

Iyashikei 521

Chapter 521 Who is the Ghost?

“The Mafia game?” The orphans clearly had not played this before. They looked at Han Fei with curiosity.

“The rules are simple. I will write down the roles of human, ghost, and medium on different papers. Everyone will have to close their eyes after lights out. The ghost will make the first move, he will kill a person every night. After the ghost chooses who to kill, the medium can check a player’s identity to see if they’re the ghost or not. After the light comes back on, everyone will open their eyes. We’ll then enter a voting phase, the majority wins. Humans win if the ghost is captured and ghost wins if every human is killed.” Han Fei explained. The oldest boy was instantly intrigued. This was much more interesting than paper houses.

“Of course, the greater the number of players the better. You should gather the other kids who want to play.” Han Fei looked around the room. “Where’s the little girl?”

“She... has returned to the dorm to sleep.” The boy shoved his hand into his pocket. Han Fei saw strands of hair between his fingers. “She’s very tired, we shouldn’t disturb her. I’ll find other kids for you.” As the boy turned to the door, Han Fei’s eyes slowly moved to the bloody cardboard houses. “It’s best I destroy such a disgusting place.” Han Fei scrolled up his menu. When the boy exited his hiding spot, Han Fei received the notification.

“Notification for Player 0000! You’ve played the 3rd game with the children, you’ve obtained the reward—Clue 3.

“Clue 3: The child you’re looking for wears white shoes and is hiding in one of the rooms.”

A mental problem, a bad child in everyone’s eyes and he wears white shoes while hiding alone inside one of the rooms. The clues were very specific, Han Fei could eliminate most of the kids, so he didn’t need to hold back anymore.

The oldest boy left the room. It was not his first time here. He ran towards a specific room. The boy’s footsteps were light as he rushed down the corridor. As he passed the doors, he leaned on the doors to listen. He made sure there was no sound before he continued to move. “Those two rooms are the

director's office and the nurses' breakroom. We can play as loud as we can but if we wake them up, there will be bad consequences."

They turned the corner and the boy led Han Fei into another room. The door creaked. The black room door was pushed open and the dim light shone on the boy. "Stop pretending to be asleep. Come play games with us." The room was the orphan's dorm. More than 10 children slept in one room. There was no window and the place stunk. The room was like a sealed black can.

"Wake up now!" After Han Fei entered the room, the oldest boy closed the door and then opened the only light in the room. The dim light shone on the children's faces. When he saw the kids, Han Fei's expression shifted. Most of the children had deformities, some of them couldn't even get out of bed on their own. The light chased away the darkness and woke the kids from their dream.

The confused faces looked at the door. When they saw the oldest boy, they immediately woke up. Their eyes filled with fear. These kids were often bullied by the boy.

When he saw a few kids were still wrapped under their blankets, the boy yanked their blankets off and even kicked one of the children off the bed. The other kids were used to this. The bullied kids acted strangely. Even though they were afraid, they bit their teeth and closed their mouths, they didn't dare to make any sound. If they made any sound and attracted the nurses, they would be in for worse punishment. The oldest boy looked at the kids with glee. He planned to beat the kid up further but he was stopped by Han Fei. "Does bullying those weaker than you bring you joy?"

"I know you pity them but no child in this room deserves pity." The boy smiled wickedly. He grabbed a boy by his feet. "You might think I'm awful but I'm not the worst. This boy killed his parents. His parents loved him but he poisoned them. And this kid..." The boy kicked at a short and fat boy beside him. "He cut off the safety rope of the window cleaner and ended the innocent man's life. Right, do you remember the girl who almost killed us? She pushed a girl prettier than her into the fireplace." The boy cackled. "Do you think they need pity? Everyone here wants you to die. This place is the home for the incurable. The smaller they are, the more venomous they'll be." He pointed at the kids and described everything that happened to them. An adult's sin was often premeditated, but a kid's sin was pure. Education could lead them to the right path but a lack of education meant that the kids became worse and worse.

Han Fei felt something was not right with this orphanage and now he understood why. The orphans here were all representations of sins. The oldest boy woke everyone up and forced them to gather. The dorm had 30 plus beds but only 14 were occupied.

"This is all?" None of them was the child Han Fei was looking for. He observed their feet and everyone's shoes were light red.

"Including the 3 of us, there are 17 players. 1 will be the host and the rest can all participate." Han Fei pulled the boy with the doll out from behind him. "You can be the host for the first round." Standing amidst the group of strange children, Han Fei patiently explained to them the rules of the mafia game. The boy with the doll would host the game so he wouldn't play. Then Han Fei took out 16 pieces of white paper of the same size from his inventory. "I will write down the roles of human, ghost, and medium on these 16 papers. You can't tell the others your identity or the ghost will kill you." After all the kids understood the rules, Han Fei wrote down humans on all 16 papers and then he jumbled it before everyone. He told each of the kids to pick. "I'll repeat again, the goal of the ghost is to kill every human and the goal of the human is to find the ghost. The medium can check anyone's identity. Of course, the ghost can pretend to be the medium. The game rules are very simple but if you go against the rules, you'll die." For the kids, this was more exciting than their normal games. "After a player is killed, the paper with their identity will be destroyed. When there are only humans or ghosts left on the field, the host will announce the winner."

"Okay, we already know the rules. Let's start." The oldest boy urged. He stood at the corner and sneaked a look at his paper. When he saw the content, he didn't look that satisfied. The kids sat according to their bed number and the game officially started.

"Lights out." The boy with the doll was the host. He went to switch off the light in the dorm.

"Ghost, please open your eyes." Han Fei took out Rest in Peace and slunk to the oldest boy. He had played 3 games with the boy already, he didn't need him anymore. When Rest in Peace touched the boy, it became so sharp. It tore through the boy's soul. The boy had harmed many people.

"Notification for Player 0000! You've killed an orphan inside the orphanage. With the murder of each orphan, the chance of the nurses and director awakening will increase by 1 percent, the chance of you finding the target child will lower by 1 percent." Han Fei frowned when he heard the system notification. He wanted to use this game to clean up the small ghosts but he needed to change his plan now. 'I can't murder them so I'll have to turn them against each other.' When the glow of the blade disappeared, Han Fei noticed a boy was staring at him. The boy didn't follow the rules. Han Fei returned to his seat and the boy with the doll continued, "Medium, please open your eyes." The boy waited for a long time and no one responded. So he continued, "It's morning. The person who died yesterday night is No. 24."

The orphans looked at the spot where the oldest boy sat. They didn't look worried, they were relieved. The boy was the biggest bully. They had to heed his orders or they'd be ostracized. The bully was finally dead.

"I-I saw him kill the boy yesterday night!" The boy who didn't close his eyes during lights out pointed at Han Fei. "He's the ghost!"

After the boy said that, all the kids turned to look at Han Fei. Facing the room of twisted faces, Han Fei shook his head. "I'm the human, you're the ghost." Well, he was not wrong. Han Fei was indeed human and the kid was the ghost.

"You killed him! I saw it!"

"Based on the rules, only the ghost and the medium can open their eyes at night. If you're human and you saw me at night means that you have broken the rules; if you are the ghost, then you are trying to frame me so that the others will vote me out; if you're the medium, then yes, you might have seen me kill the boy but the problem is, I'm the medium." Han Fei challenged the boy. "So which of the above situation is true?"

Violating the rules would mean death and death in this game was permanent. There was no restart. The boy stammered. Han Fei pointed at a kid beside him. "I checked you yesterday night and you're a human." The kid nodded...

"Only the medium can check the other players' identity and there is only 1 medium. The ghost will do his best to kill the medium." Han Fei pointed at himself. "If I fail to survive the next night, then you should know who to vote out next." With Han Fei directing the conversation, most kids thought the boy who broke the rules was the ghost. Therefore, after the voting phase, everyone turned to the boy who was voted out. Their gaze slowly changed. Someone stood up to close the light. The moment the darkness descended, the children charged at their target. The voted boy didn't even have the chance to scream before his soul was torn apart. In the end, only his tattered red shirt and a pair of light red shoes remained of him. Staring at the shirt, Han Fei noticed something. The number on the back of the shirt was also 024.

'The oldest boy's number is 024 and this boy's number is also 024?' Han Fei looked at the children beside him. "Are all your numbers 024?"

“Yes, because we’re at Orphanage 024. But we each have our name, only the director’s favorite can be called 024.” The child explained. “The director’s favorite was the oldest boy who was killed. He had been helping the director.”

‘024 is the white shoes’ number but all the children here are 024 and they are all evil. Do they represent the white shoes’ sins?’ Han Fei was confused because this orphanage filled with darkness was defined by the system as the White Orphanage. The color white should have a significant meaning here but ever since Han Fei entered the orphanage, he had not seen anything white.

‘A white orphanage covered in darkness?’ When a person’s sin started to run rampant, his kindness would be locked up.

“Let us begin the next round.” With Han Fei’s Piped Piper talent and masterful acting, the kids were led around by him. When only a few players remained, Han Fei quietly stood up. When the boy with the doll called for lights out, Han Fei led the boy and left.

When he played the game, Han Fei managed to withdraw out of the children the location of the orphanage’s most hidden room. He didn’t plan to stay after that. Han Fei walked down the corridor to the director’s office. The most hidden room was inside the director’s office.

He pushed open the door. There was a white door on the floor of the office. The door was conspicuous among the black and old office.

Chapter 522 Dye the World Red

“A white door?” The white door was very eye-catching in a black room. “The orphanage will lock the naughty kids behind this door?” Han Fei asked. This orphanage built in the cryptic world seemed to hide many secrets.

“Yes, the children hated by the adults will be locked inside this room. They are never seen after they are locked inside the room.” The boy hugged his doll tightly and fear flashed in his eyes.

“Shall we go in to take a look?” When Han Fei’s hand touched the door on the ground, footsteps came from outside but the sound wasn’t coming their way. The boy dragged the doll and ran to the office

door to check. The large nurse was holding a lamp as she walked down the corridor. She opened the doors, checking for problems.

“The adult is coming!” The boy stumbled his way back to Han Fei, his hands gesturing wildly.

“There is no place to hide in the director’s office, looks like we have to enter this room.” Holding the doorknob, a strange feeling rose within Han Fei. It was like something was summoning him behind the door. He pulled the door open and a white staircase that led downward appeared before Han Fei. “Let’s go down to hide first.”

Han Fei carried the boy and they walked down the steps. The white door appeared to be like a mirror. It was an opposite world inside the door. ‘The world outside the door is dark, malicious and creepy, but inside the door, everything is painted white. The steps, the wall, the bricks, everything is white.’ Holding the boy’s hand, they came to the end of the staircase. Another white door appeared before them.

They pushed open the door and beyond it was the director’s office in white. Compared to the director’s office on the surface, this office was clean, neat and comfortable.

“There is a replica of the orphanage hidden underground?” Han Fei didn’t touch anything but observed the surrounding. He had very good memory and remembered how everything was placed in the director’s office. “Yes, the placement of every object here is similar to the office on the surface. However, this place is cleaned daily because there is no dirty stain or dust anywhere.” Han Fei walked to the office door. He opened it and looked out.

The pure white door had no trash. There were lights every 2 meters, the place was lit up like morning. The lights were bright but not blinding. The lights had cartoon shapes and they had the sticker that reminded people to save electricity. This made Han Fei feel like he had returned to real life.

‘Such a bright place exists in the cryptic world?’ Han Fei didn’t expect that such a place exist deep inside the creepy orphanage.

“Isn’t this the room used to punish bad children?” The boy hugged the door. He looked at the pretty stickers and colorful paintings on the wall. He was confused.

“Let’s go check this place further.” It didn’t feel oppressive at all walking down the corridor. A faint fragrance lingered in the air. Han Fei and the boy continued to move forward. All the doors had signs. The words had both Chinese and English explanation. In fact, there was even Braille for the blind.

He pushed open the door to the dorm. The room was very clean. The quilt was folded neatly. Everyone had their own little dresser and study table. They were not expensive but clean clothes hung inside the dresser and various books sat on the study tables. Most of the books were donated 2ndhand books but they were treated like treasures by the kids here. “Everyone has pen and new book.” The boy pointed at the tables and his tone was slightly envious. Compared to the dorm on the surface, this place was like heaven. “The rooms on the surface are filled rot and mildew. The quilts are wrinkled and bloody. In comparison, this place is nirvana.” The boy wanted to stay and examine the place further but Han Fei stopped him. “We need to look elsewhere first. This place looks good but we haven’t seen anything living yet.”

Han Fei went to the nurses’ breakroom. The tiles in the room were so shiny they could be used as mirrors. The documents sat neatly on the office table. After staying so long in the cryptic world, Han Fei was very sensitive to things like dairy and documents. Since there was no one around, he grabbed the documents and started to read. The nurses were familiar with each child’s personality, past, and trauma. They even came up with individual treatment methods, they really wanted to heal these poor orphans. “Are they a group of angels?”

The documents were normal. Han Fei wanted to read something else when footsteps came from the corridor. He immediately replaced the documents and then pulled the boy to hide under the bed. He just adjusted the bed when the door of the breakroom was pushed open. A pair of woman’s legs appeared before him. This was a common cliché in horror movies but experiencing it the first time in the game, Han Fei was still quite shocked. The real shocking thing though was the legs were not bloodless, they didn’t float in the air, they didn’t have curses and wounds and there were no human faces stuck to them!

‘Another player? This is impossible!’ The nurse hummed a beautiful song as she changed. Then she grabbed something and left. Han Fei and the boy crawled out from under the bed. He used the back of his hand to touch the clothes the nurse just changed out of. ‘There’s body temperature on this. She’s really a living human?’

Everything in this underground orphanage was so similar to real life that it made Han Fei feel like he had returned to real life. He left the breakroom and followed the nurse quietly. The nurse who changed into sportswear reached the end of the corridor. She opened the white wooden door that led outside and the sunlight shone into the corridor.

'Sunlight?' Both Han Fei and the boy were stunned. How could there be sunlight in the cryptic world?

The nurse didn't close the door. Han Fei and the boy walked over. When they approached the wooden door, they could smell flowers in the balmy wind. Looking down the distance, there was an endless forest beyond the white fence. Animals leaped in and out of view. The brook gurgled as if singing for the kids.

"This is so beautiful..." The boy hugged the tattered doll and looked outside numbly. Han Fei was shocked too but he soon noticed the problem. The birds froze at the same spot, the water droplets of the river froze in the air and would never hit the stream. The breeze blew but the grass would never move. Everything outside the orphanage was painted, this was manmade heaven.

Spirited singing came from the courtyard. With the nurse leading, the 7 children did morning exercises with her. The 7 children wore white shirts and white shoes. They followed their teacher's movements seriously. The nurse was a good teacher, she encouraged the students and helped them find joy in learning.

"This is the punishment room? But aren't only bad children can come in here?" The boy was confused. He pulled on Han Fei's shirt to get an answer. However, Han Fei's eyes were locked on the children's shoes. He had seen those white shoes in real life.

"Should we go greet them? They don't look like bad people." The boy wanted to play with the other kids. If the other kids were willing to accept him, he'd tell them about his mother. This time, Han Fei was too confused to stop the boy. When he saw the underground orphanage, various possibilities appeared in his mind.

'024 is white shoes' number so this should be his orphanage but why would there be the painter's paintings?' The paintings on the wall reminded Han Fei of another painting he had seen. The style and sense of reality, it was similar to the painting the painter had left at Ugly Scar's stairwell. 'There's a connection between them?'

Han Fei wanted to get closer to take a look but at that moment, a shadow appeared on the grassland. The painted grass was being wiped away by some kind of power. The shadow slowly assumed the shape of a man. He rammed against the wall. The authenticity of the painting was ruined. Small cracks appeared between the trees and streams.

“What is that?” The nurse soon noticed the problem too. She guarded the kids behind her. She was shocked as she looked at the wall in disbelief. But Han Fei was even more shocked because the nurse’s skin started to crack too.

‘Her skin is painted on too?’ Han Fei quickly stopped the boy. “Wait a minute.”

This situation had never existed in the nurse’s memory. Every day, she followed a fixed schedule. Therefore, when an accident occurred, like the children, she was grasped by panic and fear. The crack on the wall grew wider and the human shadow became clearer. His face was about to squeeze out of the wall.

When Han Fei saw the face, he was shocked. The man trapped inside the painting was none other than Ten Fingers!

This former Pure Hatred looked disheveled. All the human skull tattoos were crying blood. 9 faces were screaming shrilly. ‘Ten Fingers has eaten all 9 of his brothers?’ The thick hatred imbued every corner of the painting. The black flame of his chest burned through the colors of the painting. He wanted to move forward, to walk out of the painting but at the last moment, he was pulled back into the painting.

The painting slowly returned to normal. The green grass grew again, the river flowed and the cracks healed. ‘This is the painter’s talent?’ Ten Fingers’ scream was trapped inside the painting. The people could hear him but they couldn’t interact with each other. After Ten Fingers was sent back into the painting, the nurse’s skin also returned to normal.

“We’re done with the morning exercise, it’s time for breakfast.” The nurse smiled. She had the kids line up and head back into the orphanage. Han Fei led the boy to hide in the room next to the front door. When the group of kids passed, Han Fei heard their whispering.

“I guess we’ll be having potatoes and porridge again, it’s the same every day. I’m bored.”

“It’s still better than what’s outside.”

“Do you feel like your body is getting dull? I don’t know how to describe it. It’s like I’m turning into a machine and I’m not me anymore.”

“I don’t know, why don’t you ask mother?”

“Mother will not tell me the answer, plus she is not my mother! She is... just an emotionless wood. She has never loved us.”

The children entered the canteen and the delicious smell of food drifted out.

“How come our canteen and rooms don’t have windows. We can’t look outside?”

“The teacher said the world outside is not prettier than the painting.”

“But I still want to go outside.”

“Mother is coming. Shush.”

Mother was the nurse. She was responsible, good-natured, gentle, and pretty. But the 7 children were distant from her.

“Let’s dig in.” The nurse smiled. The kids ate happily while she followed her schedule to prepare for the next activity. Han Fei stood at the door and looked at the situation inside the canteen, it felt so familiar to him. In his memory, he had experienced something similar. Or rather, the memory that he had of his orphanage life was similar to this. He would wake up at a fixed time to do morning exercise, eat, study and play...

Han Fei and the boy studied the children from the dark, they observed the kids’ life. It was safe, content, and repetitious. After breakfast, it was morning class. The kids were led unwillingly by the nurse into the classroom. Han Fei observed the lesson through the gap in the door. He remembered the study lesson from his memory. It was not the normal lesson but story-telling. Everyone had different colored textbooks and different textbooks represented different emotions and different treatment methods.

'I remember my textbook was white...' Han Fei adjusted his angle and saw a white textbook at the end of the room. But no one was seated there.

After the children and the nurse entered the classroom, Ten Fingers charged against the painting again. He came closer and closer to the exit. His body was burning black, the hatred was about to cover the entire underground orphanage. "You can't trap me forever. When I'm out, you'll be the first I consume!" Ten Finger's vicious voice came out of the painting. He looked down in a direction.

'Where is he looking at?' Han Fei followed Ten Fingers' gaze. He was staring at the room on the most left. Han Fei ignored the other children and headed to the room Ten Fingers glared at. He pushed open the door and was greeted by many white cardboard houses. "These things again?"

Compared to the cardboard houses on the surface, the ones here were more normal. 'The person Ten Fingers is looking for is here?' Han Fei opened the cardboard houses until he reached the corner. The place where the red cardboard house was sat a child who was thinner and smaller than the other children. He hugged his knees and curled up at the corner. He buried his head deep inside his knees. Seeing this child, the blood-red memory in Han Fei's mind surfaced. The child was similar to the young Han Fei. He curled up at the corner and gave no response to outside stimuli. Han Fei nudged the boy but the boy didn't respond. It was like he lived in a different world.

Han Fei tried many things but failed. Suddenly he remembered the special item he had gained after he finished the cardboard house game on the surface. Han Fei pulled out the white house from his inventory. The house was similar to the one from Han Fei's memory but the house in Han Fei's memory was red. Han Fei approached the boy with the white house and slowly lowered the white house over the boy. When the house had completely covered the boy, a young voice appeared from inside the house. "Who are you?"

"I should ask you that question. Why did you make a cardboard house similar to mine?"

"A house like yours?" The boy was confused.

"You dress like me. White shoes, white uniform, your textbook is also like mine, it has a white cover. The book tells the goodness of humanity and other heart-warming stories." When Han Fei said these things, he felt weird too.

“They wanted me to learn that because they said I am the most possible child to possess the most perfect personality but I don’t know what that is and I don’t want it. But they tell me that if I continue to study, I will own everything and all my dreams will come true. They told me another kid succeeded before me, is that you?” The boy’s voice came from the white house.

“What have they told you?”

“They said I might have a healing personality so they value me a lot. Everyone loved me then. But during the final test, I failed. I didn’t know why. They gave me a number, 024 and then they forgot about me. Did I do something wrong?”

“If there’s a party who is wrong, it’s them.” Han Fei wanted to know who ‘they’ were.

“Really? I thought I was the problem, eventually, even I started to hate myself. I feel no one really likes me and everyone hates and despises me. So I left.” The boy’s tone was rife with complicated emotions. “Then even I left myself. He joined with the other children. He ran around and left me at this corner.”

“You left yourself?” Han Fei’s eyes narrowed. He believed he was about to reach the core of the white shoes’ secret.

“I still remember that day clearly. The nurse and other children glared at me. As usual, I wanted to find a secluded corner to hide, hoping someone would come to find me. That day, the underground door was open. I had never been there before. Children were not allowed to go underground. But I was curious so I went in. I walked down the steps and pushed open a blood-red door. I saw a red orphanage, everything was red.

“I walked deeper and I heard conversations. The adults wanted to seal up the underground orphanage. Soon they left. I hid at the corner and didn’t dare to move. When I wanted to leave, the door was locked. No matter how hard I screamed, no one could hear me. I was in despair. I was so afraid, I hoped someone could notice me but I was trapped underground alone.”

The boy’s voice shuddered, he seemed to be crying.

“Then what happened?” Han Fei asked.

"I looked for other exits. I was very afraid, it was red everywhere. Then I found a white cardboard house inside one of the rooms and I went inside to hide. I didn't dare to move and cry. I hugged my knees and I shivered.

"After a long time, I saw my other self leave my body. He wore white shoes and talked to some kids I couldn't see. As he joined them, he moved away from me. I wanted to grab him but he pushed me away. He told me something that hurt me even today." The boy cried.

"What did he say?"

"He said, 'no one will come to find you, purity and innocence are the world's most useless things. You shall forever remain in the white house while I dye the world red for you'." After the boy in the white house said that the boy with the doll slowly revealed a smile.

"So you represent the Pure Hatred's purity and innocence? He has left his innocence at his own orphanage."

Chapter 523 Return of the Blood-red Night

"Pure innocence is something the cryptic world doesn't need, so the Pure Hatred has left you here. The orphanage, on the surface, is filled with horrible smells and resentment. All the kids have malicious intentions; the nurses are emotionless monsters; the rooms are filled with trash, and the kids play murder games daily. Underground, the orphanage is like heaven. All the good things are hidden here, surrounding you. You should be his anchor."

Han Fei looked at the white house. He was reminded of himself.

The orphanage deep inside his mind trapped many blood-red memories.

Han Fei could only remember ordinary things.

“All the good things?” The boy’s voice came from the white house. He disagreed with Han Fei. “If you are the only one in the world, even if you are surrounded by happiness, will you be happy?”

Han Fei felt like the boy was trying to get him to empathize with him. But Han Fei was already in the same situation as he was. The childhood memory was not happy, but it was not sad either. However, he still chose to walk towards the darkness to find the truth. False happiness was a mirage, like the painting on the wall of this orphanage, they looked pretty, but they were all fake.

“I think I grasp your idea now.” Han Fei knelt before the white house. “You hope that someone can come to find you, and I did; you wish to see the real world outside, and I can help you. I doing this because I want to tell you that we are not enemies. In a way, we should be best friends.”

The boy in the house didn’t reply. He seemed to be ruminating over what Han Fei had said.

“Due to their ‘cultivation’, someone who should have a happy childhood became twisted and introverted. They are the reason why you are the way you are and why you stay in the white house alone.” After Han Fei knew the white shoes was once an orphan at the orphanage, he didn’t feel that hostile against the child anymore.

“My tragedy is because of them?”

“Yes, come out. Don’t trap yourself inside the painting. The world outside has real scenery. I can bring you to go see it.” Han Fei looked at the white house. He had no idea what the boy was thinking, but he was confident he was not lying to the boy. If the boy were willing to walk out of his self-imposed isolation, Han Fei would be glad to help him find the light in the darkness.

The boy didn’t reply until the wall started to crack. Ten Fingers’ screams could be heard inside the room. The boy finally came to his decision.

“This orphanage is my final sanctuary. If I leave, all the darkness will surge into my body. There will be no more false happiness to blind my eyes. I will see the scariest and ugliest side of the world...” The boy’s voice trembled, “Am I really going to leave here?”

“Do you prefer to be trapped in manmade heaven or break away from the shackles? And come see what’s at the end of hell with me? I can’t guarantee that you’ll see salvation, but I know that salvation will not come if you stay here forever.” Han Fei persuaded. While he communicated with the boy, the white wall started to peel, and the building shook. Ten Fingers trapped inside the painting began to resist again.

“After I met you, I felt so close to you like I should become you.” The boy’s voice had changed like he had come to a decision. “To leave this place, the only way is to kill everyone other than myself. Every child, every teacher, every life here is a part of me. They are parts of my thoughts. Everyone has the same number—024. Only by killing all of them that all my consciousness will return, and I can leave this orphanage.”

“I have to kill everyone for you to leave?” Han Fei was startled.

“I am the only one here. The rest are manifestations of my thoughts. This is the only way because I know someone who has done this before. He then disappeared into the blood-red night.” The boy’s voice was innocent. “Do you think that’s too cruel? But if these random thoughts are allowed to escape and join with malice, they will turn into murderous monsters. If we leave them be, they will only kill more people.”

“I don’t think it’s cruel. It’s just...” Han Fei thought about it, and the memories in his mind were slowly dyed red. He seemed to have made this decision before. The person who disappeared into the blood-red night seemed to be Han Fei. Han Fei’s heart rocked hearing that. The laughter appeared in his ears. The blood-red memory fragment was moving the sea of memory.

“You’re the one who told me to choose to leave, right?” Han Fei was silent when the boy asked him. He looked at the white house and the pure, clean buildings around him. It felt like he was transported to the past. He was watching his young self from the perspective of an observer.

“What do you plan to do?”

“I will have my mother kill them. When I was trapped underground, only my mother stayed with me. She is my only family and she will always love me.” The boy said, and Han Fei heard the horrible sound of flesh being torn. He turned around, and the tattered doll had torn open its stomach. A knife and a pure white heart were hidden among the blackened cotton. It pierced through the boy’s chest without hesitation. The boy hugged the doll until the end. Even when he was killed, he smiled. “Mother...”

The boy's blood dripped on the white house. The first blood flower bloomed on the white house. At the same time, a trace of red appeared on the white heart inside the doll. Han Fei stood inside the room while the doll had raced out holding the knife. The screams echoed in his ears. Blood flowers bloomed on the white house. The boy planned to dye the house red. Everything was similar to how Han Fei remembered it. The feeling of his memory and reality overlapping dazed his mind.

The blood-red orphanage and the white orphanage shook together. The laughter had a firmer grip on Han Fei. "This is the Blood-red Night?"

Walking out of the room, Han Fei looked around. The pure white corridor was stained with blood. Blood flowed on the floor, the false happiness was shattered.

"Don't come near me, you monster!" Han Fei followed behind the doll. He saw a child in a white shirt trip and fall. The doll held the knife and slowly approached. The boy crawled on the ground and grabbed everything he could to throw at the doll. But the things did nothing to the doll. The doll was already wounded. It was used to all the pain.

"Monster! Go away!" The boy screamed with fear. The scream drilled into Han Fei's ears and into the blood-red orphanage. "Monster?" Han Fei inside the blood-red orphanage laughed madly like he had heard a joke. The corners of his lips tore open. Following that, the chain that bound around the orphanage tightened again.

The doll slowly approached. Without any hesitation, it plunged the knife into the boy's body. The white shirt was dyed red, the white shoes soaked into blood water. A blood flower blossomed at the white orphanage like Manjusaka swaying in the wind. Walking past the pool of blood, the doll knocked on the door of the entertainment room. It lost its patience and stabbed through the door.

The doll crawled into the entertainment room, holding the knife. Its heart was slowly turning red.

"Don't harm these kids!" The nurse shielded two kids behind her. She grabbed the wooden horse in the entertainment room and stared at the doll. The kids were crying, and the nurse was afraid. "Why are you doing this? We haven't harmed you! We didn't want to kill you! Many things that happened are accidents. You need to stop!" The nurse's voice overlapped with another voice inside Han Fei's mind. It was nasally and shrill, laced with fear. It was too similar, like Han Fei had experienced this incident

before. The chain of memory rattled. Han Fei, inside the blood-red memory, walked forward, and the doll walked into the entertainment room. Their eyes had no pity. The white heart was slowly dyed red.

Han Fei in the blood-red orphanage grabbed the front gate of the orphanage, and the doll in the entertainment room waved its knife.

“Run!” The nurse told the orphans to run while she grabbed the wooden horse to swing it at the doll. The knife cut on the wooden horse’s stomach. The carved marks are imprinted in Han Fei’s eyes. He had seen this in his memory before! The wooden horse’s belly in his memory was covered in knife marks!

Wooden splinters flew everywhere. The nurse only held on for a while before she was killed. Her blood flowed into the wooden horse, seeping in through the wounds. Han Fei’s hands raised. He reached towards the wooden horse. It was unclear if he wanted to stop the doll or grab the wooden horse from his memory.

All the children they encountered were killed. The faces entered Han Fei’s mind. His pupils shook, and the laughter in his mind slammed at his rationality like waves. The two memories that he recalled earlier only made Han Fei feel pain, but this scene awakened the despair in his mind. All the children and teachers at the orphanage were the manifestation of O24’s thoughts. If he wanted to leave this place, he needed to kill all of them to regain control of his body.

“Was I the same?”

A person was born with many emotions, but the Han Fei trapped inside the blood-red orphanage would only laugh. After he escaped his enclosure, would he kill the other emotions?

‘My personality is healing, so after my emotions are destroyed, there is a chance for them to be healed. Was the test for me to kill my emotions repeatedly? I lost my smile, and the man inside the blood-red orphanage doesn’t know anything but to smile, we....’ Han Fei wanted to parse the information, but his brain was dominated by laughter. The man in the blood-red orphanage grabbed the gate. The thing Han Fei saw instigated him, and he wanted to get out!

Before starting Perfect Life, Han Fei never thought he would face something like this. As the memory in his mind was dyed red, his firm constitution started to sway. The laughter rang in his ears. Han Fei could even smell the blood in the air. His memory was turning red!

Han Fei looked at the bodies on the ground. After the orphans were killed, their faces would blur, and the number on their clothes faded away. Perhaps it was an illusion, but the orphans took on his face in Han Fei's eyes. For a moment, it felt like the doll was not butchering O24's thoughts but Han Fei at different ages.

"Save us! We don't want to die!" The last children in the underground orphanage ran to Han Fei. His eyes were filled with tears. Seeing how helpless the child was, Han Fei's hands subconsciously went to guard him. There was no reason. He was merely following his instinct. But his hands stopped. The maddening laughter shot through his soul. It carried an indescribable despair, and it affected Han Fei's action. Suppressing it, when Han Fei finally held the orphan, the knife had already pierced through his body. Blood gushed out of his heart. The boy looked right at Han Fei. His eyes were brimming with an emotion Han Fei was very familiar with—despair.

This time Han Fei saw it clearly. The boy's body temperature dropped as his face became more like Han Fei. The body became a mirror, reflecting Han Fei's forgotten past. He saw his murdered self on the dead boy. Perhaps it was just a wandering thought, but he had his own emotion. The blood splattered on Han Fei. The warm, sticky blood breathed of life, but death was close behind when it appeared. Han Fei hugged the body and looked around. The laughter and Han Fei's sight overlapped. When the white orphanage was dyed red, the scene that they saw was the same.

The blood dripped on the grass and it dirtied the painted grass. As the slaughter continued, the wall on the orphanage had more cracks. Ten Fingers found the opportunity. He tore out the human skulls from his body and shoved the pleading heads into the black flame of hatred. "When I'm out of here, all of you will die!" The black flame burned, and the painting contorted. The figure of Ten Fingers became clearer. He slowly walked out of the painting.

Hatred weaved together with murderous intent. Ten Fingers burned his way out using a black flame. The painting around him changed. The paintings became Life Threads. They bound around Ten Fingers, trying to drag him back into the painting. "It should take some time for you to rush here from the hospital. You have lost your chance."

Ten Fingers plunged his arms into the black flame. He used his body to keep the fire burning. The flame of hatred burned brighter. When the fire burned to the maximum, Ten Fingers had it explode!

The black fire burned away the false painting, and the underground orphanage revealed its actual image. The cracks ran on the wall. The white walls were dyed red. The black flame spread on the ceiling. Blood dripped. It was like black flowers wilting in bloody rain.

“The Blood-red Night!” Seeing this, many memories that didn’t belong to Han Fei appeared in his mind. Unfamiliar faces appeared, and they died in horrible methods. Han Fei couldn’t stand upright, he remaining rationality said—only the people with the most profound despair can possess the black box.

His brain was consumed by red. The blood-red orphanage was surfacing. Han Fei’s kind, evil souls and childhood memory was trying to pin it down with the chains. They supported Han Fei’s personality. Kindness helped Han Fei learn how to love and forgive; Evil helped Han Fei be more decisive and taught him self-preservation; childhood memory helped Han Fei to chase after light and happiness.

These 3 souls could help Han Fei suppress the laughter deep inside his mind, but that day, when the Blood-red Night appeared before Han Fei, the memory buried deep inside his mind was loosened. The despair that he had forgotten overflowed.

“Han Fei!” The urn opened, and the ghosts surrounded Han Fei. The scary ghosts looked at Han Fei with concern.

“So you people are here too.” Ten Fingers closed his eyes as if to sense his surroundings. When he was sure there was no Pure Hatred around, he opened his eyes. And they were filled with malice.

“I’d advise you to leave.” Lee Zai told Ten Fingers. “You’re injured at the mall and lost half of your hatred; when you escaped to this place, your hatred was absorbed by the orphanage; when you tried to escape from the painting, you exhausted your black flame. You are now no different from a Top Linger Spirit.”

Ten Fingers was wounded, but he was still a Pure Hatred. Lee Zai wanted to warn Ten Fingers off, but he underestimated Ten Fingers’ cunningness.

“You’re right. Temporarily, without the black flame, I am not different from a slightly powerful Linger Spirit, but even so, I can easily kill all of you.” Ten Fingers’ eyes glowed with greed. He looked at the cardboard house, which was dyed red. “I will eat all of you.” The ugly face lit up with a gnarly smile. The two skulls on Ten Fingers shattered, and two uneven arms grew out of his shoulders. But that was just

the beginning. The human skulls on Ten Fingers started to dissolve, and more things grew out of the man. The extra limbs wrapped him into a meatball. "I will imprint all of you on my chest, so you'll have to serve me forever!"

Ten Fingers' expanded. The black flame at his heart was almost extinguished, but even the tiny bit of hatred could damage Lingering Spirits significantly. No matter how hard they tried, the tenants at Ziggurat couldn't harm Ten Fingers. But once they were touched by Ten Fingers, they would lose a large chunk of their soul. To make things worse, Ten Fingers had powerful recovery ability. He consumed the torn soul and used it to heal his injury.

"Stop him!" All the neighbors guarded Han Fei. Lee Zai and Weep used their power to influence Ten Fingers, but there was a giant gap between Lingering Spirit and Pure Hatred. Their abilities had no influence on Ten Fingers.

"Xu Qin, bring Han Fei and leave, he's not doing so well!" The neighbors sacrificed themselves to carve out a path for Han Fei. But Ten Fingers knew Han Fei was the core. Plus, he had a history with Han Fei. Be it in the altar world or the cryptic world, Han Fei had ruined his plan. If Ten Fingers had to choose one person to kill, it was Han Fei.

"Taking over your body will help me regain the altar!" The large body charged at Han Fei. He imbued his remaining hatred inside one of his arms. Normal Lingering Spirit would be vanquished with one hit if he swung that arm. Seeing this, Xu Qin pushed Han Fei away. Her table knives oozed with the deepest curse.

"Move out of the way!" Ten Finger's arm grabbed Xu Qin. The arm with the hatred damaged Xu Qin. The curses couldn't harm Pure Hatred. Xu Qin was slammed to the ground. The blood with curses turned Xu Qin's lips red. She stared at Ten Fingers as she plunged the table knives into her body. "I've been meaning to taste Pure Hatred."

The curse with the strangest pattern surfaced on Xu Qin's body. When the last table knife was inserted, Xu Qin's rationality was consumed by curses. When the hundreds of curses bound together, even Ten Fingers had to turn around.

"Bring Han Fei away!" Xu Qin's voice echoed in the underground orphanage. Han Fei stood in the blood rain. This red orphanage was similar to the Blood-red Night in his mind, but it was also different. On that despairing night, he was alone. He could only hear his own voice. But on this night, many people were waiting for him.

The laughter bounced around in his mind. Han Fei's lips curled upwards. He had no idea why he had turned to murder then, but Han Fei understood why he needed to kill now. The blood-red memories boiled as they tried to consume him. He struggled. He saw Xu Qin whose body was pierced through by the knives; Drake, who charged ahead risking being eliminated; Weep, who controlled despair as a weapon.

"The Blood-red Night will not reappear." Slammed by endless blood-red memories and despair, Han Fei made a decision.

The Evil Soul who held onto the chain of memory understood. His evil gaze shone with excitement. "Since we're part of the same soul, why should we rely on chains?"

With the signal from Han Fei, the Evil Soul let go. The Kind Soul and the childhood memory were slammed by the chains. Han Fei's mind dissolved into the red sea. Extremely crazy laughter came out of Han Fei's mind. The blood-red figure in the orphanage looked in a specific direction. His face was turning clear.

At the same time, Han Fei revealed an exaggerated smile. When his eyes opened again, there was no kindness or despair in his eyes anymore.

Chapter 524 Walk Out

There was a black fire in the sky and red rain before his eyes. Lingering Spirits and Pure Hatred battled it out. The world was like a kaleidoscope, fragmented and fractured like it could disappear at any moment. The emotionless eyes took in everything. The blood slid down his forehead to land on the orphanage's cracked floor. Han Fei smiled. Every other sound was noise. He looked at the bloody orphanage and the ghosts who sacrificed themselves for a human, and he raised his left hand. The fingertips cut through the skin, and the fingers entered the flesh. Han Fei watched as warm blood flowed out of the blood vessels, and the smile on his face grew more prominent.

"Han Fei, get over here!"

"Building manager? I'll bring you out of here!"

“Don’t stay there!”

The voices entered his ears, but Han Fei couldn’t hear anything but the laughter. His fingers gripped, and the blood flowed into the ghost tattoo. Nine Lives opened its eyes, but it was more ferocious than before. Blood dripped, and the black anaconda very astutely crawled into the ghost tattoo. As its body joined with the ghost tattoo, the shadow of a giant snake with blood scales appeared behind Han Fei. Han Fei laughed harder as his Life Points fell. The exaggerated laughter was about to tear his lips apart. The other neighbors noticed the strange way Han Fei was acting. They wanted to get close, but their instinct told them to fall back. The man before them was not Han Fei.

The fingers shoved into the chest. Han Fei’s Life Points rapidly fell. 80, 50, 30 percent! When the Life Points dropped to 5 percent, Han Fei removed his fingers from his heart. The talent of Midnight Butcher was activated. Han Fei stood where he was as he looked at his bloody fingers as he waited for the blood to drip down. Then the bloody hands grabbed Rest in Peace!

The blood dripped down the hilt. Endless voices came from the blade. All the humanity resisted. The blade shook, they wanted to escape, but they couldn’t. Staring at the trembling hilt, Han Fei laughed madly. The blade made from humanity was dyed red. All the goodness was turned red. The glowing knife was bleeding!

The warm light of the blade disappeared. The blade built on humanity and goodness surfaced with wailing souls. The monsters killed by Rest in Peace appeared. A blue butterfly with a strange pattern tried to fly away, but Han Fei squished it with one hand. The dust on the butterfly’s wings fell on the other ghosts. Rest in Peace turned entirely red. The blinding blade appeared to possess the ability to cut through the world’s unfairness and sin. Han Fei’s gaze wandered around the orphanage before it fell on Ten Fingers. He used the power of Art Appraisal. Han Fei stared at a face on the back of Ten Fingers’ heart. He retreated half a step and gripped the blade with both hands.

“Speed up.” Han Fei used Cursed Words on himself. The curse crawled on his body. They encased into his flesh like black chains. “Speed up.” The curse covered all of his body, but he didn’t mind. His laugh grew wilder. “Speed up.” The ghost tattoo and curse mixed together. The words with the curse of death were carved into his body. The flesh under his skin was cursed. “Speed up!” When he used the ability for the 4th time, Han Fei’s skin cracked. The giant snake behind him struggled.

Indescribable pain shot through the body. When his Life Points was only 3 percent, Han Fei chuckled loudly. “Speed up!” Ghost tattoo and the curse collapsed, and Han Fei chose this moment to move

towards Ten Fingers. There was no fear in the human's eyes as he moved towards the Pure Hatred. There was only madness. The legs raised, and Han Fei was already beside Ten Fingers when they fell!

No one realized anything, not even Ten Fingers, who was fighting with Xu Qin. He did notice the strange behavior of Han Fei, but he believed he had control of everything. Han Fei was already behind him when he realized things were not right. The face on the back of his heart looked on with fear. He didn't have the time to block with hatred, and his eyes were already pouring red.

At that moment, the Blood-red Night descended in Ten Fingers' eyes. The blade pierced through Ten Fingers' face and Ten Fingers' Pure Hatred heart. When Ten Fingers felt the seed of the black flame being destroyed, he only realized what had happened. He opened his eyes, and there was a figure standing in the blood-red night. His eyes saw the man, but he had already lost the ability to memorize the man. All the screaming souls entered Ten Fingers' body. The giant body made from human skulls collapsed. The ground shook, and all the voices disappeared. Many eyes turned to Han Fei. A living human had just vanquished a Pure Hatred. He laughed madly like he was mocking this world covered in darkness.

"Building manager?" Drake wanted to approach, but he was stopped by Lee Zai.

"Don't go near him first. Lee Zai was shocked. He couldn't imagine that it would be Han Fei who killed Ten Fingers! He is not acting right!"

The neighbors surrounded him, but no one got close to him. While everyone was focusing on Han Fei, Xu Qin crawled up from the ruin of the underground orphanage. Hundreds of curses bound around her. Rationality was gone from her eyes. Every curse was torturing her, empowering her!

The pressure crashed at them. Weep at the back of the group pulled on Lee Zai and Drake's clothes. Lee Zai was shocked when he turned around. "What to do? Even the both of us can't defeat her!"

The curses exploded on Xu Qin. Her sole purpose in life was to consume more curses and spread those curses. The neighbors tried to stop her, but they were injured from the fight with Ten Fingers. All they could do was try to stop Xu Qin from getting close to Han Fei. But to their surprise, even after she lost her rationality, Xu Qin still only had her eyes on Han Fei. Dragging her curses, she moved towards Han Fei. Looking at the Curse Amalgamation, Han Fei laughed and walked towards her with Rest in Peace.

1 step, 2 steps, when he wanted to take the 3rd step, something within him awakened. The smile on his face became more regular, and something was changing in his eyes. Han Fei stopped, but Xu Qin didn't. The curses were about to arrive, Han Fei tried to raise Rest in Peace. The blood-red knife became the point of contention for both parties. The red on the blade receded. Then the souls of kindness and humanity reached out of the blade to hold Han Fei's hands. The arm that held the blade lowered. The smile on Han Fei's lightened and then finally disappeared. Han Fei collapsed to the side. The black shadow slithered out from behind Han Fei. The anaconda that had become smaller joined the souls from Rest in Peace to hold up Han Fei. Different Blood-red Nights and different results.

Han Fei's eyes returned to normal. He would feel fear and despair, but no matter what, his eyes would carry kindness and warmth, and most importantly, hope. He took out a pig's heart and tossed it into his mouth. When Han Fei lifted his head, Xu Qin was already beside him. Each curse could kill Han Fei, but Han Fei didn't feel fear.

When the curses approached Han Fei, they would skirt around him. Xu Qin struggled as she tried to control the curses. She couldn't retain her full rationality, but she wouldn't let her curses harm this man before him. Out of trust, Han Fei reached for the table knife on Xu Qin's chest. The knife's hilt was covered by a human skin doily. This knife had both of their memories.

Slowly removing the knife, Han Fei's eyes filled with apology. Standing among the curses, he slowly helped Xu Qin find her rationality. Only he could do something like this. When the last table knife was removed, Xu Qin collapsed weakly. Han Fei quickly took out the meat from his inventory. They sat on Ten Fingers' carcass and consumed all the meat from Han Fei's inventory. The other neighbors didn't disturb them.

"Are the meat that delicious?" Weep asked.

"It depends on who you have it with." Lee Zai his head. "You're still young to understand these."

"Sometimes I will feel alone, but when I stand beside Ying Yue, I'll feel less lonely. Is that the same?" Weep wanted to know the answer, but Lee Zai was in no mood to answer him. "Why do you people from Building 1 keep coming to annoy me? There is nothing I hate more than a happy ending." Lee Zai glared at Weep. "The two of you are younger than 12 years old when added together, so you shouldn't play together too often. When a boy plays too often with a girl, he'll turn into a girl."

Drake pulled Lee Zai along and walked towards Han Fei. "Boss, are you alright? Just now, the presence on you changed. It was like you were a different person altogether..."

“It’s hard to explain. When Xu Qin and I recover, we need to leave as soon as possible.” Han Fei knew Drake was only worried about him, but there were certain things that he couldn’t say.

When his neighbors fought with Ten Fingers, the blood-red orphanage was triggered. It wanted to dominate Han Fei’s mind to turn it all red. Han Fei found it hard to resist because the situation was not going well for them. Therefore, he joined forces with his Evil Soul to reveal the laughter. Compared to being killed by Ten Fingers, it was better to be controlled by the Laughter. However, Han Fei still underestimated the laughter. The laughter didn’t even leave the Blood-red Orphanage. After the chain of memory was released, the blood-red orphanage surfaced to the top of Han Fei’s memory. The laughter in the orphanage only glanced at Han Fei, and their eyes were joined together. In other words, the current Han Fei couldn’t even overcome a gaze from the laughter.

When Han Fei lost control, the Laughter was using Han Fei’s body. Typically, it would be hard for Han Fei to regain control of his body, but thankfully the humanity in Rest in Peace was on Han Fei’s side. Everyone worked to control the laughter’s gaze. The Evil, Kind Souls and childhood memory picked up the chain of memory again.

“Rest in Peace is my most important item. It can help me kill the enemy and suppress the laughter. I need to find ways to strengthen it, to find more people to join me!” Han Fei could finally walk again after sharing all the meat with Xu Qin. The other neighbors shared the things left behind by Ten Fingers, including the stuff he stole from Midnight Mall and the black seed of hatred.

Drake carried Han Fei deep into the orphanage. They pushed open the different doors. They passed through the old cardboard houses and reached the innermost corner.

“The white house has been fully dyed red. Everyone at the orphanage has been killed by the doll. Are you here?” Han Fei shouted, but no one answered. He had Drake pick up the red house, and there was nothing inside. “The boy has escaped?”

Han Fei didn’t stay underground. After his neighbors digested Ten Fingers, they immediately returned to the surface. The familiar stink entered the nostrils. The eerie orphanage was covered in blood. At the center of the blood pool was a large doll.

"I chose to walk out." The doll turned to look at Han Fei. Underneath the doll was a thin boy, he looked just like the boy from Seaglass Cat's picture. The boy removed the doll outfit and walked out. He wore a pair of white shoes that couldn't be dyed red by blood. He wore a uniform with the number 024.

"Notification for Player 0000! You've completed Grade E Normal Mission, the White Orphanage, you've successfully lit up the unique locale at the plastic surgery hospital zone.

"You found the pure white soul deep inside the black building. You will gain his friendship and help. Friendliness level with 024 increases by 10!

"For each game that you completed inside the orphanage, the friendliness level increases by another 3!

"Notification for Player 0000! Since you've completed the Grade E Mission, White Orphanage over the required limit, you've obtained the extra reward—Special building White Orphanage."

Chapter 525 First Pure Hatred Neighbor

After the Midnight Mall, Han Fei gained another unique building, White Orphanage. Han Fei temporarily had no idea what kind of extraordinary power the building had, and he had no time to explore because the building was on the hospital territory. Drake carried Han Fei to approach the boy. The neighbors joined them. The group of cute adults surrounded the kid. "Come with us. We'll show you the outside world." Han Fei stared at the boy. He represented the white shoes' innocence, so in a word, a part of the white shoes. The boy held his chest. The white heart hidden in the doll had been dyed red. The dead children had been reborn on the boy.

"The bad guys wanted to cultivate you into the next me, but they are destined to fail because you are unique. You have your own personality. You are you." Han Fei extended his hand to the boy. "Let me help you find you."

024 had a high friendliness level with Han Fei. After some hesitation, he took Han Fei's hand. At that moment, Han Fei used Soul-depth Touch. Han Fei could not find any malice in the boy. He only felt the boy's fear of the past and confusion about the future. The boy's soul was flawlessly white. This was extremely rare in the cryptic world.

“Let’s prepare to leave.” The White Orphanage had been turned into a ruin. Han Fei planned to rebuild the place after taking down the hospital zone. Han Fei did not stay. The neighbors led Han Fei and 024 to race towards Midnight Mall. After they left the orphanage, Han Fei, who became its new owner, felt something. He turned to look at the center of the ruin. On a broken wall, the Life Threads on the ground gathered. They painted the shape of a man on the wall. The man held a paint bucket filled with blood and Yin energy, and Han Fei met his gaze. The painter’s mouth opened like he was trying to say something. His hand drew a window on the cracked wall. Outside the window was beautiful scenery with blue sky, grass, running animals, and a boy who only knew how to smile. The painter did not give chase. Han Fei did not stay and raced back to the mall. When they arrived at the mall, Mirror God and Zhuang Wen appeared simultaneously. However, they were too late. Ten Fingers was already dead.

“How did you manage to it? Ten Fingers has stolen the most important merchandise and possesses the black flame of hatred. How did you manage to kill him?” Mirror God was shocked. The neighbors did not know how to explain. They turned to Han Fei and Xu Qin. “Ten Fingers was trapped by the Pure Hatred from the hospital. We got lucky.” Han Fei was humble. After all, his Laughter killed Ten Fingers and not him. The Laughter had not left the blood-red orphanage, but even just taking over Han Fei’s body, he could unleash unimaginable damage. Han Fei also learned a lot from this experience. For example, he learned how to lower his Life Points to take advantage of Midnight Butcher’s talent and use Art Appraisal to focus on the enemy’s weaknesses. Han Fei could pose a threat to a Top Lingering Spirit. However, Han Fei still needed someone to distract the enemy because he only had one chance to strike. If he failed to kill the enemy, a brush from the enemy and Han Fei would die. The Laughter was crazy and confident. He charged into battle with three Life Points. It was hard to imagine an average person having that courage.

“You even brought back Ten Fingers’ Heart of Hatred? This is perfect!” Mirror God dug out a black heart from Ten Fingers’ rotting body. The heart was fractured. Mirror God took a lot of effort to piece them back together. When Mirror God joined the black fragments together, a weak black flame ignited. “This is the last bit of black flame of Ten Fingers. When this flame is extinguished, Ten Fingers is truly dead.” Mirror God handed the black flame to Zhuang Wen. “This is a great find. You are one step away from becoming a Pure Hatred. This might help you.” Zhuang Wen failed to evolve into a Pure Hatred and became a monster. Han Fei then used the wish from the altar inheritance mission to heal her. Even though the black flame of a Pure Hatred was precious, not everyone could use it. If there was too much difference in power, the person might be consumed by Ten Fingers. No one fought for the black flame with Zhuang Ren. The girl squished Ten Fingers’ black heart, and she swallowed it when the flame was the strongest.

“We shouldn’t disturb her.” The neighbors carried Ten Fingers’ carcass into the mall’s warehouse. After the black flame was taken, Ten Fingers’ body rapidly decayed. The despair on him was taken by Weep, while his Yin energy was shared by the rest. Mirror God also found a few missing merchandise on the carcass. “Han Fei, these are the most important merchandise at the mall. See if you can use them.” Mirror God placed the bloody items before Han Fei. Han Fei touched them one by one.

“Coat of Desire (Grade E Unique Item): This is a garment made from the world’s desire. When you put this coat on, all the eyes looking at you would be dominated by greed, and they wouldn’t see the real you.

“Tears of a Clown (Grade E Unique Item): The required item to update into the hidden profession, Cackling Clown. It can be used at the hidden map, Lost Theme Park.

“Midnight Mall’s Bill (Grade E Unique Item): Can only be used by the manager of the Midnight Mall. Every Animated Regret, Lingered Spirit, and Pure Hatred which had been turned into merchandise will appear on the bill. Touching their name will reveal to you their general location. Warning! This book of bills is the connection between the manager of the Midnight Mall and its merchandise. Please do not lose this.

“The Meat of Unmentionable’s Heart (Grade D Ingredient): ????”

Han Fei knew his trip was worth it when he saw the four items.

“The Coat of Desire can be given to Little Eight so she can leave Happiness Neighborhood. I’m about Level 20 soon. It’ll unlock a new hidden profession. Cackling Clown sounds interesting, at least better than Lapidarist.” Looking through the bills, Han Fei found Weep and the red dress’ names. He touched the red dress’ name and sensed that she was around the plastic surgery hospital. “As long as she is fine.”

Finally, Han Fei turned to the strange meat. It was called meat, but it felt more like a rock. “This is a Grade D Ingredient?” Han Fei had no idea what the meat was for, so he kept it for now. After putting away all the items, Han Fei turned to his neighbors. They had shared Ten Fingers until there was not even dust was left.

“You all better return to the Ziggurat. Something about this boy is not right. If you stay outside the mist for too long, you might attract the wrong thing.” Mirror God warned. “Plus, how did you manage to come back with more people every time?”

“He is the innocence of a Pure Hatred at the hospital. I wish to use him to bridge communication with the Pure Hatred.”

“Don’t have too much hope. Each Pure Hatred is dominated by intense hatred. They will not be shaken easily.” Mirror God stared at 024 for a long time. The scale in his right eye moved as if weighing the weight of 024’s soul.

“I will be careful.” Han Fei talked some more with Mirror God. When he prepared to leave, immense pressure came from the mall’s roof. As the manager, Han Fei immediately sensed something was wrong. Everyone walked out of the mall and looked up. Zhuang Wen was at the top. Worried that she might lose control and destroy the mall, Zhuang Wen chose to make her final breakthrough on the roof. Shrieking screams echoed from the black flame. Zhuang Wen tossed all her memory fragments into the black flame. Feeding on hatred and resentment, a black flame erupted from Zhuang Wen’s chest. Ten Fingers’ hatred fought with Zhuang Wen’s hatred. Curses appeared under Zhuang Wen’s skin. All her memories and past burned in the black flame. Zhuang Wen’s soul was rapidly changing. In the city forever shrouded in darkness, the black flame on Zhuang Wen melted into the night sky. She struggled and screamed in the black flame, tormented by the deepest pain and despair, but she did not surrender.

The spine-chilling wails pierced through the night. The resentment in Zhuang Wen’s heart morphed into hatred. Her cold heart started to beat again. The heart pounded, and the black flame flickered. The past was torn apart, and the endless hatred pierced through destiny like a knife. The ruined soul was reborn. The presence of Zhuang Wen was completely different from before. She looked down the endless night and leaped down. Her body was wreathed in the black flame.

The flowing black flame carried intense hatred and possessed a strong death curse.

Zhuang Wen landed on the ground, and she pulled back her black flame. “Notification for Player 0000! Friendliness level with Pure Hatred, Zhuang Wen increases by 10. Congratulation for gaining the friendliness of your first Pure Hatred!”

After consuming Ten Fingers’ black flame, Zhuang Wen became a real Pure Hatred. Due to various reasons, she was more substantial than most Pure Hatred. The neighbors didn’t dare to get too close to Zhuang Wen. Zhuang Wen felt very dangerous to them, like they’d be killed if they wandered too close.

Taking a deep breath, Han Fei was the first to walk over. He saw Zhuang Wen slowly open her eyes. He smiled and greeted her like usual. Hatred was wrapped inside the black flame. Zhuang Wen tried her best to control her hatred, but the people around her still felt a lot of pressure. Han Fei finally understood why when a Pure Hatred entered a new zone, the other Pure Hatreds would immediately notice it. The presence of Pure Hatreds couldn’t be reined in at all. The hatred was too conspicuous.

“Finally, the Ziggurat has a new Pure Hatred.” Han Fei sighed in relief. As the Ziggurat’s new manager, he knew how dangerous the situation was. Mirror God was only as strong as a Pure Hatred inside the mall. Ziggurat did not have a real Pure Hatred. If the 3 Pure Hatreds from the hospital forced an entry, the tenants at Ziggurat would not stand a chance.

“We should prepare to leave.”

Han Fei led everyone back to Ziggurat. When they passed by the hospital, Han Fei handed the Coat of Desire to Zhuang Wen. After multiple tries, Han Fei’s eyes shone. The Coat of Desire could completely cover up Zhuang Wen’s hatred. Zhuang Wen could enter the hospital zone without being discovered with the coat on. “With this coat, after Big Sin suppresses the Unmentionable’s curse, I’m going to give the hospital a surprise.”

The tenants at the Ziggurat consumed the items from the mall to recover and strengthen themselves.

Han Fei led 024 and his neighbors back to Happiness Neighborhood. Han Fei had Little Eight try on the coat. The coat could hide their presence when the 8 victims were still rational. “Killing Ten Fingers has brought more rewards than I can possibly envision. Each Pure Hatred is a treasure trove!”

Han Fei turned to 024. He sat down before the boy. “Child, what else do you know about that orphanage? Can you remember the faces or names of the other orphans?”

Han Fei wanted the white shoes to join them, but he knew it couldn’t be rushed. Han Fei asked 024 other questions to help the boy relax. “I’ve forgotten many things, but I do remember the faces of 2 people. One is my best friend, and the other is my biggest bully. They are respectively 019 and 030.” The boy tried hard to think. “019 knows many things, he is very handsome, and his dream is to be an actor. 030 is very naughty. He derives joy from bullying others. No one can stand up to him because he is larger than most of us. He likes to force others to do things against their will. His dream is to rob a bank.”

The boy described 019 and 030 to Han Fei. Han Fei memorized them and planned to search for them when he logged off the game.

Chapter 526 Second Teammate

"019 has a performative personality, but I'm not sure about 030." 024 was very innocent. He answered anything Han Fei asked. After gaining valuable information, Han Fei left the cryptic world. His mind and body were exhausted after being controlled by Laughter. It was a miracle he had survived until now. Han Fei ate a few more pig's hearts before finding Xu Qin. He confirmed Xu Qin was also recovering before he logged out.

The blood froze the city. Han Fei noticed with shock that he took longer logging out of the game. He looked at the blood-red figure down the horizon, and his heart pounded nervously. 'Why is this happening? Normally, it won't be so difficult to leave the game.'

Han Fei eventually detached from the blood-red city. Thankfully he was not seen by the Unmentionable.

Han Fei opened his eyes, and the pain came from the back of his head. Han Fei gritted his teeth. The pain made it so that he could not sit up. He could not even remove his gaming helmet. 'This is so painful!' After experiencing the terrors in the cryptic world, Han Fei assumed he had already gotten used to pain, but the pain that came from the back of his mind was impossible to bear. He lay there for a long time before the pain receded. Han Fei used the last of his energy to remove the gaming helmet, and then he slept inside the gaming hub. When Laughter controlled his body, he drained Han Fei's potential and spirit.

Han Fei fainted, and he woke up much later. There was still pain from the back of his head, and his body was fatigued. 'Looks like I can't allow Laughter to come out so often. He has clarified for me my limitation. I will need a long recovery period after challenging that limitation.' Han Fei's body collapsed after killing Ten Fingers in the cryptic world. He could not even move. He had to rely on Drake to carry him.

Han Fei crawled out of the gaming hub, opened the fridge, and swallowed canned meat. The rush from eating balanced out the pain in his mind. Han Fei leaned against the fridge and watched the meat in his hands. "Looks like I'll be stuck with meat for the rest of my life. Thankfully, I've run into Xu Qin and have various delicious meats in the cryptic world. Even though Xu Qin might curse them, they are like filled cookies. The different curses are like endless surprises."

Han Fei stood up and took out his phone to look. He had plenty of unread messages and unanswered calls. After the movie festival, more people found him. Han Fei scanned through them and decided he should go and find Bai Xian. Bai Xian had a hard time losing the award, he thought about entering Perfect Life to relax, but an accident happened. Not everyone could survive that impact.

'If my prediction is right, Bai Xian's acting skill will have a breakthrough if he survived this.' Han Fei put on a hat and left his room. When he exited his rental, Han Fei felt the atmosphere in his neighborhood was not right, so he reached to grab the nunchucks in his sleeves. Han Fei continued to move forward without a change to his facial expression. When he approached the neighborhood entrance, two casually-dressed men approached him. They didn't come close to Han Fei, but they guarded Han Fei.

'Plainclothes?' Han Fei slowed down. Once he exited the neighborhood, he was ambushed by the wall of cameras. The group of reporters waited at the neighborhood entrance. There were neighbors from the old city mixed among them too.

"Han Fei, do you have any comments after winning the best male supporting actor? Between Bai Cha and yourself, who do you think is a better actor?"

"The internet has been comparing you to the other young actors, but an A-lister said your acting skill has surpassed the other young actors. What do you think?"

"What is your opinion regarding Bai Cha's latest statement on the internet? He has made you his biggest rival. He has Deep Space Entertainment behind him, but I heard you have not joined any agency, so do you have the confidence to compete with him?" People were waiting to hear Han Fei's answer. As the youngest winner of the best male supporting actor, Han Fei's popularity was the highest among the C-list actors. As long as he continued to release good movies and dramas, he could get into the B-list actors within the year.

Han Fei was quite nervous facing the gauntlet of cameras. He pushed the nunchucks deeper into his sleeve. If the media captured the picture of him holding the weapon, who knew what they would say?

"I have not joined any agency, and I do not intend to compete with other actors because acting is a hobby for me." Han Fei was probably the first to be interviewed while holding a nunchuck. "I need to thank everyone for their validation. I hope you'll be excited about my next project."

The reporters could not find Han Fei at the venue yesterday night, so they came to storm him at his rental. Han Fei and the two plainclothes were troubled.

"How do you normally train your acting skill? How do you explain your unique presence?"

“Do you have another actor whom you learn from? We have pictures of you walking the red carpet with Xia Yilan. What is your relationship with her?” The reporters bombarded Han Fei with questions, making his headache even worse. Han Fei didn’t know how to answer, for example, his relationship with Xia Yilan. Yes, he valued Xia Yilan and planned to send her back for treatment, but he couldn’t tell that to the reporters. Even Han Fei, who had to face endless ghosts every day, had trouble dealing with the reporters. He tried his best to answer while reaching into his pocket to dial a number. About ten minutes later, a police cruiser arrived. Han Fei smiled brightly when he heard the siren. “I’m sorry, I have something else to do.” Han Fei apologized as he squeezed through the crowd before crawling into the police car. If another celebrity were seen crawling into a police car, it would be big news, but for Han Fei, this was perfectly normal. The reporters surrounded the cruiser. Han Fei had a professional smile as he urged Li Xue to drive away.

The cruiser drove down the road. The officer who was in the driver’s seat and Li Xue in the passenger’s seat finally grasped the horrifying tenacity of these reporters. “Han Fei, you’re so famous now?”

“The fame is fake. They will follow whoever is popular. I believe my popularity will last for 1 or 2 more days.” Han Fei knew the situation very well.

“How about you move to another place? Currently, your neighborhood is crawling with reporters. We are afraid that the Butterfly might be hidden among them.” Li Xue was worried about Han Fei.

“All the more reason that I shouldn’t move. This is the perfect chance to capture Butterfly. If he made a move, he would be captured.” Han Fei said.

“I don’t know how you manage to do this. You are more courageous than most young cops I’ve met. But you need to be careful too.” The driving officer said, “The law enforcement will have a big loss if something happened to you.”

Han Fei shook his head with embarrassment. He should be the actor who assisted the police the most in history. “By the way, how is the man I sent to the station yesterday? Is he awake?”

“We have sent that man to the hospital. He comes from an interesting background. He is not registered in the citizenry database, so he is most likely a fugitive on the run.” Li Xue took out her phone. She could look at the four cameras that stared at Ugly Scar at the hospital.

“He used to be a manager at Immortal Pharma. When you investigate him, do not reveal his identity because he might be carrying Immortal Pharma’s deepest secret.” Han Fei trusted Xin Lu police and told them about Ugly Scar.

“Don’t worry. My teacher has taken over this case. He is very interested in the criminals that you caught.” Li Xue’s teacher was a legend among law enforcement. He fought with Butterfly a decade ago. Along the way, he had uncovered many truths.

The police car drove Han Fei to the smart city. During the journey, Han Fei asked Li Xue to help him find 019 and 030. The police were standing on Han Fei’s side as they peeled back the dark history of Immortal Pharma.

Li Xue dropped Han Fei off at Bai Xian’s neighborhood. Han Fei completed the Id identification, took the voice-activated elevator, and arrived at Bai Xian’s place. Han Fei waited for a long time before the door opened. A haggard Bai Xian appeared at the door. He looked similar to Han Fei. He held his head and looked like he was hungover.

“Brother Bai, did you get online into Perfect Life yesterday night?” Han Fei questioned.

Bai Xian rubbed his head. He thought about it seriously. “I am not sure. I think I have, but maybe I have not. My mind is cluttered. It felt like I was in a nightmare, but when I woke up, I was already kicked out of the game.” Han Fei smiled sadly. Bai Xian’s condition was worse than Huang Yin’s.

“What did you dream about?”

“You will not believe me.” Bai Xian looked at Han Fei seriously. “But I saw the God of Death.”

“Oh?”

“It’s real.” Bai Xian looked at Han Fei. “The man wears a beast mask, and his size... is about the same as you, the golden proportion. He eats fresh human hearts, can control ghosts, and most importantly, he is immortal. Even after a monster about 10 meters large crashed into him, he could still run around covered in blood.”

“That scary?”

“I’ve already picked the least scary part to tell you. You can’t imagine the horror without experiencing it yourself.” Bai Xian’s hands were shaking. He walked to the wine cupboard. “What do you want to drink?”

“Just water will be fine.” Han Fei had been observing Bai Xian since he entered the door. The incident from the night before clearly had left a considerable impact on Bai Xian. The man was now in a state between dream and reality. Bai Xian soon returned holding a glass of plain water and white wine. “Brother Bai, are you sure you should be drinking?”

“I need the alcohol to numb myself. Plus, I have no schedule recently.” Bai Xian sat across from Han Fei. When he planned to throw down the wine, Han Fei stopped him. “It’ll be fine. I have a good tolerance for alcohol, which actor doesn’t?” Bai Xian forced a joke. He finished the wine, and his eyes were red. “I was pushed to examine my life in that nightmare. I felt an overwhelming sense of failure. If I had died then, I would be too ashamed to see my parents.”

“But Brother Bai, you are already very successful.”

“To reach this stage, I have said and done many things that I did not wish. I became a fake person, an embarrassment to my parents.” Bai Xian topped up his wine. He didn’t have anything else to eat. Han Fei noticed that when Bai Xian spoke, he kept glancing at one of the spots in the room. Han Fei turned around and saw two picture frames inside a black and white cupboard. “Everyone wears a mask in the entertainment industry. I look impressive on the outside, but I know I am nothing more than a monkey.” Bai Xian guzzled another glass of wine. “When I was still starting, I crawled with all my might; when I gained some popularity, I became so careful. I couldn’t say what was really on my mind. Now the mask is so firmly stuck on my face that I can’t even remove it anymore.”

“Brother Bai, you need to stop drinking.”

“I’m not drunk.” Bai Xian looked at Han Fei. “Do you know how much I envy you? Not because of your award or talent, but because you can be yourself. You dare to do things that I can’t even imagine doing.” When Bai Xian reached for the wine bottle, Han Fei swiped it. Instead, Han Fei pushed the glass of water he hadn’t touched to Bai Xian. “If you want to, I can bring you on the case with me. But you have to learn basic fighting skills first.”

Bai Xian finished the glass of water. He held his head, and then he suddenly laughed, but the laughter was filled with sadness. "I was shocked when I saw you for the first time on the law channel. When Director Zhang couldn't find a suitable actor, I asked him to watch Twin Flowers. Do you remember when you came for the audition, I took the stage to act beside you?"

Han Fei was confused too. Bai Xian was a B-list actor, so he didn't have to do that. "I was afraid that you'd be nervous, so I wanted to help you, but you were such a good actor."

"Thank you." Han Fei knew Bai Xian had been looking out for him, but Han Fei had no idea why.

"Do you know why I wanted to help you?" Bai Xian turned to the cupboard in the bedroom with red eyes. Finally, he found someone he could tell these things to. "My father was a firefighter, and my mother was a cop. They had an explosive temper and could argue over the smallest thing. After I got into university, they planned to have a divorce. They didn't tell me because they wanted to give me a complete summer break. We went out for a family trip, but when we passed by Xin Lu River, a school bus with students crashed over the rails and fell into the river." Bai Xian could see everything from back then vividly. "My parents did not hesitate. They got out of the car and rushed to help. They jumped into the river with the other Good Samaritans. They saved one after another child. I stood on the bridge watching them until I couldn't see them anymore. I waited for them on the bridge until the rescue boat arrived until the sun came down and the night descended.

"When I saw them next, they were both asleep." Bai Xian's mind was blurry. He reached for the bottle, and this time Han Fei did not stop him. "I respect people like them. I admire their courage, and I want to be like them, but slowly I have changed. I became obsessed with fame and power. I became numb and cold.

"I have no idea what happened to me. When I realized the problem, the problem could no longer fix it." Bai Xian rubbed his temples. "If this were the past, I would continue to lie to myself. After all, everyone who had my experience would become like me. That was my belief until I saw you."

"Because I have been helping the police?" Han Fei felt like he should come clean, but Bai Xian cut him off before he could say anything.

"There are many reasons. When I first sent you back to your rental, I was shocked. I did not expect you'd give away your salary to the victims' families and live in an old rental on your own." Bai Xian tried his

best to explain. “Do you know that feeling? Just when you think everyone is wallowing in the mud with you, you turn around and see someone floating up the mud and soaring into the air.

“When I joined you on the first case, I was scared, but I felt so alive. It was why I followed you the second time.” Bai Xian held the bottle. The lack of sleep and alcohol made his legs unsteady.

“Brother Bai, those are all in the past. If you want to have a new life, then I can bring you with me every time I go capture the criminals.”

“That... won’t be necessary.” Bai Xian’s body slid downward. Thankfully Han Fei caught him in time and moved him to the couch. After some time, Bai Xian adjusted himself. He leaned against the sofa and woke up slightly.

“Brother Bai, the reason I’ve come today is to ask for your permission.” Han Fei stared into Bai Xian’s eyes and asked in a severe tone, “If I say, whenever you log into the game in the future, you will meet that many scary ghosts and monsters, will you continue to play the game?”

“Will I?” Bai Xian held his chin. He gave it serious thought. After a long time, Bai Xian touched the ring around his finger. “I will.”

“Can you tell me why?”

“My wife is still inside the game. Compared to the scary ghosts, she is more important.”

“Wife?” This time it was Han Fei who was shocked. He stared at Bai Xian’s custom-made ring. It looked very similar to the Grade E Rare Item—Nameless Hero.

“Brother Bai, what have you experienced in the game?” Han Fei realized that his friends were all very unique. Butterfly tortured Huang Yin, and Bai Xian, who was supposed to be a bachelor, had silently married in-game.

“I just told you many things about me. I didn’t have anyone like you in my life, so I bought the game to unwind. Isn’t it marketed as the best iyashikei game?” Then Bai Xian told Han Fei what had happened to

him over the past few days. When everyone else was busy leveling up, Bai Xian wandered around. His initial luck was very high, and he had two talents. He had a valuable account, so everything he did was successful. He found many unique items. But when he was level 5, he encountered something that he refused to face ever again. He visited the Thousand Lakes outside of the city and triggered a random event.

The boat with many students capsized. Seeing the students struggle in the rapids, Bai Xian forgot that these people were just NPC, and he jumped into the water. Bai Xian helped the children get to the shore. His level was low, so his stamina was terrible. Soon he was exhausted. Bai Xian's body became heavier, but he did not give up. He wanted to save those children. The icy water rushed into his nose and mouth. Bai Xian's Life Points dropped. He felt Death's clutches around his neck. There was no air left in his lungs.

But at the moment, he still didn't give up on the students. He tried his best to send them to the bank. Then his stamina was exhausted. Bai Xian started to sink. He looked at the water surface that strayed away from him. He was reminded of many things. Death was painful. Bai Xian slowly closed his eyes, but at that moment, someone grabbed his arm and pulled him out of the water. The person who saved Bai Xian ended up being his wife. She was the only female officer at Thousand Lakes.

To quote Bai Xian, when he saw her, his life changed. The game became more than a game.

"Right then, I experienced the feelings of both the savior and the saved. I understood why my parents made the choice they did." Bai Xian was a good man. Han Fei also confirmed that Bai Xian was the person he was looking for.

"Brother Bai, I need you to log into the game again tonight. I will show you the true face of the world."

Chapter 527 Qiang Wei

To keep on moving in the dark, one's heart had to turn towards the light. There was no hope in the endless dark; everything would be dominated by horror, fear, and despair. Therefore, one to rely on oneself. One had to maintain sanity and not be corrupted by darkness.

Such an individual was rare. However, Han Fei was lucky. He encountered Huang Yin, who did not bow to Butterfly after being killed endless times, and Bai Xian, who radiated kindness. Han Fei walked alone

in the dark. He needed to gather strength in the cryptic world as he explored its secrets. Huang Yin and Bai Xian were his friends from the surface world.

Han Fei had been pondering why Fu Sheng entered the city to fight with the Unmentionables? Why did he give up everything to destroy the cryptic world? Han Fei came up with a possibility. Perhaps the Unmentionables deep inside the city wanted to open a channel between the two worlds and had darkness consume everything. Han Fei's level was still too low. He was unable to verify this speculation. However, it didn't mean he couldn't prepare for it.

Han Fei opened both sides of the black box. He had chosen the most difficult path. He didn't gain the cryptic world's approval or aid from the surface world, so he could only rely on himself. Everything he did, he did for that one possible day in the future.

If despair really descended, and the cryptic world tried to kill him, and the surface world branded him as a demon, he needed people to stand beside him. Han Fei left after chatting for a long time with Bai Xian.

He received a call from the police when he exited the neighborhood. Li Xue provided him with several candidates who matched the characteristics of 019 and 030.

Everyone had their dream, but how many could see them become a reality? None of the people Li Xue sent was a prominent actor or had robbed a bank. The police used the photon computer to construct the possible appearance of the two orphans based on the descriptions given by Han Fei. The computer used aging software and compared them to the database to pull out the rudimentary filter result.

After looking through the message, Han Fei called Xin Lu's most famous paparazzi, Jin Jun. He had once saved Jin Jun's life, and when Zhuang Ren first entered the game, Jin Jun helped too.

"Boss, congrats for winning the best male supporting actor. I've seen many actors, but no one rises as fast as you!" Jin Jun answered after the call only rang twice.

"I need you to find two persons for me." After checking Li Xue's result, Han Fei picked two actors out. "They are about my age. One is a professor musical actor called Qiang Wei. The other is a very low-profile D-list actor called Lee Changxiong."

“I know Lee Changqiong. He had an accident and almost ruined his face. The man is very professional, and I heard he has a doctorate. He leads a very self-disciplined life. He likes to exercise and read. He is the kind we are the most uninterested in.” Jin Jun rattled out the man’s information quickly.

“What about the other one?”

“I am not familiar with the musical genre. But normally, stage actors require great performing skills because they need to face the audience directly, and there is no redo. Therefore, stage actors are mostly outstanding actors.” Jin Jun hung up after he received the files from Han Fei. He promised Han Fei to look into it and give him the report the next day.

“Jin Jun is reliable.” After lunch, Han Fei returned to the old city. He found a quiet shop and sat down. He pored through the murder cases and made his notes.

The shop did not have that many customers. The waitresses in the shop looked at Han Fei. The girls giggled among themselves before one was pushed out. Encouraged by her colleagues, the girl took out her phone and walked towards Han Fei. Her cheeks blushed and she stood before Han Fei nervously. The lips opened, but before they could say anything, the girl’s pretty eyes saw the bloody pictures on Han Fei’s phone. Her pupils trembled. The girl turned to look at Han Fei’s notes. They were all about murder and plastic surgery. The girl’s heart pounded even harder. She froze beside the table.

“How can I help you?” Han Fei lifted his head to look at the girl. The sun slid down his face to carve out his perfect jawline. The girl blushed again. She refilled Han Fei glass and then ran away.

“Was that my fan?” Han Fei shook his head before returning to his research.

The waitresses had gathered together to have a discussion.

“The young brother has a sick hobby!”

“Should we call the police?”

“Don’t you think he looks like a celebrity?”

“Why would a celebrity come to an old shop like ours?”

“I wish for him to eat me.”

“Hey, wake up!”

Han Fei did not hear the whispering inside the kitchen. He thought the service there was very good. Han Fei planned to return home when the sun fell. Suddenly his phone vibrated.

It was a picture taken by Jin Jun. The picture was shot inside a dark room. A man with long hair was feasting on raw meat. “Allotriophagy?” Then Han Fei received a series of random numbers. Jin Jun probably couldn’t type actual sentences and this was all he could manage. “Is he in trouble?”

Han Fei checked the picture and noticed the props were marked with Center Performance House. Han Fei put away his phone and rushed out. “The long-haired man is Qiang Wei?”

Han Fei urged the driver to go faster. They reached the location in 20 minutes. The place was closed and there was no one around. “Jin Jun’s car is here so he probably hasn’t left. Then why has he stopped messaging me?”

Jin Jun was a very experienced paparazzi, but he seemed to have met a very special actor this time. When the cleaner opened the door, Han Fei sneaked in. He was like a cat, moving silently through the ground. Han Fei moved behind the stage. The backstage had the actors’ dressing rooms, and it was unusually cold. “Is the place so eerie normally?” Han Fei rarely went to see a play so he was here for the first time. Han Fei saw an open door at the end of the corridor. The door was marked Prop Room.

Han Fei pushed the door slowly open. His nose twitched. He sighed in relief when he couldn’t smell blood. Han Fei took out the nunchuck from his sleeve. Han Fei moved through the different props, and he was extremely alert. The horror of the cryptic world taught him well. He was not afraid when he entered the dark room alone. If anything, he felt like coming home.

Han Fei found many children’s toys at the corner. The place had been made into a small playground. “Why are there so many toys here?” The dolls were seated neatly by the wall, they had on beautiful

skirts and their faces were painted. Han Fei felt uncomfortable by how lifelike they were. The dolls were all looking at the mirror deep inside the Prop Room. Flower petals were scattered before the mirror. Footprints could be seen among the petals. Someone was standing here barefooted not too long ago. "Jin Jun took the picture here."

Han Fei turned to the mirror and the reflection reminded him of the cryptic world. Many props were stacked together. Han Fei's eyes moved, and suddenly, he saw a person stand behind one of the props. Their eyes met in the mirror but when Han Fei turned around, the person had disappeared. Han Fei rushed out of the Prop Room and looked ar, but no one was there. Han Fei took out his phone to call Jin Jun again.

The strange melody rang in the stairwell. Jin Jun's phone was inside the safety passage! Han Fei did not hesitate and rushed into the stairwell. His stamina was better than most, but he still could not catch the moving ringtone. "Is he going to the roof?" Han Fei arrived at the roof 10 seconds later. The door which could only be accessed by employees had been broken. The lock was on the ground and the ladder that led to the rooftop was lowered.

Han Fei had a bad feeling as he climbed the ladder. The wind howled through his ears and scattered the strange melody. Han Fei saw Jin Jun holding the phone and walking towards the edge with a glazed expression.

"Danger!" Jin Jun shivered when he heard Han Fei. He suddenly picked up speed to run to the edge. He was going to jump over the rails!

At the crucial moment, Han Fei unleashed a burst of speed. When Jin Jun was a few meters from the fence, Han Fei pressed the man to the ground.

"Brother, calm down!" Han Fei suppressed Jin Jun with one hand while his other hand held the nunchuck as he looked around. His senses were sharp. He scanned every possible hiding spot, and half a minute later, he was sure there was no one else on the roof. Jin Jun slowly returned to normal. His eyes were slowly taken over by fear. If not for Han Fei pressing on him, Jin Jun would bounce around in shock.

"What did you see?"

"Ghost! Ghost!" Jin Jun screamed.

“What kind? Where did you see it?” Han Fei protected Jin Jun. This was an amusing scene.

“In the Prop Room! The ghost was eating the child. He hid the meat inside the dolls!” Jin Jun was still agitated, but he slowly calmed down after he saw Han Fei. “Right, I have pictures of it! I took down his picture consuming the child!”

Jin Jun was a professional paparazzi. Even though he was scared, he checked his phone quickly. He clicked open his phone, and all his latest videos had been deleted. “It’s fine! This is not the first time a celebrity wants to delete incriminating videos of themselves. Therefore, whenever I finish taking a picture or video, they will be automatically uploaded to the cloud server.” Jin Jun clicked around, and then he cheered. “Found it!”

He showed Han Fei the phone and clicked for the video to play. Inside the Prop Room, a long-haired man danced before the enormous mirror. He stepped on the petals and the dolls were like his captive audience. The dance had a unique charm to it. It expressed the solitude of death and inexplicable loneliness. Jin Jun and Han Fei saw this dance for the first time.

“Looks like he’s conducting some kind of ritual.” After finishing the dance, the man picked up a doll. He twisted the head off and drank the red liquid from the body. Then he twisted the head of the second doll off, took out something from inside, and gorged himself on it. When he went for the third doll, he suddenly lifted his head. The head covered behind long hair stared at Jin Jun. The camera shook, which suggested that Jin Jun was running. The phone fell to the ground, and the video ended.

“He didn’t eat any children, stop scaring yourself.” Han Fei said.

“This video is not similar to what I remember. The man’s eyes were red as he interacted with himself inside the mirror. It was his reflection who spotted me first.”

“Do you remember what happened after that? Why did you come to the roof alone? Did he do anything to you?”

“I can’t remember.” Jin Jun pulled on his hair. “Since I was saved by you, I would blank out. Fear would descend and I would see horrible things from the most mundane stuff.”

“What do you mean?”

“For example, didn’t you tell me to look into Wu Wu Entertainment? When I entered the elevator, I saw a painter. He was a normal worker but I felt like he was a murderer. After that, I didn’t dare to take the elevator alone anymore. Then one time I was following the CEO’s old girlfriend. She was going to the airport, dragging a suitcase. The luggage looked fine but I knew there was a body inside. Then I saw on the news that the woman’s body was discovered inside that suitcase!”

Jin Jun pulled his hair. Han Fei was shocked. He had no idea Jin Jun had so many close brushes with death. Jin Jun’s life could be split into two parts before Han Fei saved him and after Han Fei saved him.

“The things you saw are probably not your imagination.” Han Fei had a prediction, “Jin Jun, what is your talent in Perfect Life?”

Jin Jun had no idea why Han Fei was asking this. “It’s completely useless. Something called the Pathfinder. It’s a Grade C Talent. I can get double EXP when exploring unknown maps. The higher the exploration rate, the better talent I’ll unlock. Since the game started, I have been exploring many maps, but most of the maps I can go to have been explored by other players already.”

“What is your other talent?” Han Fei didn’t think the talent was useless. The great big world of the cryptic world required a pathfinder.

“The other talent is even more useless called The Resurrected. It’s a Grade C Talent too. The introduction is very long. It’s something about a dead person being revived due to an accident. The effect is when my Life Points drop to zero, I will enter a fake death state. When I run into a player with the Resurrection talent, I have a chance to be revived.” Jin Jun shook his head. “When I built the account and realized I had 2 Grade C Talents, I was so excited. But when I reached level 10, did you know what the profession the system recommended me was? My most compatible profession is Medium and I should work at cemetery or crematorium. And you’re telling me this is the latest photon supercomputer?” Jin Jun groused.

“I heard from rumors that Deep Space Tech’s photon computer could capture some special unique brain wave, so you might actually be haunted. You better be careful.” Han Fei did not want to scare Jin Jun. “Leave the investigation of Qiang Wei to me. Now you need to train yourself.”

Han Fei was really putting Jin Jun first. Even though Ziggurat was extremely scary, at least one would not die training there. That was a chance so many people would die for. If not because Jin Jun had helped Han Fei a lot, Han Fei would not give him this precious chance.

“Don’t be afraid. I will help you get used to these horrors. Just stay at home to play games. Stop investigating Wu Wu Entertainment, and you better stay away from mirrors at night.” Han Fei saved Jin Jun once, but he couldn’t protect Jin Jun forever, so the best way was to train Jin Jun to protect himself. At the very least, he had to have the courage.

“Stay away from mirrors? Am I really cursed?” Jin Jun was scared.

“Don’t overthink it. Go home and play the game to unwind. The next day, you won’t be so scared anymore.” Han Fei comforted Jin Jun. He counted his friends. ‘Huang Yin, Bai Xian, Jin Jun, Seaglass Cat, one more person and we can start a neighborhood.’

Chapter 528 The Pathfinder

Han Fei saved the video taken by Jin Jun. He reminded Jin Jun to go back and log in to the game. He also told Jin Jun to train in his free time. He needed to focus on speed and not strength. Jin Jun was Xin Lu’s most famous paparazzi, celebrities hated him, and their fans wanted to kill him. No one cared about him like this before. “Boss, don’t worry. I will start speed training when I go back.”

“Okay.” Han Fei was afraid that if he did not help Jin Jun, the man would die without knowing why. Holding Jin Jun, Han Fei led him downstairs. Han Fei found the worker at the performing house. Before the worker could question why Han Fei was there, Han Fei took over and interrogated the worker.

Han Fei had such an imposing presence that ordinary people would panic when they were around him. This was an influence from his stay in the cryptic world. The worker had no idea why he decided to answer Han Fei honestly. It felt like he was the one who sneaked into the theater when it was closed. After confirming the worker had nothing to do with the man inside the Prop Room, Han Fei identified himself and explained his reason for being there. “You are sure no actor has been here today? Can you bring me to see the surveillance footage?”

“Okay.” The worker said uncertainly. He led the way and kept glancing back to look at Han Fei. The black horse at the movie festival was walking behind him. The actor would leave a bloody storm in his wake based on the news. He was like the private son of the demon. Considering the ‘resume’ Han Fei had on Xin Lu Police’s website, the worker became even more scared, “Is there really a murder at this place? Is the body hidden here? How am I supposed to work the night shift in the future?”

The worker cooperated fully with Han Fei. They came to the security room. The worker pulled out the surveillance but realized the footage for the whole day had been deleted. “How is this possible?” The worker was in full panic mode.

“Looks like it’s an experienced criminal.” Han Fei became more curious about that man. He tried to look for clues, but the crime scene had been cleaned. “Will a normal actor know how to clean up a crime scene?” Jin Jun and the worker looked at Han Fei. They didn’t know how to answer. ‘The man danced before the mirror. He is a professional stage actor and possesses great decisiveness. He knows how to clean up his trails, which fits the white shoes’ description. Plus, he appears to know things like hypnosis to make Jin Jun lose himself.’ Han Fei believed Qiang Wei was most likely O19. ‘After the sun comes up, I need to come to watch his performance and then talk to him in person.’

Han Fei planned to leave with Jin Jun since they came up with nothing. The worker felt frightened and started to persuade Han Fei to stay. After all, he did not want to suddenly come across a dead body when he was working the night shift. Han Fei left his phone number with the worker. If something happened, he should call Han Fei immediately. Han Fei left the performing house and sent Jin Jun home before returning to his neighborhood. It was late, but many reporters were still there. Han Fei had to wade through the sea of reporters to get home. ‘These people sure are passionate. Director Jiang doesn’t need to worry about me being lonely anymore.’

Han Fei closed the windows and curtains before sitting at the computer to study the murder cases. He received a call from Huang Yin at 11.30 pm. “Han Fei, the first big event for Perfect Life will conclude after midnight. Have you found any reliable player?”

“I have three candidates in mind.” Han Fei sent Bai Xian, Jin Jun, and Seaglass Cat’s info to Huang Yin.

“We’re still missing one. Why don’t you open a smurf account?”

“I don’t think that is possible.” When Han Fei wanted to get Zhuang Ren to create an account, the new player guide turned into a bloody ghost and haunted Zhuang Ren.

“After the event is over, the photon computer will conduct a 12-hour update. After the update, the player can build his neighborhood.” Huang Yin was worried. “Even though it is difficult to build a neighborhood, this is relatively easier for the large gaming companies. They can easily pull the resources, and they are all fighting for the top spot on the top 10 neighborhood ranking.”

“In other words, we only have 12 hours left?”

“Yes, being in the top 10 is very important. Some big advertisers are willing to pay money to have their ads featured in these neighborhoods. Think about the player base of Perfect Life. Can you imagine how much money they would offer?”

“I will try my best to find the last candidate.” Han Fei chatted with Huang Yin some more before he called Auntie Lee. Han Fei had other candidates like Ironman and Yan Tang, but Auntie Lee was more reliable in comparison. After all, her husband was still in the cryptic world, and Han Fei saved her life twice.

Soon the call was picked up, and a man’s voice came through. “Are you Han Fei? Thank you for sending my mother to the hospital! She had it hard raising me alone. If something happened to her, I would feel guilty for the rest of my life.”

“You’re Auntie Lee’s son?”

“Yes, I returned to Xin Lu that afternoon. The doctor said, you sent my mother to the hospital and even paid for her medical bills. Tomorrow my mother will be discharged from the hospital. Can we invite you out for a meal? My mother wants to see and thank you in person.” Auntie Lee’s son was very polite. His tone was filled with appreciation.

“This is perfect. I have something to discuss with Auntie Lee too. How about we meet tomorrow morning?”

“Okay.” Han Fei thought about it after ending the call. Auntie Lee’s son worked at Deep Space Tech. He was the manager of a branch company at a young age. Apparently, he would be moved back to the main company soon due to his capability. “What a filial child.”

Han Fei crawled into the gaming hub after glancing at the time. The blood covered everything. Han Fei noticed it did take longer for him to log into the game. This should be the effect of summoning the Laughter. Han Fei checked the location of the Unmentionable carefully. He did not dare to look directly at it lest he attracted the thing's attention.

Han Fei hissed from the pain as he opened his eyes. Seconds later, his room door was pushed open, and people rushed in.

"Don't move. You need to rest."

"Are you still injured? I've made some meat."

Looking at his neighbors, Han Fei's heart warmed despite the pain.

"Don't worry. I've recovered." Just as Han Fei said that, there was another shot of pain from his mind. The lingering effect from summoning Laughter was too intense. The madman drained everything within Han Fei to create a blade that could sever the Pure Hatred. Han Fei did not mind it because Ten Fingers' death was worth it.

Han Fei asked Laughing on the tenancy chatgroup if anything happened after he left yesterday night. The reply shocked Han Fei to his core. A wandering spirit like Bai Xian was seen inside the plastic surgery hospital!

Not long after Han Fei logged off, the Pure Hatreds from the hospital hurried to the white orphanage. After they left, something happened to the altar at the deepest part of the hospital. Zhuang Wen went to look wearing the Coat of Desire. She realized someone had accidentally touched the altar. Based on Zhuang Wen's description, the wandering spirit should be Shen Luo. With regards to how he managed to get there, no one knew. The 3 Pure Hatreds valued the altar. It was also the most dangerous place in the hospital zone. To get there, one had to survive endless, terrifying challenges. Ordinary people would run towards safety, but this player went straight for the deepest dungeon and got close to the 3 Pure Hatreds' altar. The interesting thing was the player only succeeded because the 3 Pure Hatreds had left to check on the White Orphanage.

“Shen Luo is still alive? How did he manage to get there? Does he have a map?” Han Fei had no idea how Shen Luo managed to do this. Even with a map, it was hard to find the hidden altar. “Gold will shine no matter what. This man has great potential.” Han Fei believed Shen Luo would be perfect to be Jin Jun’s teammate. The duo could reach the end of the cryptic world together. After that, Han Fei had Bai Sinian check on Big Sin. Half of the curses had been digested. In a few days, Big Sin would be bouncing around again.

“I’m still wounded, so I should stay at Happiness Neighborhood for now.” Han Fei looked through the menu, and his eyes stopped on his Spirit-farer talent. “Jin Jun’s talent is the Resurrected. It’s a perfect match with my Resurrection talent. As long as his soul is not vanquished, he basically can’t die. When he is strong enough, he can do many high difficulty missions that normal players won’t even dare to touch. He might be a great help to me in the cryptic world. It’s a waste not to use his amazing talent.”

Han Fei was forming a team in the surface world, and Jin Jun was one of the members. After some hesitation, Han Fei used Spirit-farer. The menu turned into the gate of hell, and Han Fei called after Jin Jun. Han Fei didn’t think about anything else, and he did not even use the Soul Bell. Han Fei only said Jin Jun’s name. The moment he uttered the man’s name, a soul in the blood sea was pulled in by some kind of force. The soul flew out of the gate and landed before Han Fei. The encounter was too sudden.

Jin Jun was dazed. Han Fei did not even have the time to put on his mask. The four eyes met, and they were both stunned.

“Boss?” Jin Jun’s attention was entirely on Han Fei. He did not realize the blood door behind him was closing.

“Answer me a question first. What is your Luck point?”

“One, what’s wrong?”

“Oh, then it’s fine.” Han Fei had never had such a successful summoning before. It didn’t feel like he had done anything. Jin Jun wanted to crash into hell.

“You have 1 Luck, spiritual affinity, but this is too much.” Han Fei picked Jin Jun up from the ground. “This is Perfect Life’s hidden map. It should help you train your courage. Plus, didn’t you tell me your

talent is the Pathfinder? There is basically no player in the hidden map, so you can utilize your talent to its maximum.”

“This is the hidden map?” Jin Jun looked around. “No wonder the atmosphere is so different from a normal map. I heard that hidden maps are scarce. Each map has a big secret. Boss, you are willing to share that with me. I have not been so touched in a long time already.”

“Don’t be too excited. The hidden maps are extremely dangerous and creepy. You need to be careful.” Han Fei warned Jin Jun.

“How dangerous can it be?” Jin Jun stood up and looked out the window. The city covered in darkness was endless. “My Pathfinder talent tells me that these maps have not been explored before. They will provide me with exploration points! This place is heaven for me!” Jin Jun screamed excitedly.

“Then go ahead and explore. Remember not to leave the mist. I have to go do my own mission.” After saying that, Han Fei came to the fifth floor to find Xu Qin. He needed more meat since they were planning to visit the hospital next.

“The boss has saved me twice and shared the hidden map with me. Have I saved the world in my previous life? Why am I so lucky?” Jin Jun opened the doors around him. As he collected exploration points, his lips were smiling so happily. “The boss hasn’t explored these rooms? Or he left them for me?”

Jin Jun went down the floors and realized the door on the second floor was locked. He knocked on it. Soon the door opened. The warm light showered on Jin Jun. A kind old lady appeared at the door. “Are you the new tenant?”

“I suppose so.”

“It’s not safe outside. Why don’t you come in? Have a bowl of porridge to warm yourself.” Meng Si invited Jin Jun into her home. The place was decorated like how it was ten years ago. It was very warm and inviting. Soon Meng Si served Jin Jun the porridge. Jin Jun felt healed by the whole experience. “The boss worries too much. The hidden map looks scary, but it is filled with human warmth.”

The porridge warmed his stomach and soul.

“Granny, thank you for the food. I need to leave now, but I’ll come back to see you.” Jin Jun felt so relaxed in this world. No one knew his real identity here, and he could live like an average person.

“You’re going out so late at night?” Meng Si walked over with the ladle. She was very concerned.

“It’ll be fine.” Jin Jun smiled. He was about to leave when a boy ran out of the bedroom. He held a bowl of cold rice and raised it like he was going to smash it. “I will not eat...”

Before the boy could finish, Jin Jun grabbed the bowl away from him. “You shan’t be a picky eater! Your grandmother has worked so hard to cook for you. You need to be more caring towards her!” Jin Jun placed the bowl on the table, smiled at Meng Si, and left. “Doing good things makes you happy. Tonight I’m going to explore this whole map!”

Jin Jun rushed out of Happiness Neighborhood. Due to the mist, he couldn’t see too clearly, so he walked forward. Seeing his rising exploration point, Jin Jun found the joy of the game again. “A whole map that is mine! No one is going to steal the exploration point from me. I am the Pathfinder King!”

Whenever his exploration point reached a certain level, the talent would give Jin Jun some reward, including raising his basic stamina. Running down the empty street, Jin Jun smiled. Soon he arrived at a strange school. “Yi Ming Private Academy? The system says I will get four times the exploration point if I enter this place.” Jin Jun leaned on the gate and tried to look in, but he couldn’t see much due to the mist.

Jin Jun climbed up the gate. “Kid, get down now!” A senior’s stern voice came from behind him. Jin Jun ignored the man. He was focused on the potential exploration point. “An outsider shouldn’t enter the school.” The old man hurried over. He stopped behind Jin Jun. “Let me tell you. They say that the school is haunted. You better leave.”

“Leave? You want me to leave when there is four times the exploration point to be had?” Jin Jun jumped down from the iron gate. “Even if the school is really haunted, I have to explore it. No one is stopping me!”

A stench wafted over. Jin Jun turned around to look at the old man. A mountain of ghosts piled on the senior in the school guard uniform!

Endless limbs moved on his face and body. The bloody faces stared at Jin Jun.

His heart stopped!

Chapter 529 Carving

Inside a room on the 5th floor of Happiness Neighborhood, Han Fei stood inside the kitchen to increase his cooking level. Xu Qin leaned against the door to guide him, and they exchanged their opinions on different meats. The small kitchen did not feel cramped. In fact, the small space brought the two closer. The smell of meat wafted in the air. Han Fei's appetite was roused. He fell more in love with meat.

"Building manager, can I come in? Someone is looking for you!" Drake's voice came from outside. Han Fei placed the cooked meat in his inventory and ran to the living room. "Who is looking for me? What happened?"

"The old guard from Yi Ming Private Academy is here. He brought someone with him." Drake led Han Fei downstairs. They saw the uncle with the ghosts clamoring all over him from afar.

"Sir, why did you come to visit me today?" Han Fei greeted the old gentleman.

"I was patrolling the school when I saw someone trying to climb over the gate. He looked like a thief, so I tried to stop him. But he fell from the gate and fainted. I couldn't wake him." The guard was very nice. Even at his age, he carried Jin Jun. But he had no idea the ghosts were all inspecting Jin Jun. "I can't recognize this man, so I brought him here. Perhaps he's a new tenant here." Seeing the unconscious Jin Jun, Han Fei could only smile. Jin Jun just left moments ago, but he was already sent back to the neighborhood. "He's our people. Sorry for troubling you. I'm sorry."

"He's a new tenant here? Then it's fine. We're all neighbors. After he wakes up, tell him that I will bring him on tour if he ever wants to visit the school. There's no need to jump over the wall." The guard nodded his head. "This is not bad. It feels like our neighborhood is getting livelier." Han Fei touched Jin Jun to check his status. Jin Jun focused on stamina, perfect for a pathfinder.

“I have deep hope in you. You can’t just collapse like this. There is still a great unknown area waiting for you to explore.” Han Fei used Cursed Words on Jin Jun. The magical words crawled into Jin Jun’s body. “You have a powerful heart so that you won’t faint so easily. You are afraid, but the need for exploration compels you forward. There is no death in your dictionary, and you will never stop exploring.”

Han Fei used Cursed Words 3 more times before Jin Jun slowly opened his eyes. He looked around blurrily. The old guard looked at him kindly, “You’re finally awake?” The ghost faces leaned out of the twisted body and surrounded Jin Jun. Only then did Jin Jun realize fainting was a luxury. The scream tore through the night as Jin Jun darted up from the ground. He ran away.

“Why are you running away? If you want to go to the school, I can bring you there!” The guard chased after him. As they ran out of Happiness Neighborhood, Han Fei shook his head. “The old man is very kind, but he is too passionate.” The old guard was the kindest person at Yi Ming Private Academy. Even the ghosts didn’t want to harm him. They crawled on him and helped him create a safety bubble.

“This new friend intrigues me. I shall go and protect him.” Lee Zai sensed the presence of misfortune and chased after the guard. Han Fei needed to stay for 3 hours before he could log off. Initially, he planned to use the 3 hours to train his cooking skill but seeing Jin Jun so popular, Han Fei decided to follow him.

“Come, let’s go follow them.” With the pressure from the guard, Jin Jun seemed to have reached a breakthrough. He ran fast, and it triggered the maximum effect of Pathfinder. His exploration point skyrocketed. Jin Jun used one hour to run from Happiness Neighborhood to Ziggurat, and by then, he was too exhausted to run anymore. When he turned back to look, the old man covered with ghosts was still following him. And to make things worse, he seemed to have found a few new friends.

Jin Jun couldn’t run anymore, so he hid inside Ziggurat. With the footsteps following him, Jin Jun climbed up the few floors. He chose a random door and went in to hide. His fingers just touched the doorknob when Jin Jun heard Han Fei’s voice. “Don’t go near that door!”

Jin Jun shivered from the scream, and the door swung open. A thick sense of death rolled out of the room. The weakened Jin Jun dropped to the ground. He felt like he had opened Pandora’s box. The shadow of death swallowed him. An impossibly large shadowy ghost rammed through the door and wall to charge at him. Just as Jin Jun believed he was about to be crushed, a familiar figure moved to block before him. “Boss? Boss!” The giant ghost slammed into Han Fei. His wounds opened, and the blood arced through the air.

“Boss!” Jin Jun climbed up from the ground. His legs shook, but he didn’t run. Resisting the fear, he took out a rusted machete, which was necessary for the pathfinder. His heart pounded, and his legs shivered. Jin Jun’s hands that held the machete trembled. He looked at the giant shadow and slowly nudged forward. After he took the difficult first step, he suddenly charged. “One can’t escape forever. There needs to be the courage to charge ahead without fear of consequences!” Holding the machete, Jin Jun flew at the black monster, but before he got close, he was bounced back by the thick wall of death.

Climbing up from the ground, Jin Jun was about to make his second charge when Han Fei stood up. “Wait, I’m still alive. By the way, did you guys discuss this beforehand? I’ve already changed Big Sin’s room, so how did you still manage to find it?”

“Boss?” Jin Jun stared at Han Fei. He wanted to go over, but he was scared. “That monster...”

“What monster? This is my little pet.” Han Fei rustled Big Sin’s head. His hand was bleeding from the spikes, but he didn’t mind. “The kid is in its rebellious period.”

“Pet?” Jin Jun’s face twitched. “Boss, you’re bleeding.”

“It’s fine. This is a minor wound.” Han Fei waved at Jin Jun. “I’ll be leaving with my pet then.” Han Fei sat on Big Sin and munched on the pig’s hearts. After they departed, Jin Jun collapsed to the ground. The decision he made had drained his courage.

“Young man, you’re not bad. Care to be friends?” An unfamiliar male voice entered his ears. Jin Jun slowly raised his head. His eyes followed the thin neck before seeing a human face. “My name is Lee Zai. What’s yours?”

“AH!” The wail echoed inside Ziggurat. Han Fei nodded to himself. “God will not give you problems you can’t solve...” Han Fei led Big Sin to another room. Han Fei wanted to leave, but Big Sin brushed against him, not wanting him to go. Han Fei’s calf was bleeding. He savored another pig’s heart before kneeling. “Stay here to recuperate. When you digest all the curse, I’ll bring you out to play.” Big Sin was excited when it heard that. It bounced around the room before opening its jaw to spit out several strange objects covered in death.

“What are these?” Han Fei found Bai Sinian. Bai Sinian told him the items were sacrifices inside altars. Han Fei was not surprised. “Do you plan to share them with me?” Big Sin nodded happily. Han Fei

chuckled. "I pity the soul who might offend you." Big Sin was different from a standard pet. If you offended it, it would kill you in 3 days and then return to feed on the food sacrificed to you.

Han Fei touched the objects, and the system only said they were unique mission items and could only be used in altar inheritance missions. Han Fei examined them closer and realized they had the same patterns. They had the carving of an old man and three children. "Where did you find these objects?" Han Fei asked Bai Sinian.

"One of them came from the altar in front of Happiness Neighborhood, two came from the abandoned altars at the hospital, and the bowl was from an altar at the theme park," Bai Sinian recalled.

"You two are like grave robbers." Han Fei studied the items. "Since they have the same carving, so the altars should be serving the same God." Han Fei placed the items inside his inventory. "Looks like the connection between Happiness Neighborhood, Lost Theme Park, and the hospital is closer than I thought." Han Fei suspected the items came from the altars left behind by Fu Sheng. Only Fu Sheng was powerful enough to have so many altars. "The Happiness Neighborhood is used to welcome new children, then they are sent to the hospital for surgery, and those meeting the standards are sent deeper into the city. Fu Sheng wanted to guide me in the same way." Han Fei was curious about the altar inside the hospital. If he could enter Fu Sheng's memory world, he would know about Fu Sheng's past. As he chatted with Bai Sinian, Han Fei fed Big Sin his blood. With Han Fei's blood, Big Sin digested the curse faster. Three hours later, Han Fei found Jin Jun at Ziggurat. Thanks to the buff from Pathfinder, Jin Jun gained 1 level. "The talent is so useful?"

Jin Jun was dazed, but he was stronger than before. If he met supernatural events in real life, he wouldn't be afraid anymore. "Your mind has been trained. It'll be harder for others to control you." After seeing the abyss, common darkness couldn't affect Jin Jun anymore. That was Han Fei's goal. Han Fei used Resurrection to send Jin Jun away. Then he and his neighbors visited the alley between the two zones. They had to use 3 hours to find Han Fei a mission this time. "I've almost exhausted the mission here. If I need to leave the game the normal way from tomorrow onwards, I need to enter the hospital or the theme park."

The life of contention was almost over. The system was pushing Han Fei forward. "I hope that the theme park and the hospital will fight among themselves."

Han Fei returned to Ziggurat and logged out. He still had something to do. Han Fei removed the gaming helmet. Han Fei left the rental before the sun came up. He called Jin Jun and then Bai Xian, Huang Yin, and Seaglass Cat. After ensuring all of them were free in the day, Han Fei hurried to the hospital. After the police station, the hospital became Han Fei's third home. The nurses recognized him quickly and led

him to Auntie Lee's ward. Auntie Lee was awake. Her son sat beside her, not leaving her side. Seeing the two in the ward, Han Fei was reminded of the Mirror God's authentic self.

'Auntie Lee's son works at Deep Space Tech. I wonder if I can cultivate him into a spy.' Han Fei was now focused on Immortal Pharma, but as Immortal Pharma's partner, Deep Space Tech must have many secrets too. Han Fei even suspected that these two companies had funded Fu Sheng, but an accident happened.

Han Fei waited until the doctor came to do his rounds, and he joined the doctor to walk into the ward. Auntie Lee instantly revealed a shocked expression when she saw Han Fei. It was like she could recognize Han Fei as the man behind the mask in the cryptic world.

Chapter 530 Happiness Neighborhood

"Auntie, this is the kind man who sent you to the hospital. He even paid your bills." The doctor liked Han Fei. After Han Fei won the award, he gained many new fans. He could be considered one of the most popular C-list actors.

"I've seen him." Auntie Lee sat up in bed. She had so many questions for Han Fei.

"Of course you have. He is so popular now." The doctor misunderstood the auntie. After giving Auntie Lee another check, he said Auntie could leave the hospital already. Auntie Lee wanted to get up after the doctor left, but Han Fei stopped her. "Auntie, you should stay in bed." Han Fei walked to the bed and sat beside Auntie Lee's son.

"Thank you for saving me." Auntie Lee was so moved that she couldn't form complete sentences. Han Fei could feel the appreciation from the woman. He smiled and said it was nothing. After some small talk, Han Fei cut straight to the point. He wished that Auntie Lee could log into the game that morning.

"You can bring me to see him? Am I not dreaming?" Auntie Lee was uncertain. She was worried that what she experienced was just a dream.

"It's not a dream, but opening a hidden map requires many conditions. There will be more chances in the future." Han Fei said, "When you get online, you should send me a friend request."

“No problem.” Auntie Lee was excited to leave the hospital. She had her son deal with the forms. Auntie Lee arrived home at 9.30 am, and she logged into the game.

Han Fei called Huang Yin. “Brother Huang, I’ve found everyone and given you their in-game Id.”

“Are you sure you don’t want to join us? This is a historical moment.” Huang Yin sounded very excited. “The first player neighborhood. During this era where the virtual mixes with the real, we walk at the forefront.”

“I can’t log into the game.”

“It’s alright. I’ll stream it for you. You should be able to see it from your phone.” Huang Yin opened a livestream room for Han Fei. “The game will finish the update at noon. We’ll start at 10 am.” It was too late to go home, so Han Fei returned to the shop he visited last time. The waitresses were very polite. They treated Han Fei like the prime customer. Han Fei ordered a drink and took the same seat as last time. He clicked on the room and waited. At 10 am, the image came on. Huang Yin’s group appeared among a cluster of ruined buildings.

“Han Fei, can you see us? If yes, click like.” Huang Yin pointed at the space behind this. “This should be the spot that corresponds to Happiness Neighborhood on your side. I will make this my private map. Everything within 500 meters of this place will be mine. Other than the supercomputer, no one can enter without permission.”

The camera turned, and Huang Yin captured Bai Xian and Jin Jun. A celebrity and paparazzi met in the game, Han Fei thought it would be awkward, but the two kept staring at Huang Yin. Of the billions of players, the top 1 player stood before them. They couldn’t believe their eyes. When Han Fei said someone would contact them, they didn’t think much of it. But when they saw Huang Yin, they were stunned.

“Let’s go on a tour.” Huang Yin led the way and opened the rusted door of Building 1. The corridor was filled with scary items. It appeared like Huang Yin had collected everything related to the supernatural. Seeing these things, Bai Xian and Jin Jun stopped like they were reminded of something terrible. Seaglass Cat was impressed. She asked Huang Yin. “Is your profession a necromancer?”

“We are better than necromancers.” Huang Yin used ‘we’ to include all of them. “Currently, this neighborhood is at its lowest level, it has minimal functions, but if we work hard, this place will eventually become the biggest city in Perfect Life!”

Huang Yin had the confidence because their place had afterlife features that other sites didn’t. “I’ve prepared an altar inside the building. This unassuming old building will be the core of our city. As the founding members, feel free to pick your room.” Bai Xian and the others ‘happily’ chose their rooms. After everyone was done, Huang Yin led them to the roof. Standing on the 10th floor, they looked at the creepy buildings around them. Bai Xian and the rest didn’t understand why Huang Yin would choose this place because it had no resources and was far from the main city. There was no NPC around.

“I know you have questions about the location. I’ve taken a long time to find this place. This location is the ownerless map with the thickest Yin energy and the most haunted rumors. It is very far from the main city, so we have enough space to grow. Perhaps we might become the second main city.” Huang Yin knew how to use his advantages. Unlike the major forces, his most significant advantage was Han Fei. If they could summon the citizens of the cryptic world, they didn’t need to worry about the lack of people. It was okay if there was no player or NPC as long as there were enough ghosts. Huang Yin’s goal was to create a ghost town.

Bai Xian and Jin Jun still thought Huang Yin was extreme, but the thing Huang Yin said next impressed them greatly.

“Our goal is to become the first player neighborhood, but that doesn’t mean we’re surrendering the second place either.” Huang Yin stood at the roof and looked at the ruin. “I’ve already prepared everything to start a neighborhood, and I will use other identities to reach out to the other top gaming guilds in the country. We will fill the secondary neighborhood with our people, but they are only responsible for expansion and interaction with the other players and forces. What we need to do is to maintain the mystery of this neighborhood and absorb players who we can truly trust.”

It was hard to win without an army. Huang Yin’s advantages would lessen after level 50, so he had made plans. During CB, he had prepared everything required to make a neighborhood in Perfect Life, and he composed three copies. He used three different identities to trade with three separate forces, promising them the top neighborhood spot.

Only Huang Yin knew about the rewards from being at the top of the rankings. After the supercomputer took over the game, there was no more insider information. This meant that the decision-makers of the big forces had to rely on Huang Yin. They had to pay a lot to sign the contract with Huang Yin’s different identities. Huang Yin only told this plan to Han Fei.

At 10.30 am, Huang Yin led the four members to the room reserved for the building manager. There was an altar there. The five sat around the altar, and Huang Yin started the final verification. He took out an item and placed it on the altar. Then he put in the id of all five players.

When the verification was accepted, Huang Yin turned to look out the livestream. "Han Fei, we're at the last step. Why don't you give the neighborhood a name?"

"Me?" Han Fei looked at the old building and the familiar room on the livestream. He was reminded of his first visit to the cryptic world. "Everything started with Happiness Neighborhood. My life was changed then, and eventually, I changed your lives. We move together in the dark to find that impossible light. I sincerely hope that everyone can find true happiness."

Han Fei keyed in the word Happiness Neighborhood in the chat window. He believed it matched the purpose of Perfect Life. It also carried his wish that all the tenants of Happiness Neighborhood would be happy.

Huang Yin and the rest agreed. When the name was keyed in, the system made a global announcement!

"Notification for all players! The first player neighborhood, Happiness Neighborhood, has been created!" The global announcement was repeated five times. It shocked all the top players. The 12-hour update was not yet over, but a player had already built a neighborhood.

The top players had paid enormous money and power to fight for the first player neighborhood. Some of them had prepared since OB, but they lost.

After getting the news, the sound of glass and table breaking came from many different top gaming companies. Some of them complained to Deep Space Tech. But this was just a tiny percentage of the player base. Most players were more curious about Happiness Neighborhood and how to join it.

This day was written into Perfect Life's history, and every player memorized the name Happiness Neighborhood.

This was a normal name, and the neighborhood had unknown members. No one even knew where Happiness Neighborhood was. Everything about this neighborhood was shrouded in mystery.