xin Lu, he would go and attend some strange gatherings. Then it became stranger. He sent our young son to a relative’s home and severed all connection with his son. I asked him why and he said because someone wanted to kill our son. I could sense the pressure he was under so I tried my best to look after him. But not too long after that, he wanted to divorce me. The reason was crazy, it was because he was afraid that I’d die because of him.

“Naturally I refused. My husband gave up on that idea but he started to self-mutilate. I asked him about it and he said it was the only way he could pay penance. I had no idea how I survived those days. They were filled with pain, everything was grey. My husband would hug his head and cry like a child. He would kneel and plead for mercy inside an empty room. My heart pained seeing this but I didn’t know how to help him.

“About 1 month after that, he suddenly returned to normal. He personally cooked a delicious meal for me. We talked about our history together. At night, he put on his suit. It was very formal, it felt like he was preparing for his own funeral. Before we slept, he told me something. He said I shouldn’t buy any white shoes for our child and if there were white shoes suddenly appearing at home, we should move immediately. Until now I have no idea what he meant but I did follow his orders.” Auntie Lee pointed at her black shoes. “But when I woke up the next morning, my husband was gone. Our bedroom was filled with children’s shoeprints.”

“Children’s shoeprints?”

“Yes, they were about the size of my palm. They covered the walls, the floor, the ceiling, the bed, everywhere. It felt like a group of kids had infiltrated into our home to steal my husband away.” Auntie

Lee looked at the other players. "I know what you think but this is not a story. It's real. I don't know where the shoeprints came from but they are real."

"Sister Lee, I believe you." Han Fei stood beside Auntie Lee, he memorized the woman's face. "You should still love him, right? Do you still miss him?" Han Fei now understood why the woman was in the cryptic world. Her mourn talent was triggered. She might be able to see her husband but her husband would be a different person already.

"Of course I wouldn't forget him! I always felt like he wasn't sick but he was trying everything he could to protect me and my son. So I have to find him no matter what." Auntie Lee smiled helplessly. "I've spent years looking for him but there's nothing. Now our son is old and has left home. Sometimes when I am alone, I would talk to my husband's picture."

Han Fei comforted the woman and turned to remove the painting from the hall. The painting loved by the auntie's husband was very strange. It used an abstract style to distort a person into 7 pieces and each piece was added with beautiful details.

"Sister, do you remember if your husband has said anything when he saw this painting?"

"I can't remember now. He just kept on praising the broken human body parts. He said it was beautiful and the human body is an art." Auntie Lee thought about it. "Right, when my husband said he wanted to purchase this painting, a server led him to the 11th floor. The boss was there."

"10th and 11th are the galleries. I believe the artwork there is not for normal eyes." Han Fei asked. "Sister, after your husband disappeared, did you come to this hotel to find him?"

"I did come a few times but this hotel was very unique. It only served the customer from Immortal Pharma plastic surgery hospital. For outsiders, one had to make a booking and even so, we could only stay in rooms below the 7th floor." Auntie Lee was confused, "But why would the hotel appear inside the game?"

"The game is made by Immortal Pharma and Deep Space Tech so it's normal for buildings related to them to appear here." In real life, the art hotel only served the private plastic surgery hospital. In the cryptic world, the art hotel was within the plastic surgery hospital's zone, the connection between them

was deep. Han Fei had a new plan, he was going to take over this hotel. 'There are 3 Pure Hatreds at the hospital. The white shoe appeared the most often, let's start with him.'

This hospital built by Immortal Pharma was very special to Han Fei. Based on his investigation, he had visited this hospital when he was young, perhaps he had even received treatment there too. Immortal Pharma's CEO's brother found him and the scene from his childhood orphanage was rebuilt inside the hospital... These seemingly unrelated clues were slowly being weaved together. Han Fei felt like he was slowly uncovering the truth.

'Happiness Neighborhood is the starting home, the plastic surgery hospital is when the personality starts to change as the child moves away from home. After the personality is formed, the child will be sent into the Lost Theme Park to play.' The map appeared in Han Fei's mind. He believed Fu Sheng had explored the world according to this order too. 'How many things have that old man been hiding from me? His memory fragment can be found at the plastic surgery hospital too. This time I have to catch him and ask him everything.'

Even though Fu Sheng was Han Fei's guide, Han Fei had problems with his teaching method.

Ironman coughed twice. He held his stomach. "Guys, what should we do now?" His stomach was touched by a ghost. Yin energy poisoned his body and his Life Points were dropping. On Ironman, Han Fei saw the fragility of the human body, he started to understand why Fu Sheng chose to become an Unmentionable. Han Fei dragged an anaconda out of the shadow from underneath Xu Qin. Han Fei placed the thing on Ironman's stomach and soon all the Yin energy was sucked away.

"How did you do that? Is that a special skill from the hidden map?" Ironman touched his stomach.

"That was my family member's pet." Han Fei was thinking about something else. He took the painting and walked down the 7th floor corridor.

"A pet? How did you raise such a pet? Is there a secret?" Ironman's eyes glowed as he followed behind Han Fei.

"Not much secret, you just have to be tough."

“Boss, then what is your pet?”

“A kitten.” Han Fei didn’t pay much attention to Ironman, he collected all the paintings on the 7th floor and placed them before Yan Tang. “What can you see from these paintings?”

“Death, desire, and a twisted beauty.” Yan Tang studied them and then moved the paintings. “There are 7 paintings on the 7th floor and each painting looks isolated from the rest but they can be pieced together to form a whole picture. I feel like they are telling the same story.

“The people in the 4th floor paintings have painful expressions, only the killer was smiling but look at these paintings.

“All the dismembered people look like they are in penance. I feel like they volunteered to be killed.” Yan Tang placed the picture favored by the auntie’s husband together with another painting. “Look at these two. The first is the one liked by Auntie’s husband. In the second painting, the man was lying down. However, he was not lying on a bed but a white coat, so he might be a doctor. Then look at his clothes, it’s a western suit. This fits Auntie Lee’s description. Her husband was a doctor and he was last seen wearing a suit. So my analysis is that this dismembered man in the second painting is Auntie Lee’s husband.”

Auntie Lee shook her head, refusing to agree with Yan Tang.

“After placing all the paintings together, you’ll find another similarity. All the dismembered people are doctors. Everything in the paintings is related to hospitals like scalpels, white coats, and bandages. I can’t figure out why. All the doctors are in penance. Could the killer be their former patient?” Once Yan Yang said that there was a strange sound coming from behind the safety door. It sounded like a blood capillary bursting. They hurried over to look. The door was normal but there was a new pattern on it. It looked like a face. Han Fei stabbed the face using Rest in Peace. There was no response.

“Xiao Yan, you mean my husband has caused someone’s death? He was paying penance for that?” Auntie Lee hadn’t played a VR game before. She was impressed by the realistic nature of the game.

“Based on your description, I believe your husband’s patient was a kid who liked to wear white shoes. His husband’s death was probably related to the child and he might be related to the child’s death.” Yan

Tang looked at the 7 paintings on the ground. "What I say next might be uncomfortable but I believe they are the truth."

"Go on, I wish to hear your thoughts."

"I am used to seeing things from the worst angle and reality proves that I am always right." Yan Tang continued to analyze and Han Fei didn't stop him. "Perhaps your husband did love you but from a moment on, he had changed. It's not that he didn't love you anymore but something inside his heart had been replaced. He was a normal person but from his reaction at the hotel when he saw these paintings, something had changed."

"When a normal person saw a dismembered body, their first reaction wouldn't be admiration. The first reaction should be a sense of danger because their kin had been brutally murdered. But your husband's reaction was the total opposite. He was excited and happy. This was how a predator would react after it had gotten the prey. So your husband had become a predator and the other humans were his prey." Yan Tang looked at Auntie Lee, "I don't deny that he still loved you but that didn't mean he won't hurt other humans, those two feelings aren't mutually exclusive."

Auntie Lee was not expecting this. She looked at the other players, hoping someone would counter Yan Tang.

"You said he had met with the hotel boss in private and visited the boss' gallery. Now you know how many people have died at this hotel. What do you think the gallery would be about?" Yan Tang continued, "You said he joined some special meetings, what do you think those meetings were like?" Seeing the pressure on the woman's face, Yan Tang didn't continue, "Of course, this was just my speculation. Don't mind it."

The auntie had tears in her eyes. She played the game to relax but this was pulling up all of her bad memories.

"We'll go upstairs to take a look ourselves." Han Fei walked to the woman. He could use Resurrection once per night. "If I say you have a chance to meet your husband in this world, you..."

"Really?" Auntie Lee interrupted Han Fei. Her eyes were red and her body shook but it was hard to tell if it was due to excitement or fear or something else.

“If you survive, you’ll meet him. I’ll do my best to help you reunite with him. But when that happens, I need you to do something for me.” Han Fei’s voice was alluring. He was like the devil with the apple in the paintings.

“No problem!” The husband was the thorn in Auntie Lee’s heart. Her pain throughout the years had to do with her husband. Han Fei knew that Auntie Lee would agree. When he used Soul-depth Touch to shake these players’ hands, Han Fei realized that living players who accidentally wandered into the cryptic world had shadows in their hearts.

Auntie Lee’s shadow was related to her missing husband; Huang Yin’s shadow was because of his mother; Seaglass Cat had problems with her eyes. Her soul was like a cracked cat, perhaps it was because she was bullied a lot when she was a child. As Han Fei met more players, he started to grasp the theorem behind this. Other than the players who voluntarily seek death, the other players had to satisfy a few conditions and they might be pulled into the cryptic world.

Their luck must be low; their talents must be related to the supernatural; their heart had shadows and they once thought about dying.

‘The cryptic world might serve a purpose. Certain people have found themselves here for a reason.’ Han Fei led the players to the 10th Floor. Since they were caught in an endless loop, there was no need to hurry. If this loop was made by a Large Lingering Spirit, the only way out was to have Xu Qin force her way through it. But unless necessary, Han Fei wouldn’t take that risk.

There was still one more hour until the end of his mission. Han Fei’s arrived at the 10th floor, they all wanted to see the gallery. As the safety door opened, the chill rushed in. The scene before them had nothing to do with art... at least that was what Han Fei thought.

The layer between the 10th and 11th floors was removed so the two floors were connected. The 6 meters tall lobby was filled with refrigerators and freezers. They were placed in a disorderly fashion. Freezer mist oozed out of them. They seemed to be operating normally.

“The hotel boss is a killer so these things are probably used to keep the...” Ironman used his hand to close Yan Tang’s mouth. The players stood there and all turned to Han Fei.

“This art gallery is different from what I imagined. I expected more paintings.” Seaglass Cat held Auntie Lee. They were at the back of the group.

“Stay close to me and be careful.” Han Fei’s eyes scanned the lobby. He touched his ring. The chill was strongest at this place. The lobby was dominated by fridges and they created a maze. A dead smell lingered in the air.

A wire above them suddenly snapped. The spark lit up the darkness temporarily. Han Fei saw one of the fridges open. There was a pale green face inside. Taking out Rest in Peace, Han Fei stood beside Xu Qin. “Sis, don’t worry, I’ll protect you.”

The gallery was larger than they expected. Han Fei’s group didn’t go far when the footsteps became more flurried, it sounded like something else had mixed into their group. After turning a corner, Han Fei turned back to look. Ironman and Yan Tang were now at the back of the group. Behind them was the darkness. “The two of you need to move faster.” Han Fei waved at them. Han Fei felt like something was different about Ironman’s back but he couldn’t tell what.

Ironman opened all the fridges they came across but most of them were empty. Ironman was losing his patience. He heard Han Fei urge him so he turned to run forward. At that moment, Han Fei saw two more legs appear behind Ironman. The gait was similar to Ironman’s. Han Fei used his eyes to signal for Seaglass Cat and Auntie Lee to go first while he stayed to block Ironman.

“Brother, I need you to follow my orders.” Han Fei took out Rest in Peace.

“What do you need from me?” Ironman was passionate. He knew now was the time for him to contribute.

“When I count to 1, I need you to bend down as fast as you can.” The knife chased away the chill. Han Fei grabbed Rest in Peace and pierced at Ironman. Seeing the knife fly at him, Ironman quickly squatted down. Behind him came the sound of ice being melted by a hot brand.

“Didn’t you say you’d count to 1?!” Ironman hugged his head. He was scared. He collapsed to the ground and realized he was sitting in a pool of black blood. He turned back to look and a frozen head fell to the ground.



“It’s fine now.” Han Fei pulled back Rest in Peace and started to study the dead body.

“He didn’t tell you the truth lest you got scared.” Yan Tang helped Ironman up. “Don’t you feel warmed?”