

Iyashikei 781

Chapter 781: Lamb

“Sir, did you hear me?” The man at the restaurant waved at Han Fei. “It’ll take some time to cook the meat. Leave me your address, and I’ll deliver it to you.”

“I said I’ll wait here. Why are you chasing me away?” Han Fei’s train of thought was interrupted. He looked at the man’s honest face. If not for Han Fei’s good memory, he wouldn’t have recognized this man.

“Okay. Please wait here then.” The burly man was like a microcosm of a certain type of people. They had heavy labor jobs. They contributed the most but got the least in return. They struggled at the lowest level and had to suffer the fate of being stepped on. The dim light beside the wooden sign flickered. The chef wiped his hands with the dirty cloth and then walked to the kitchen with a sharp knife. Han Fei felt like the man was about to strike, so he touched his ghost tattoo. As he tried to communicate with Big Sin, a stuttering voice came from behind him. “Do you want a cigarette?” The blind hawker who curled up at the corner earlier materialized behind Han Fei. His eyes had been dug away, and he had more than a few scars on his face. Han Fei wanted to reject the hawker, but he noticed something weird. The blind hawker didn’t seem to be communicating with Han Fei but something behind Han Fei.

“What kind of cigarette do you have?” Han Fei spoke and startled the blind hawker. He seemed to just realize Han Fei’s existence. The blind hawker immediately opened the wooden box before him. It carried a lot of cheap cigarettes and a bag of brownish-red tobacco leaves.

“This is a cigarette unique to Red Alley. You can’t find them anywhere else.” The hawker said mysteriously, “If you bring them to the higher floor, you can exchange them for great stuff.”

“In that case, why don’t you go there yourself?”

“I can’t take the elevator, and I’m afraid to use the stairs.” The hawker handed one cigarette to Han Fei. “Why don’t you try one? The cigarette of Red Alley is like the services here. One try, and you’ll get hooked.”

“Alright.” Han Fei accepted the cigarette. When he touched the hawker’s finger, the system rang in his mind, “Notification for Player 0000! You’ve discovered the hidden map’s blind merchant.”

“Blind Merchants: A small part of the merchants on this map has been blinded. Perhaps this is God’s intention, as these people are trustworthy because they are blind.

“Warning! Each floor’s blind merchants will offer different things. There’s a chance for the player to buy unique items from them.”

After accepting the cigarette, Han Fei got another notification.

“Notification for Player 0000! You’ve obtained Red Alley’s unique item—Blood Cigarette.

“Blood Cigarette (Grade F Item): Lighting the blood cigarette will temporarily increase your stamina and numb your sense of pain. However, it will corrode your body and curse your soul.”

‘I didn’t expect this to be a unique item.’ Han Fei picked up the bag of tobacco leaves. “How are these sold?”

“One coin for five cigarettes, or you can trade them with items that contain the presence of God. If you have neither...” The blind hawker rolled up his sleeves to expose the arm filled with curses. “Your name can trade for ten cigarettes. You can also get one cigarette if you take one curse away from me.”

“There’s an economy inside the building?!” In just a few minutes, Han Fei got a new understanding of the skyscraper. He placed the bag back and patted the hawker’s shoulder. “Do you mind going there and waiting? I’ll go get the money.” After the hawker left, Han Fei entered the restaurant with Rest in Peace. If this were a normal shop, he would borrow the money politely. If not...

“Is the meat ready? How much longer do I need to wait?” He lifted the curtain to the kitchen and was hit by the fragrance of meat. Two big pots were cooking. There were various spices on the cutting board. In the sink were an oil-stained bowl and an exquisite wooden box. ‘The chef is the same man from the elevator.’ Han Fei gripped the knife and silently called Big Sin’s name. Han Fei lifted the lids of the pots. The meat inside had been cubed, so he couldn’t tell what kind of meat they were. “Is anyone here?” Han Fei continued to walk inside. He heard the sound of shackles. He turned the corner and saw a monster tied to the wall. The monster looked like a ram. Its limbs had regressed. Its body was grown with brownish-red fungus. It made no sound, and its body was large and fatty. It looked like livestock kept for food.

“There’s really a ram here?!” Han Fei was shocked. He thought the restaurant only dealt with human meat. Han Fei knelt down. This was his first time seeing this kind of monster. Its neck and waist were locked by chains. The shackles were put on the monster when it was a lamb. When it grew older, the shackles grew into its flesh, so it could never escape.

“This thing won’t bite, right?” Big Sin didn’t give any warning. Han Fei used the fastest speed to touch the monster’s head. The system didn’t say anything. “It’s not a special ghost or God’s creation. Is this... a human?”

Han Fei pushed back the fungus on the monster’s head. He saw an ugly face. There were some red tobacco leaves and syringes around the monster’s feet. “Is the Red Alley’s tobacco grown on this thing?” Han Fei held the shackles and attempted to cut them with Rest in Peace when footsteps came from deep inside the kitchen. The honest-looking man stood at the door with the newly-sharpened butcher’s knife. He looked at Han Fei and the honesty on his face slowly twisted.

“Sir, how can you come in here?” He slowly approached Han Fei. He moved faster and faster.

Han Fei only had one life point, so he couldn’t be too careful. He summoned Big Sin to face the first enemy in the building. The large body crashed through the wall. Big Sin was very excited. The presence of tragedy flooded everything. The chef was overwhelmed by Big Sin. The next second, his head was swallowed by Big Sin. “The system hasn’t given me the notification that he’s dead!”

Han Fei had Big Sin inject Soul Poison into the chef. Even a Pure hatred could be hurt by Big Sin’s ambush, much less an unknown chef. The black Soul Poison flowed through the chef’s body, torturing his soul and body. When the poison reached his heart, something inside the chef’s soul cracked!

As the chef disintegrated, a deep red name was carved on Big Sin’s back, Zhu Wu.

“The suspect from that case is called Zhu Wu. Why would his name appear on Big Sin after Big Sin killed him? Is this a curse?” Han Fei communicated with Big Sin. Big Sin didn’t feel any discomfort. In fact, it felt stronger.

“The slaughter is over, but not the mission.” Han Fei hurriedly cleaned up the blood and ran to the deepest room of the kitchen. The dark room was like a prison cell. There were many tools used for

slaughter. The chef had added hooks and shelves for convenience. However, there was no lamb in prison but a thin, young woman. Her mouth was sealed. Her body was slathered with spices like she was being marinated. Han Fei walked toward the woman with the knife. Her eyes were filled with fear.

“Notification for Player 0000! You’ve reached the key point for How to Murder a Lamb. Your different choices will lead to different rewards.

“Choice 1: Unleash your inner sin and commit murder. You will gain double EXP and start the next stage of cooking the lamb!

“Choice 2: Cook the lamb and finish what Zhu Wu started. Continue to deliver the food to the other citizens. You will gain a permanent unique ability from Zhu Wu! You will also start the next stage of cooking the lamb!

“Choice 3: Save Xiao Zhu. Fail the quest and gain no EXP. Gain friendliness level with Xiao Zhu by 3 and with Sister Hong by 1!

“Warning! Please make your choice within the next ten seconds!”

Xiao Zhu was a stranger to Han Fei. Killing Xiao Zhu could advance the mission and gain a permanent reward. The system seemed to be convincing Han Fei to kill. But Han Fei was conscious that he was not a killer. Han Fei undid the rope and told Xiao Zhu to remove the layer of marinating on her body.

“Move faster! We can’t stay here.” Han Fei made his choice. He wouldn’t become a murderer even if he could get a new ability. When Xiao Zhu changed, Han Fei was busy too. He looked through the cabinets and eventually found ten coins made from human bones inside the hidden compartment of the cupboard. The coins were of differing sizes. The similarity was all of them had the carving of an altar made from dead bodies. When Big Sin saw the coins, it charged at Han Fei like it had smelled something delicious.

“Do you want to eat the coins?” Han Fei knew that Big Sin liked to destroy altars. It was obsessed with the presence of Unmentionables and liked to eat anything related to them.

Han Fei selected the smallest bone coin and tossed it to Big Sin. It immediately started chomping happily.

“What kind of monster have I been keeping?” After feeding Big Sin a few more bone coins, he tricked Big Sin back into the ghost tattoo. Han Fei continued his search and found an elevator card inside the chef’s coat. The card had the number 11.

“Notification for Player 0000! You’ve found the hidden map unique item—Elevator 11 Card.

“Elevator 11 Card: The owner can now use Elevator 11! The different elevators will lead to different floors. Taking some of the elevators will trigger special events.”

“This is a good thing.” Han Fei put the card away. He helped Xiao Zhu get out of the restaurant before he ran back into the shop to replace everything. After doing this many times, Han Fei became very good at this. After dealing with everything, Han Fei exited the small restaurant. He originally wanted to find the blind hawker, but the man was gone.

He went back to the small house. When the middle-aged woman saw Han Fei lead Xiao Zhu back, the dullness in her eyes became shock and awe. “How did you manage to convince Zhu Wu to let her go?”

“Who is Zhu Wu? When I was there, I only saw her.” Han Fei didn’t clarify the details, but the woman understood everything. She jogged to close the door and handed her clothes to Xiao Zhu.

“You two should hide here first.” The middle-aged woman offered. Her attitude changed. At the same time, Han Fei got a new notification. “Notification for Player 0000! The mission, How to Kill a Lamb, failed! The effect of Lapidarist has been triggered. Your charm has doubled. Your friendliness level with Xiao Zhu increases by six. Friendliness level with Sister Hong increases by two!”

Han Fei planned to have a good chat with the two citizens and really began to understand this scary skyscraper.

Chapter 782: The Residents

The sign on the sixth floor said that this place was called Red Alley.

Even though Han Fei couldn't see anything special about the middle-aged woman, he had a feeling that she was not a simple character since she was named by the system. After saving Xiao Zhu, Sister Hong's friendliness level also increased by two. For Han Fei, this was very important.

"Based on the way you're dressed, you two came from the other floor. I suggest you smear this thing all over your clothes to conceal your presence." Sister Hong took out a box from the drawer. It contained a brownish-red gel. It looked like congealed blood, but it was actually some kind of unique mold. The elder still didn't quite trust Sister Hong, but Han Fei smeared the gel over his clothes without hesitation.

"You knew we were from the other floor when you first met us, right? How are we that different from the residents of Red Alley?" Han Fei handed the box to the elder after he used it.

"The people here have dullness in their eyes, but you're different." Sister Hong led Xiao Zhu into the bathroom that was stuffed with trash. She didn't close the door and switched on the rusted faucet. She used brown water to wash Xiao Zhu's body. As the cold and smelly water washed over her skin, Xiao Zhu shivered. She bit on her hand as tears flowed down her face. She didn't dare to cry out loud.

"Wash up yourself. Do not leave behind any traces. If those people manage to trace it, no one can save you." Sister Hong turned the faucet up to the maximum and then exited the bathroom and sat down on the bed. "The two of you should stay here tonight and don't go anywhere. Do not switch off the light near the door. No matter what happens outside, do not open the door."

"The man at the restaurant is a murderer. I doubt he has any friends. Who would avenge him?" Han Fei was slowly trying new topics.

"I don't know how it is on the other floors, but Red Alley has its own rules." Sister Hong lit a cigarette. She crossed her legs, showing no decency at all. "Is your power related to Charm? I feel an attraction to you and want to answer your questions."

"We do come from another floor. We are not that familiar with the lower floors. Can you tell me the people and places we should pay attention to?" Han Fei took out the bone coins. "You can have as many of these things as you like. Plus, I can give you stuff that money can't buy, like freedom and safety."

Sister Hong looked at Han Fei silently. Eventually, she extinguished her cigarette. "You are really special. Do you come from floor 50 and above?"

"It doesn't matter where I come from. The important thing is I can give you things you will never have before. I swear on Big Sin's name that I will not harm you."

"Who is Big Sin?" Sister Hong was confused.

Han Fei undid the buttons of his collar to show off the ghost tattoo. "It is my God. It is sin and a symbol."

Sister Hong used her finger to touch the tattoo. The presence of Big Sin cut her finger. She licked the blood off her finger. Sister Hong was not scared but became more interested in Han Fei. "I am only familiar with the places below the 50th floor. This is a chaotic land of sin dominated by various forces and monsters. There are Red Alley, Casino, Rusted Stairs, Mausoleum, Disciples, Night Police, Sin Seekers, Blind Merchants, Deviants, Death Borns, Dictators, Taboos, and Sustenance. Killers, murderers, and crazy people are hidden among them. Everyone you see will have a hidden face."

Sister Hong provided a lot of information. Han Fei had to process it slowly, "Every one of those are enemies?"

"Most of them are dominated by evil. Red Alley forces the victim to sell their bodies; everything can be bet on at the Casino, including soul and life; the cleaners of the Rusted Stairs are responsible for cleaning away the dead bodies. They used the elevator access card to take advantage of the sinners living here; there were no normal people in the Mausoleum. Most of them are half-dead monsters; the disciples of God are normally very kind and peaceful, but they can kill each other for the sake of God's rituals..." Through Sister Hong, Han Fei slowly understood this crazy place.

Night police were bounty hunters in disguise; Deviants were creations of mutations. They were strong and crazy; No one had seen a Death Born before. According to legend, everyone who met them had died; the Dictators were the managers for floors below fifty. They designated the rules and knew how to get to the upper floors; Sister Hong didn't explain the meaning of Sustenance. She only told Han Fei that once someone became Sustenance, they would be incredible pain; the final one was the Taboos that even Sister Hong was not familiar with. But she knew running into them was not good. Taboos could wipe out an entire floor.

“Of the various forces, there are two that are neutral. One is the Blind Merchant you’ve met. They have their own network and are responsible for transporting the various items between floors. I heard they come from the area above floor 50. Every blind merchant knows many things, and they will never harm anyone.

“Other than the Blind Merchants, there’s another unique presence called Sin Seekers.” At this point, Sister Hong studied Han Fei. “They are not criminals. In fact, they are filled with justice. They will take extreme risks to capture criminals. They have the beauty of humanity. However, they all end up in the worst state. Some of them became criminals, while others became Sustenance. But strangely enough, there will always be Sin Seekers every few months. They seem to be toys created by God. God wants to watch how the people of justice slowly walk towards ruination.”

“What properties will Sin Seekers have?” Han Fei had a feeling that Sister Hong had mistaken him for a Sin Seeker.

“After they kill a criminal, they will be able to gain their power and memory through carrying their sin.” Sister Hong stood up to study Han Fei’s ghost tattoo. “The stronger the Sin Seeker, the more sins they will have on their body.”

Han Fei remembered that after Big Sin consumed Zhu Wu, Zhu Wu’s name appeared on its body. Plus, Big Sin became stronger. It looked like Big Sin had the same power as the Sin Seekers. If Sister Hong weren’t lying, then Big Sin had a very high chance of becoming this skyscraper’s scariest and most unpredictable Sin Seeker. Han Fei pressed his lips.

Sin Seekers sounded like living humans Unmentionable brought in from the real world. He trapped the agent of justice in the skyscraper and watched them sink in the mud of sin. This brought him joy. Han Fei was reminded of something. Li Xue’s teacher once said that the garden owner planned to make him into his creation. Li Xue’s teacher never bowed to evil. He had been battling Butterfly for a decade and refused all evils. Was he not the perfect candidate to be a Sin Seeker?

Han Fei had a bad feeling, but he had trouble looking after himself now. He planned to warn Li Xue’s teacher after he left the game.

“What are you thinking about?” The icy fingers touched Han Fei’s ghost tattoo. “Your God is called Big Sin, then what is your name? Small Sin?”

Han Fei frowned. To prevent his real name from being cursed, he hesitated and said, "My name is Bai Cha."

Chapter 783: The Case of the Ghost Tailor

After saying Bai Cha's name, Han Fei turned to the elder. "We're now on the same boat. There's no need to hide anything. Getting to know each other will help us face the threats more effectively."

The elder was persuaded by Han Fei's masterful acting. He pondered for a long time before he pulled down a leaf from the strange plant on his back. "I'm a waste product that had fallen off when God was creating another creation. I have no name, just the number 100. My soul is the broken flower pot. My core is the flower grown on my back."

"The plant on your back is a flower?!" Han Fei couldn't say he recognized it.

"Yes. A flower that even God can't appreciate." The elder didn't continue this topic and looked at Sister Hong with alertness. "The two of us have exchanged our secrets. What about you?"

"I'm just a normal woman at Red Alley."

"Can a normal citizen know so many secrets?" The elder didn't believe her, but they still needed to stay at her place that night, so he didn't push. The sound of water in the bathroom stopped. Xiao Zhu, who changed into another set of clothes, walked out. Her emotions were more stable. "Thank you." Her thin body was like a twig that could be snapped at any moment. Xiao Zhu walked to the bed and pulled out two bone coins from the pile of smelly clothes.

"Keep it. I don't lack money. I normally use them to feed my pet." Han Fei rejected Xiao Zhu. Just as he was about to ask something else, there was a strange footstep from outside. The person appeared to be walking around in wet shoes. The people in the room shut their mouths in unison and turned to look at the door. The person outside appeared to be looking for someone. He would randomly open the doors to check. If the people inside dared to resist, the cursing would turn into screaming. Sister Hong signaled for everyone to stay put as she snuck to the door. She looked out through the gap. A few Disciples in red raincoats swayed past her door. Perhaps Han Fei's luck was too high. The Disciples didn't stop at their place.

“The Disciples rarely come to the sixth floor. Did something happen?” After those people left, Sister Hong shared her suspicion.

“Aren’t those the Messengers patrolling outside?” Han Fei walked over too. He saw the water trace on the ground and understood that Sister Hong’s Disciples were the system’s Messengers.

“The Disciples are God’s most fanatic believers. Sometimes I even suspect they have no self-consciousness but are puppets. But the scariest thing is, normally, they act just like normal people. They will only show themselves when someone blasphemes God.”

“I get it now. God uses Disciples to manage the skyscraper.” Others might not be able to identify Disciples, but Han Fei could do it easily with the system. This was good news. “Inside the skyscraper, we can survive as long as we don’t anger God.” Hiding around was not Han Fei’s style. He wanted to find an exit from this land of sin.

“The Unmentionable has trapped all the evil and sin here. In that case, why don’t we eat the other sins to become the most poisonous threat?” Sister Hong and the elder just wanted to hide, but Han Fei was ready for a big fight. This was their difference.

“Don’t act too rashly.” The elder reminded him.

“Chaos is a rising step. This place has no rules, and boundaries. As long as we can be fast and effective, we can be our own Dictators.” The ambition in Han Fei’s eyes burned like a flame. Even Sister Hong didn’t dare to look at him. “You and Xiao Zhu have been bullied here. Have you not wished to bully those people back and torture those who have once tortured you?” The Voice of the Devil and Masterful Acting made it so that it wasn’t that hard for Han Fei to persuade Sister Hong, “If you cooperate with me, I can make you the new ruler of Red Alley.”

Honestly, Sister Hong was moved. The dullness in her eyes faded further. “What do you need from me?”

“First, I need you to tell me about the regulars at that restaurant. I will find a way to deal with them. Then, I need you to tell me everything about the current ruler of Red Alley.” Han Fei sounded very different from a Sin Seeker, but he was very convincing.

“The regulars are not on the floor. Zhu Wu often delivers to other floors. Someone on the upper floor loves his meat and gifted him an elevator card.” Sister Hong’s ambition was lit up by Han Fei. She started to explain to Han Fei. “The owner of Red Alley is rather unique. You might not believe it, but the owner is actually a set of clothes.”

“Clothes?” Han Fei and the elder were confused.

“Deep inside the sixth floor, there are a few deep red rooms. An extremely ugly man with a pockmarked face lives there. All the neighbors call him the monster, but everyone looks after him because he is the craftiest tailor here.

“The man is extremely ugly, but he adopted a very cute girl. As time passed, the girl became more beautiful. She was like a flower rising above the mud. The tailor protected the girl. Everyone could see how much he loved the girl. He gave all the best things to the girl. Everyone believed their relationship was the purest thing in this land of sin.

“But one day, the girl stopped appearing. The tailor looked for his adopted daughter everywhere, but he couldn’t find her. He became crazy, angry, and twisted. The neighbors pitied him at first, but no one expected the things that happened next.

“One late night, the adopted daughter returned to the sixth floor. She had been made into clothes. She was worn by the tailor, so she would never leave the tailor’s control. Then the neighbors found out the truth. The tailor’s love for his daughter was twisted. He was also the man who killed the daughter’s biological parents. He couldn’t think of parting with his daughter, so he turned her into clothes.

“There were many people who knew the truth. Those who had the ability moved to the other floors. The rest became the ghost tailor’s prey. He became his own daughter and the craziest monster on this floor. He was dominated by a desire to patch the human skin he was wearing. The red lights around Red Alley weren’t to create an atmosphere but to cover up the bloodstains.” At that moment, the system rang. “Notification for Player 0000! You’ve triggered Grade E Mission—The Case of the Ghost Tailor.

“The Case of the Ghost Tailor (Hidden Map Mission): He has personally created many things, but no matter how hard he tries, he can’t create love.

“Mission Requirement: Kill the Ghost Tailor and destroy his new clothes.”

Han Fei narrowed his eyes. "After killing the tailor, Red Alley is ours. This is worth doing." The calm tone said some horrifying things. Han Fei touched his ghost tattoo. He had made his decision. "Sister Hong, lead the way. We'll go there now." There was no detailed plan and strategy. Han Fei was so determined that the others were shocked. They didn't know that Han Fei was desperate to finish a mission to earn the right to leave the game.

"There are other special existences like Zhu Wu in Red Alley. Isn't it too rash for us to do this?" Sister Hong hesitated.

"When they react, it'll be too late. If they stand in our way, they'll become the new sin on my body." Han Fei opened the door. Sister Hong and the elder followed. The three entered the maze again. Without the guidance of a local, people would easily get lost here.

After turning several corners, Sister Hong pushed open the door to a room filled with trash. There was sheared skin at the corner and a lot of hair. "After you leave through this room's backdoor, you'll reach the deepest part of Red Alley. Sometimes, the residents of the other floors will go there to play." Sister Hong's voice trembled like she had remembered something scary. "They have many ways to unleash their sins and evil. That place is their heaven and our hell."

"Trash should be taken out." Han Fei said. The darkness of this skyscraper really opened his eyes. The three entered the room. Suddenly, the elder turned to look at the corner. "What is that?"

The trash rolled to the ground. A humanoid body was moving. Its chest had been dug out. Black mould grew on its body. Its arms were longer than normal. Its eyes were bulging. The eyeballs were like glass balls. They were covered in grime, and things moved inside the pupils.

"This room is about to become a Mausoleum. After some time, it will complete the transformation to a monster." Sister Hong sighed. "There will be fewer hidden pathways."

"Can we kill it?" Han Fei took out Rest in Peace.

"It's pointless. It is already dead. The more you try to kill it, the faster it'll grow..." Then Han Fei cut the head off with Red in Peace. To Sister Hong's surprise, the struggling soul inside the body was cut through

by Han Fei. It morphed into light and entered the blade. The unique mold and worms disappeared. The mutating ghost was dispatched by Han Fei.

“How did you do that?” Sister Hong was shocked. Mausoleum was the hardest room to clean up on the floors below 50, but Han Fei did just that.

“That’s my other ability.” Han Fei sensed the humanity absorbed by Rest in Peace. He didn’t expect to find the brilliance of humanity in this place. This citizen of Mausoleum was once a good person. Perhaps they were so kind in life that they were targeted by God.

Sister Hong walked through the room and stopped before a door covered with mold.

She tore off a corner of her shirt and grabbed a black key hidden under a piece of wooden board.

“You two need to pretend that you’re forced here by me.” Sister Hong tried the lock twice before she opened the door. The dark red light and mist oozed out. Sister Hong put the key in her pocket and entered the door with her head lowered. The shrill screams came from the rooms lining the corridor. There were other sounds as well.

Half-dead ‘clients’ collapsed in the corridor. They sucked on blood cigarettes. Their organs and limbs had been harvested, but they didn’t seem to feel the pain. They puffed on the cigarettes until the brownish-red mold climbed all over their bodies.

“How is this heaven?”

Chapter 784: An Order

This was the first time Han Fei had seen such a depraved place in the cryptic world. The other places had cruel ghosts, but this skyscraper corrupted one’s soul. The deep side and outer side of Red Alley were two completely different worlds. Under the red light, every ‘client’ who came here shed their disguises and allowed their inner demons to come out. They came here to satisfy their perversion. The men and women trapped inside the rooms were less than toys.

Even though this place was disgusting, it had a redeeming value. The place was fair. After the clients lost everything, they would become the new 'toys'. That were the rules of Red Alley.

Walking down the moldy collision, the smell in the air agitated the soul. Just the sounds coming out of the rooms on both sides could scar one's soul. Sister Hong didn't dare to lift her head. She gritted her teeth and moved forward. They took a long time to walk down the corridor around 30 meters long. The blood was dried on the ground. Strange red plants grew out of it. They looked like fingers reaching out of bloody mud.

"The tobacco used in the blood cigarette is grown by the owner of Red Alley. Everyone on this floor smokes it. But only he knows how to make them." Sister Hong looked at the blood-red door at the end of the corridor. Ambitions, hatred, and fear mixed in her eyes. "The Disciples hate coming here, so we have plenty of time."

"Leave this to me." Han Fei only had one Life Point, but he didn't hesitate. Han Fei touched the ghost tattoo and summoned Nine Lives. A monster with a cat face crawled out of the ghost tattoo. After being in Fu Sheng's memory altar, Nine Lives was no longer hostile toward Han Fei.

"Open the door." The paw covered in sutures pushed open the red door. Sticky blood leaked out through the gap. The blood cigarette couldn't even cover up the smell of blood. Han Fei and Sister Hong glanced into the room. The spacious living room was stuffed with various tools. The walls hung with clothes sewn from human skin. The bloody ground was growing with strange brownish-red things. It was hard to tell if they were animals or plants. Han Fei covered his nose and grabbed a ball of shadow from his ghost tattoo. He tossed it into the room with Nine Lives. After making sure there was no trap, Han Fei walked to the middle of the living room. He glanced inside the bedroom. The luxuriously-decorated bedroom had a giant mirror. A woman around 2 meters tall was combing her hair as she sat before the mirror. The woman kept her head lowered. Her skin was fair and flawless. She had amazing proportions. She was a beauty.

"Is she the owner of Red Alley?"

The door suddenly closed on its own. The bloody mud on the ground suddenly moved. The woman before the mirror slowly turned around. Under the perfect skin was a rotten, pockmarked face.

"Who allowed you to come in here?" A man's voice came from the perfect face. When he spoke, the skin on the face pulled apart. The vicious eyes swept over the elder and Nine Lives before they landed on Han Fei. "Such perfect skin. But I hate handsome men!"

Lapidarist had a negative effect on the Red Alley owner. He attacked Han Fei instantly. The monster was extremely fast. Han Fei only saw a flash of white, and five slender fingers appeared before him. The milky-white skin started to unravel near the fingers to reveal the rotten phalanges underneath.

“How can he move so fast?” Han Fei already had maximum buff from Dawn Butcher, but he was still too slow. Thankfully, he was careful and prepared before he entered the room. Nine Lives and Xu Qin’s pet protected him. The Red Alley owner didn’t even realize that the shadow around Han Fei was slightly different from normal. Just as he was about to pierce Han Fei’s head, a black snake bit his arm.

“Rest in Peace!” Normal players would leave the game when they had one Life Point, but Han Fei was a special player. The blade shone and chased away the haze of blood cigarettes. Han Fei aimed at the owner’s neck!

The black blood splattered everywhere. The owner’s perfect head rolled to the ground. Everything happened so quickly. Even the elder and Sister Hong were shocked. They thought Han Fei was more like a beast tamer, but he just proved that he was very good in a fight too. From their perspective, Han Fei had a handle on everything. Even when the threat was right before him, he didn’t panic.

“The system didn’t say anything.” Han Fei quickly retreated and warned the elder and Sister Hong, “The monster is not dead yet!”

Black blood poured out of the owner’s neck. The headless body stood there before the stump started to crack. The perfect human skin slowly peeled off to reveal the ugly and dirty man inside.

“Retreat now!” Han Fei shouted. Sister Hong and the elder thought Han Fei sensed danger, but what they saw next shocked them. A terrifying creature about 5 meters large crawled out of the ghost tattoo. The walls of the living room collapsed. The monster bit the Red Alley owner, who was still mutating. Han Fei knew that the owner had to have some special power to control Red Alley. He wouldn’t give the man the opportunity to use it. The owner also didn’t expect a giant creature would crawl out of the thin-looking young man. He wanted to resist, but it was already too late. Big Sin bit his body. Soul Poison corrupted his soul. Nine Lives was a smokescreen, Xu Qin’s pet was insurance, and the real killer was Big Sin. The owner wailed in pain. Even Sister Hong felt uncomfortable. The Red Alley Owner was hard to kill. No one knew how to deliver a fatal blow, and no one knew what he had done to his body. However, Big Sin didn’t have this concern. It planned to eat the owner whole. About ten seconds later, only a pool of black blood remained. Big Sin’s stomach was bulging. Xu Qin’s pet looked at Big Sin. It wanted to get closer, but it was scared.

“Is he dead?” As if to answer Sister Hong, Big Sin opened its mouth and burped out a tattered human skin. On its back, another name appeared beside Zhu Wu, Chang Mazi. Big Sin appeared to have gotten stronger.

“Notification for Player 0000! You’ve killed the ghost tailor and ruined his new clothes! There’s one more step to complete the mission. You need to fix the new clothes!”

Han Fei picked up the ‘clothes’ and entered the ghost tailor’s bedroom. This was once his daughter’s room. It looked normal on the surface, but it hid many secrets. The tailor had modified the bed and closet so that he could be a Peeping Tom. Han Fei found a small wooden box inside the vanity drawer. There was a diary inside. The adopted daughter noticed what the tailor had done. However, the tailor only became worse after he was discovered. After he turned his daughter into clothes, he started to collect her diaries to live through them. “What a crazy man!”

Han Fei found the new clothes design and various tools in the drawer. Han Fei also found a strange order book and several bottles filled with brownish-red liquid in the compartment under the wooden bed.

“The ghost tailor kept the coins and his daughter’s diary in the drawer but kept these things in the hidden compartment. These things are more important than money and his daughter.”

A wilted flower was painted on the cover of the order form. It looked like the symbol of the Death chat Group. The content of the order form was crazy too. Someone wanted the ghost tailor to make the most beautiful clothes using 100 pieces of female victim skin. There was no time limit. The down payment was those several bottles.

“The bottles are not filled with alcohol but small worms and the blood of Disciples.” Sister Hong immediately stopped Han Fei when she saw Han Fei try to open the bottle. “Blood cigarettes are made from these things and dead bodies. They are illegal items. If the Disciples see them, we’ll be in big trouble.”

“Isn’t this building the territory of God? Who would attack his Disciples?”

“To satisfy their inner evil, people would do anything.” Sister Hong stared at the bottles under the bed. Greed flashed in her eyes. “These blood bottles can help us better control the Red Alley.”

“Is your goal limited to just Red Alley?” Han Fei tossed the bone coins into Big Sin’s mouth. He dragged the clothes and walked out. Sister Hong and the elder followed behind him. “What are you doing?”

“Fix the clothes.” Han Fei stood in the corridor. Big Sin and Nine Lives walked out of the blood cigarette mist. The clients inside the rooms who were torturing the men and women didn’t expect Big Sin to appear. The screams echoed nonstop at Red Alley that night. Han Fei stood in the middle of the corridor. He sneered at fate.

“Once I leave the game this time, I’ll find police to help in real life. I’ll check all the murders that have happened in the past fifty years. Knowing the enemy will help a lot.” Han Fei didn’t feel afraid because he was inside the skyscraper. Even if he only had 1 Life Point, he was trying his best to survive. Of course, that was only from Han Fei’s perspective. Both the elder and Sister Hong believed he had returned home. This man ignored the rules. He was strong, evil, mysterious, and mad. This was a supercriminal who had the power of a Sin Seeker. “Come and help.”

Nine Lives and Big Sin dragged out the dead bodies from the rooms. Han Fei selected the best skin based on the tailor’s design to fix the clothes. Most at Red Alley were sinful. However, Han Fei didn’t kill the innocent. He would use Rest in Peace to examine the victims. He would give a chance to residents who still had humanity. As for those who had lost humanity, they were not humans anymore.

“Notification for Player 0000! You’ve completed Grade F Mission—The Case of the Ghost Tailor! You’ve obtained double EXP! You’ve obtained Grade F Normal Talent, Crafty Hands! You’ve obtained the right to upgrade to the hidden profession, Sin Seeker!

“Crafty Hands (The Hands of Sin): Your hands became more nimble. When you’re committing crimes, there’s an additional success buff!

“Sin Seeker (Profession Compatibility 85 percent): You’ll complete the upgrade after you’ve captured or killed 100 unique criminals!”

Han Fei had completed his first mission in the skyscraper. Even though it was a normal mission, he received double exp because it was on a hidden map. "Grade E missions are normally related to Pure Hatreds. There's something else behind the ghost tailor." Han Fei glanced at the order forms. The person who made the order was probably a Pure Hatred. "The skyscraper is the territory of an Unmentionable. It's normal to find Pure Hatreds here. I wonder how many Pure Hatreds are there in the building.

"The God's 10th creation, Listen, is already a Large Lingered Spirit. Is it possible that Top 9 creations are all Pure Hatreds?" The skyscraper was the most unique map Han Fei had ever been in. All the ghosts inside the building were different from the other residents of the cryptic world. For example, the Red Alley Owner's power level was between a Medium and Large Lingered Spirit, but he possessed special power and intelligence to create this unique floor. The ghosts outside were dominated by hatred and resentment. Even though the ghosts here were twisted and depraved, they were very sane. Blood slid down the ceiling and dropped beside Han Fei's shoes. He put away the repaired clothes.

"Notification for Player 0000! You've obtained Grade E Unique Item, The Ghost's New Clothes (Broken)

"The Ghost's New Clothes (Broken): Wear human skin to change your appearance. When you wear this set of clothes, you'll experience the dead's torture and gain part of their power.

"Warning! Adding different skins will make this set more perfect." Han Fei added the tailor's new clothes into his inventory and looked around. Red Alley had been restructured. The place was red, even without the red lightning. The clients were all murdered. The survivors still retained some humanity.

"From now on, the new owner of Red Alley is Sister Hong. You have to listen to her orders." Han Fei used Soul-depth Touch to inspect the survivors. There were seven survivors in the deep side of Red Alley, two males and five females. Han Fei didn't trigger any mission with them, but one of the survivors brought Han Fei a new surprise.

"Notification for Player 0000! You've found a unique resident, Li Rou.

"Li Rou (Deviant's Daughter): As a child who was born on the hidden map, she was very special. Her mother was already a deviant when she was pregnant with Li Rou. Therefore, Li Rou had the specialty of a Deviant and the appearance of a human.

“Danger level: Low.

“Warning! Murder, mating, and consumption will make her stronger and more dangerous.”

Han Fei used Soul-depth Touch to part away the black cloth that covered Li Rou’s head. The left side of her face was fair and beautiful, but her right side was ruined and covered in blood vessels.

“Some like workers like her. Plus, she can recover very quickly. No matter the damage, she’ll recover the next day. That’s why Ma Zi kept her here. He often had her serve those crazy and violent customers.” A girl beside Li Rou said softly. She seemed to be Li Rou’s good friend.

“I understand.” Han Fei studied Li Rou’s face. He took out a pig’s heart. “Eat this. In the future, you’ll no longer be harmed, and I will bring you to harm others.” Cursed Words, the Devil’s Words, and Lapidarist allowed Han Fei to gain one friendliness point with Li Rou. When Han Fei led the client who once bullied Li Rou to her and allow her to take revenge, her friendliness level increased again.

After that, Han Fei gathered everyone in the owner’s room. He told everyone that the owner was dead and no one would oppress them anymore. Li Rou’s friendliness increased again. Since they had been struggling in the darkness, they were desperate for light. However, the constant barrage of despair numbed their souls. They needed someone who could really help them with actions and not words. Han Fei did that.

“Follow me. I’ll bring you to the higher floor so that you’d never be bullied again.” Han Fei never saw himself as a perfectly good person. He was like a demon luring others into the deeper abyss. However, it was undeniable that he brought these people hope.

“Come. Let’s restructure the sixth floor.” Han Fei had the intention to cultivate Li Rou. He encouraged her to kill and taught her fighting skills. In the past, Li Rou was just a toy with a strong recovery. But she was slowly turning into a scary monster. “You’re not a monster. The people who call you that are monsters. Their hearts are ugly and dark. Trust me.” Han Fei searched every room. He broke Red Alley’s current roles and planned to set up new rules. In the past, Red Alley was a place of desire and dirt. Han Fei planned to make it the source of gore and horror.

“In front of us are the only casino on the sixth floor. I suggest we leave the corridor. The casino doesn’t care who the owner here is. They only welcome customers.” Sister Hong pointed down a dirty and

muddy corridor. The entrance of the corridor was decorated with two white lanterns with the word Gamble. The rooms along the corridor were empty. Only an elderly blind merchant knelt at the corner.

“I’ll go take a look.” Han Fei and Sister Hong entered the casino. The decoration inside was simple. There were a few black tables and a large counter. However, once you lifted up the curtain in the living room and walked in further, everything would change. The smell of blood cigarettes lingered in the air. Several people lay on the ground. Their bodies were covered with red mold. Blood-red worms swam in their blood capillaries.

“Blood cigarettes corrupt the souls. Taking these cigarettes long-term will produce blood worms inside one’s body. In the end, the smoker will become the new lair for blood worms and molds. They are how the new tobacco is harvested.” Sister Hong whispered the explanation to Han Fei. “These few probably lost their lives to the casino. But this is not the worst. Some casino customers got turned into Sustenance...”

Heavy footsteps and chain rattles came from deep inside the living room. Moments later, a fatty dragged out a man.

“You look unfamiliar. Is it your first time here?” The fatty’s voice was sharp and shrill, not matching his size.

“Is this your casino?” Han Fei wiped away the blood on his hands and sat down beside the table. He tossed the dice.

“I manage it.” The fatty moved like a meat mountain. “What do you want to play? We accept any kind of bets here.”

“Since you’re just the manager, then forget it.” Han Fei’s murderous intent lowered. If he destroyed the casino on the sixth floor, the casino people on the other floors would come. There was no need for the conflict yet.

“Are you sure? Why don’t you play since you’re already here?” The fatty laughed when he saw Han Fei hesitate. “The rules are simple. Two dogs will fight, and the winner survives. If you win, you can take away the reward. If you lose, you’ll only become the dogs.”

“It looks like a strategic retreat will be viewed as a weakness here.” Han Fei revealed a sick smile. “Sure. I’ll take that bet, but I’ll bet with my own pet.”

“Your own pet?” The fatty’s eyes swept across Sister Hong, the elder, and Li Rou. They posed no threat. “Sure.”

The fatty dragged the chain and opened the inner door of the casino. There were many chained residents. Some of them were wounded, some were mutated, and some of them merely had a black cloth with a number covering them.

“Once you enter this place, the bet has begun. You plan to bet that your dog will win, right?” The fatty’s eyes shone with mockery. “Then I bet that our dog here will win.” His fat hands closed the doors so that Han Fei’s group couldn’t leave. Then, he opened a puppy door that was the size of a small human, “Let your dog in.” His greedy eyes looked at Sister Hong and Li Rou. The fatty wondered who would go in when Han Fei walked towards the small door.

“So the dog is you? Haha!” The fatty laughed until his flesh jiggled. In the building, only those at the lowest level would be dogs. Han Fei stopped beside the small door and looked inside. “If I release Big Sin inside, I’ll lose its protection. What if the fatty chooses to attack me then? But if I send in another pet, what if I lose?”

After some thought, Han Fei knew what to do. He pressed on the door and touched the ghost tattoo. The ghost tattoo radiated the presence of evil. The giant shadow leaped out.

Big Sin rammed through the walls, and Soul Poison splattered everywhere. It easily rampaged through the ‘human dogs’ kept by the casino. The fatty couldn’t laugh anymore. He wanted to have all of the dogs attack at once. It didn’t matter if most of them died. As long as his dog won, he’d win.

“You’ve sold your souls to the casinos. I’ll help you find release.” This was Big Sin’s feast. The screams lasted for only three minutes before silence descended on the casino again. Big Sin crawled to stand behind Han Fei. Its greedy eyes looked at fatty.

“It looks like I win.” Han Fei and Big Sin walked toward the fatty. The fatty retreated until his body was knocked into the table, and he fell down. “You win. This money is your winnings.” The fatty offered Han

Fei a small bag of bone coins. Han Fei fed them to Big Sin immediately. "I've paid so much to summon it, and that's the only reward I get?"

"I've given you everything I can. The casino has its own rules." The flesh on the fatty's face trembles. He had no escape.

"The casino might have its own rules, but Red Alley has its rules too." Han Fei shrugged, and Big Sin opened its maw. "Since you lost, I need you to do a few things for me."

Chapter 786: Calamity Ghost

"Sure. I'll do anything you want!" When Big Sin slowly opened its maw, the fatty became a lot more honest.

"You sure change fast." Han Fei didn't expect this. Perhaps he had underestimated the effect Big Sin had on people.

"This casino is on the sixth floor, so it operates by Red Alley's rules." The fatty looked at the open maw. The Soul Poison dripped on his face. "Can you tell it to stay away from me? I'm scared that it might accidentally injure me." Han Fei raised his hand, and Big Sin took a step back. "Firstly, you need to tell me everything you know about this building; secondly, I need your help to make sure Red Alley operates normally; thirdly, if you hear anything from the casino, I need to know."

"Of course! No problem!" These are nothing for me." The fatty curled up like a giant cocoon. "The casino is like the blind merchants that we have our own channel of communication. As long as a price is paid, you can know everything. In fact, you can also get 'special items' and 'citizens' from other floors. Just tell me what you need."

The fatty was so cooperative that Han Fei felt suspicious.

"I need you to eat this heart, and then we'll continue this conversation." Han Fei took out a pig's heart Xu Qin cooked. After Xu Qin became a Pure Hatred, her cooking contained strong curses. Other than Han Fei, no one dared to eat them, not even Big Sin. Of course, everyone still praised her for her cooking.

“What’s this?”

“Food my family prepared for me.” Han Fei saw the fatty eat the pig’s heart. After the curse was triggered, he had Big Sin inject the fatty with Soul Poison. The two toxins formed a balance inside the fatty.

Everyone following behind Han Fei saw everything. They saw Han Fei as the real demon. He was an ambitionist crazier than the owner of Red Alley. Thankfully, they were on his side.

The fatty’s face wrinkled as he felt the two toxins react inside his body. “I might have forgotten some details earlier. You need to trade something of equal value to get anything from the casino. Even if I sell everything, I can’t get anything for you. The real owner of the casino resides above floor 50. I’m just a guard dog actually.”

“Pay attention to the news. If I die, you will suffer a fate worse than death.” Han Fei used Soul-depth Touch and picked up the fatty’s chin. He felt the fatty’s fear.

“Notification for Player 0000! You’ve discovered a unique citizen—Fatdog.

“The owner of the Casino is a dog kept by God. It fed on the victims’ souls and forced them to the betting table. They eventually became the casino’s Sustenance, coins, and animals.

“Fatdog (Strength empowered): He used his former memory and humanity as chips to exchange for strength that would keep growing.

“Memory is the most useless thing. Remember you, and the feeling of failing to protect you is too painful. I’d rather forget you and retain the instinct to protect you.”

Han Fei pulled back his hands. “Fatdog. Quite a nice name. I hope the person you want to protect hasn’t been killed by you.”

The fatty was stunned. His brain was confused.

“Sister Hong, are there any other dangerous places on the sixth floor? We want to clear away all the hidden dangers.” Han Fei took out Rest in Peace and saw it shining brighter. Completing the mission in the skyscraper could grab Han Fei double EXP, he could find citizens with humanity, and capturing fugitives could empower Big Sin. This place was perfect for Mad Laughter.

“You’ve cleaned up all the dangerous rooms on the outer layer, but they might come from the other floor, like a wandering Deviant or a room turning into Mausoleum.” Sister Hong reminded Han Fei.

“Are there no other forces worth noting on the sixth floor?”

“There are some cleaners, people from the Rusted Stairs.” Fatdog crawled up from the ground. Perhaps he really wanted to help Han Fei. He stood beside Han Fei with difficulty. “Those people do not respect us and the rules at all. They are so rude.”

“Don’t listen to him. The cleaners are very dangerous. They can use the elevators freely and frequent any floor. They have collected a lot of cursed objects and enslaved many strong monsters.” Sister Hong interrupted, “Think about it. How can people who could move freely through the different floors be weak?”

The cleaners were a powerful force. That was something Han Fei didn’t expect.

“They are not to be offended. If they think we’re easy to bully, they might purposely send some large trash to our floor and turn this floor into a dump site.” Fatdog bowed to Han Fei, but his attitude to Sister Hong was bad.

“What does that mean?” Han Fei frowned.

“In the past, the owner of Red Alley would give Rusted Stairs some benefits. He persuaded them not to send the big monsters here. Since they were not sent here, they were probably sent somewhere else.” Sister Hong shared her thoughts. “We don’t need to fight the cleaners. We only need to give them some coins and blood cigarettes. They should leave us be.”

“We should go and meet them first.” Han Fei led Fatdog, Sister Hong, and Li Rou out of the casino. Fatdog and Sister Hong walked beside Han Fei. They had lived so long in the skyscraper that they’d do anything to survive. The red lights in the corridors faded, and the temperature dropped. The trash slowly accumulated in the corridors. The rooms were abandoned.

“Every floor has its zone that is suitable for living and otherwise. The zones which are not suitable for living are normally dominated by the Night Police, Deviants, and Mausoleums. Rusted Stairs is mainly responsible for cleaning up these places. However, they are cowardly and vicious. They will not risk their lives to clean up the rooms. This means that the skyscraper has fewer and fewer habitable zones.” Sister Hong hid behind Li Rou. She felt that her limbs were getting chilled. “We’ll reach Rusted Stairs’ zone as we walk down this corridor. I have never been there, so I have no idea what we’ll encounter.”

Fatdog stood on Han Fei’s other side. His fatty layers meant that he wasn’t cold. He was anxious. “I also haven’t seen the cleaners on the sixth floor for a long time already.”

Han Fei moved away the trash that blocked the road and shone the flashlight down the corridor. The corridor was lined with abandoned rooms. A horrible stench lingered in the air. Tracks of heavy objects being dragged could be seen on the ground.

“It feels like a very scary monster lives here.” The elder hid at the back.

“This is where the cleaners should be, so where are they?” Han Fei knelt down and examined the fresh blood in the trash. “Come. Let’s go in further.” Following the blood trail, Han Fei came to the first corner. He saw two Disciples being forcibly twisted together like party balloons.

“The Disciples were killed just like that?!” Fatdog and Sister Hong stopped. “This is not done by the cleaners. An accident has happened here!”

Blood flowed out of the red raincoats. Han Fei examined the bodies. The two Disciples’ inner organs were crushed. “Is there another who could twist two bodies together with their bare hands?” Han Fei started to examine the crime scene. There was no visible wound on the Disciples’ skin.

“This is strange. It doesn’t seem like they were attacked, but they voluntarily twisted and bound their bodies around each other!” Han Fei had seen similar power in Fu Sheng’s memory world. The doctors at the plastic surgery hospital could control the patients to do strange maneuvers. Han Fei summoned both

Nine Lives and the black snake. More blood appeared in the corridor. A lot of trash was bent, and the walls became uneven too. There were cracks everywhere.

“Sister Hong, has this happened before?”

“Every floor is protected by God. Even if some parts collapsed, the people from Rusted Stairs would come to fix it.” Sister Hong sensed the severity of the situation. “How about we retreat? What if we run into Taboos? Then we won’t be able to run!” Perhaps hearing Han Fei and Sister Hong’s conversation, a weak plea came from the trash heap about 10 meters away. Han Fei had the snake take a look first. He only approached after confirming there was no danger. They moved away the trash together and saw a man who only had his upper body left. He was wearing the cleaner’s uniform. His innards and skin were twirled together like a rope.

“There’s a Calamity Ghost. 10th floor...” Once the cleaner spoke, black blood flowed out. His only movable left hand held a severely-damaged elevator card.

“What is a Calamity Ghost?”

“10th floor. Night police with the camera. Run...” The cleaner’s teeth started to fall. Han Fei wanted to pull him out of the trash heap. But once he did, Han Fei had a bad feeling. Something cracked in his ears. Han Fei turned to look and saw Nine Lives had its arms bent and twisted. Han Fei told everyone to retreat. He didn’t even know where the killer was.

“Notification for Player 0000! You’ve triggered a Grade E High Difficulty Random Mission—Calamity Ghost!”

“There is only one random high difficulty random mission on each floor. The trigger chance is five percent. The mission is highly dangerous. Please consider whether to accept it or not!”

“Yes!” Han Fei naturally wouldn’t give up on a mission.

“Mission Requirement: Kill the Calamity Ghost.”

Han Fei didn't even know what a Calamity Ghost was. He didn't have the time to think. He ran all the way from the sixth floor's cleaner zone.

"The ghost in there will eventually come out. It's not safe on this floor anymore." Han Fei didn't think he'd leave the sixth floor so soon, but his heart had not stopped beating. Han Fei used masterful acting to trace the source of his anxiety. There was a bloody shadow slowly approaching Han Fei. It had entered the skyscraper.

"The monster I summoned from the blood sea is still alive? It managed to survive both the boy and Listen?"

Han Fei was connected to the creatures he summoned. He quickly led everyone to the elevator booth on the sixth floor.

"I've already completed one mission. Now I only need to survive for another three hours."

Chapter 787: Collector

Han Fei now had two elevator cards. One was the 11 Elevator Card he got from the chef, and the other was the 9 Elevator Card that was heavily damaged.

"Calamity Ghost appears at Red Alley. We can push all the things that had happened here to it." Han Fei changed his clothes and led the two special citizens to the sixth-floor elevator lobby. In the past, Rusted Stairs would guard this place, and it was the most dangerous and busiest place. Once the elevator panel lit up, everyone would be nervous because no one knew what would be coming out. However, the elevator lobby on the sixth floor was empty. The elevators were shut, and all the lights were out.

"The cleaner told us to get to the 10th floor. We can use Calamity Ghost as an excuse to communicate with the cleaners on the 10th floor." Han Fei took out the elevator card and tried it a few times. The elevator didn't respond, but Han Fei's heart pounded faster. The monster that came from the red sea was approaching.

"Are we going to the 10th floor to ask for help?" Fatdog had a bad impression of the cleaners. "Those people are rats blinded by greed. They will not help us."

“I don’t plan to ask them to help us. I plan to take down the 10th floor.” Han Fei still had no idea how to leave the skyscraper. He was powerless alone. Therefore, he needed to gather more allies. “Soon, another force will appear in this building to set up some new rules.”

Sister Hong was worried after hearing that. “Even though I haven’t seen God, I can hear from the Disciples that only God can decide the rules. We’re only worms struggling in his palms.”

“So what if we’re worms? Have you not heard of poisonous worms that can kill people with a bite?” Han Fei suppressed his anxiety. He swiped the chef’s card for elevator 11. The rusted doors slowly opened. The inside of the booth was very clean like a monster would often lick away the trash and blood inside.

Fatdog was too large so Han Fei had him stay outside. The others followed him into the elevator. As the elevator doors slowly closed, an extremely oppressive feeling pressed down on him. Every cell in his body resisted. The number on the panel changed very slowly. Han Fei didn’t dare to let his guard down. When the number reached 9, the rising elevator suddenly stopped. A few seconds later, the elevator doors creaked open. There was a dim corridor outside.

“Someone pressed for the elevator to stop on this floor, so where are they?” The elder and Han Fei hid behind Li Rou. No one dared to do anything.

“I remember this floor should be really normal. There’s no organization like Red Alley or casino. It’s a relatively safe floor.” The light in the elevator shone out into the corridor. Sister Hong pressed the button for the doors to close. As the doors slowly closed, she took out a small compact mirror from her purse. At the last moment, she kicked the mirror out. Han Fei understood what she was trying to do. He focused on the mirror. Through the mirror, Han Fei and Sister Hong saw something terrifying. Standing outside their elevator was a monster that had torn eyes and lips! The whole face was about to fall, but he was still laughing silently. It was scary.

The elevator continued to rise. Sister Hong wiped away the cold sweat on her forehead. “Did you see that? There was a Deviant standing outside the elevator!”

“Is that a Deviant?” If not for his low Life Points, Han Fei wanted to touch the monster so that the system could examine him.

“A normal person would have died already in that state!” Sister Hong shivered, “But shouldn’t the ninth-floor elevator lobby be guarded by Rusted Stairs? Why is there a Deviant at the door? Has God slumbered for too long that various monsters have emerged?”

“That might be good news for us.” Han Fei nodded.

“I don’t think anything can ever be bad news for you.” The elder lamented. It was good to have a positive outlook on life, but Han Fei was overly optimistic. The ancient elevator 11 finally stopped. The rusted doors opened, and the dim light shone on their faces. “This floor is quite lively.”

The 10th floor and the 9th floor were just one floor apart, but they were likely completely different places. The 9th floor was dark and quiet, but the 10th floor had lights installed on every corridor. There were bargaining sounds, arguing sounds, and running sounds. The existence of bargaining sounds meant that there were certain rules on this floor. There was no bargaining at Red Alley. It was often live or die.

“The two of us have conflicts with the Disciples. We’ll need you to lead the way.” Han Fei and the elder shielded their faces. Sister Hong was very reliable. She soon returned with the cleaner responsible for the 10th floor.

“Are you Bai Cha? I don’t care what happened at Red Alley. If you need my help, it depends on your sincerity.” A mousy, small man looked at Han Fei with impatience.

“A calamity ghost has appeared on the sixth floor, and everyone is dead.”

“And how is that my problem?” The small man blew at his empty palms.

“Bring me to the Rusted Stairs’ boss on the 10th floor, and this is yours.” Han Fei took out a bag of bone coins and tossed it over. Instantly, the small man’s face turned up with a smile.

“I’ll bring you over now. But a warning for you. That person doesn’t have a good temper.” The small man was very happy. He had no idea that the last person who took money from Han Fei had already disintegrated into ashes.

They walked through the busy corridors. The 10th floor was more populous than the other floors. Most of the residents moved here from the other floors. This proved the capability of the 10th-floor manager.

They turned the corner and pushed through a secret door. Han Fei soon saw the other side of the 10th floor. At the places where the lights couldn't shine, there were a lot of skeletons. Their flesh had been scraped clean. Everything usable had been exploited.

"What a place of extreme selfishness and greed." Han Fei's good impression of the 10th floor was gone.

"Yes. Those selfless people can come to this floor to provide their flesh and blood to the selfish people. We will give them respect like honoring their names before sucking on their blood and marrow." The small man revealed a mocking smile. "Will you be a selfish person or a selfless person?"

"I'd rather be a fair person."

"There is no fairness in this world." The small man scoffed.

"There is. Killing everyone is a kind of fairness." Han Fei smiled. This skyscraper was where the dirtiest part of humanity was gathered. He knew what to do.

"Are you a comedian? You do love to joke." The small man pulled open the door. Soft light hit the floor, and a luxurious and clean room appeared before them. This was Han Fei's first time encountering a room like this below floor 50.

"Zhang Shu, how can you be so impolite to our guests?"

The curtains opened, and a well-dressed man walked out. He was holding a perfect child's skull.

"Hello. The cleaner who was murdered by the Night Police told me to come to the 10th floor to search for a Night Police with a camera before he died. The Night Police should be the key to killing the Calamity Ghost." To complete the mission, Han Fei volunteered to shake the man's hand, but the man kept his focus on the child's skull.

Using Art Appraisal, Han Fei noticed that the skull's size was disproportionate to the bone age. It was like a child had been trapped inside a cage since they were young. Their body kept growing but not their head.

"Your skull is rare, but this kind of creation forced through external manipulations is not art. It'll be looked down upon by people from above floor 50." Han Fei gave his review. Hearing that, the man turned around with displeasure in his eyes.

"Are you a collector? If you can help me..." Han Fei approached the man and whispered, "I can help you get rare items from above floor 50, even creations with God's presence."

"Creations with God's presence?" The man's eyes widened. He told the others to leave while he led Han Fei deep into his room. Many gory collections were showcased in the room behind the curtains. The man proudly showed them off to Han Fei. "These are my collections, but there are not many who can appreciate them on this floor. Since you can see the problem on the skull, you should be a collector too, right?"

"Some people like to collect the victims' clothes, organs, or skulls, but I like to collect sins. I will turn all the criminals into samples and list out their sins." Han Fei's smile was very gentle and scholarly. "There are now only two of us in this room. If I kill you, do you think your collection will take revenge for you?"

Before the man could react, a giant creature crawled out of Han Fei's ghost tattoo. The maw dripping with Soul Poison opened before him!

"Do you know? After a body affected by Soul Poison is burned away, the bones will be pure black in color. That is a rare collection." Han Fei stared at the man who kept shaking his head. "As a collector, I'm sure you'll appreciate that."

Chapter 788: Night Police

The collector was interested in an onyx skull, but he didn't want to be one. When the Soul Poison almost dripped onto the collector's face, he suddenly blurted out, "I've seen the Night Police you mentioned! He has a camera and will take pictures wherever he goes! He used to be a famous Sin Seeker. But something happened, and he became a Night Police!"

Han Fei smiled at the collector. He took out Xu Qin's pig's heart and munched on it. Big Sin blocked Han Fei from the collector. Its maw was right above the collector's head. This guaranteed Han Fei's safety and threatened the collector. Han Fei liked this.

"I feel like you're lying."

"I'm telling the truth!"

"If you want me to trust you, eat half of this heart." Han Fei used Xu Qin's curse and Big Sin's Soul Poison to create this cuisine. The collector knew the situation he was in and his eyes flashed with resentment, but he had no other choice.

"Stop struggling. The more you do, the quicker you'll die." Han Fei touched the collector's soul. It reeked of the stink of money. "Not even a unique citizen. How disappointing."

"I can give you everything in this room. Can you spare my life?" The collector was regretful. He had no idea such a scary monster would be hiding in the outsider Zhang Shu led in. The main reason was Han Fei was too good of an actor.

"I'm not a person who likes to kill. If you help me, I'll help you undo the curse ten days later." The most dangerous kind of people were those who had nothing to lose.

"Okay. I'll bring you to find the Night Police now." The collector walked out of the room with Han Fei. When Zhang Shu saw them, he thought they had completed some kind of deal. He came to ask for a reward from the collector. He rubbed his hands and fawned endlessly. The collector stabbed a sharp white blade into Zhang Shu's stomach. The collector was very fast. He always had the white blade on him. If Han Fei were careless, he would end up like Zhang Shu.

"How can you mistreat our customers? This is your punishment." The collector pulled out the knife. The blade still looked unblemished. The collector was not strong, but his blade was very special. After Zhang Shu died, the collector turned around to smile, "This annoying thing is finally dead. He was the one who mistreated you earlier, right?"

The collector killed someone from Rusted Stairs just like that. Han Fei had a new understanding of the building. They walked through the Dark Alley to avoid the crowd. They stepped over the dead bodies and came to the corridor where the merchants gathered on the tenth floor.

“Many residents from other floors are gathered here due to the safety of the tenth floor. This place became lively because of it.” The collector planned to lock the door that led to the Dark Alley, but a rotten bone stuck was stuck in the door gap. He kicked the bone away. “Since some have a good life, others have to pay for their happiness. The existence of the Dark Alley is to protect everyone. If you’re not a prey here, you can have a very good life.”

“What a realistic place.”

Han Fei avoided many troubles with the collector as the leader. They finally stopped before Room 000109. The place was a bar.

“Most Night Police will hide in the forbidden zones because they have any enemies, but the Night Police you’re looking for is very special. He likes crowds and will sometimes stay here for the whole day. When he runs out of drink money, he’ll return to the forbidden zones to salvage sellable items. Some of my collections came from him.”

They walked through two doors and a long corridor before they entered the bar. The bar was quite special. There was a large iron cage placed in the middle of the dance floor. The cage was slathered with blood. Something was kept inside there before. The dim lights swung. All sorts of people sat on the old couch. Each of them held a glass that carried red wine.

“Give me five of your worst wine.” The collector walked to the bar and whispered.

“You are as stingy as ever.” The bartender was the bar owner. He hid in the small room behind the counter, and no one could see him.

“Shush!” The collector was afraid and quickly explained to Han Fei. “No matter what, we have to try the wine here. The wine here is famous. Many people from other floors will come here to get the wine.”

“Is this really wine?” Han Fei studied the blood wine in the dirty glasses.

“Even though no one knew how the wine is made, it does carry wine’s fragrance. It’s good for the body too.” When the collector chatted with Han Fei, a small window behind the bar opened. A mutated arm covered in scars and curses placed the glasses on the bar counter. “Your drinks are ready.” No one could see the bartender. Only one arm and his voice could be discerned.

Holding his glass, the collector looked around. “Come with me. The regulars are inside. They don’t like to be disturbed.” The collector drank the wine and avoided the customers in the living room to lead Han Fei to an inner room. The lights became dimmer. The place smelled of rot.

“Dear reporter, someone is looking for you. Answer his question, and I’ll pay for your drinks for another week.” The collector said a string of numbers. That appeared to be the Night Police’s name.

Han Fei turned to look. There was a middle-aged man lying on a tattered bed by the corner. He carried a professional camera in his arms. His eyes were round and bloodshot like he hadn’t slept for a long time.

“Stop playing dead. I’ve helped you so many times, so you should help me.” The collector was halfway through when the Night Police raised the camera at him. The camera seemed to have the power of curses. The collector immediately shut up and forced a smile. Han Fei basically grew up ‘eating’ curses. He walked to the bed. When he saw the Night Police’s face, Han Fei immediately felt he looked familiar.

“I think I’ve seen you on television before.” Han Fei tried to think back to the old cases he had studied, but no name came to him. “Were you once a reporter?”

The Night Police didn’t answer. He turned his head away to reveal the many sinful names on the back of his neck—Xu Fucai, Snake Head, Fu Ming...

“A Sin Seeker?” Han Fei waved for the others to leave. When he and the reporter were the only ones left, he asked, “When did you arrive here? How did you get here? Was it through the murderer’s clubhouse’s mirrors or other channels?”

The word, murderer’s clubhouse caused the reporter to frown, but he still ignored Han Fei. It felt like he thought it was beneath him to converse with anyone inside the skyscraper.

“If I say I have a way to lead you out of this place, will you cooperate with me? I am a Sin Seeker too.” Han Fei’s short statement contained a lot of info. The reporter slowly turned back around. He stared at Han Fei’s face and studied the light in his eyes. “There’s no Sin Seeker in this building. Only bad and worse people.”

“That’s not true. As long as I’m alive, there’s at least one good person in this building.” Han Fei sat on the bed. “You give me a different presence from the others. We came from the same place. We were the same kind of people.”

“But soon, you’ll become like me. I can see your ending. You want to die, but you can’t.” The reporter finished the wine. “There is only one piece of advice I can give you. Accept the devil in your heart and become the person you hate. That’s the way to suffer the least.”

“You didn’t persist because you didn’t have the way to leave this building. Your hope was worn away and despair accumulated before crushing you.” Han Fei held the blood wine. He had no interest in trying it. “The biggest difference between us is that I know the way out. So no matter what I experience, my hope will never go out.”

“You’ve been saying that. But if you know how to leave this place, why are you still here?” The reporter said with impatience. His voice was changing too. When his emotions fluctuated, his face became demonic.

“I can give you a glimpse to prove that I’m not lying to you. But before that, I need you to tell me everything about you, including your name, history, and how you got here.” Han Fei could still use his Resurrection. If that failed, he could summon Huang Yin. He missed Brother Huang too.

Influenced by Cursed Words, the reporter hesitated. Then, he said, “My name is Ji Zheng. I was a reporter at Xin Lu Radio Station. I was not a man of justice. No one was tuning into normal programs, so I wanted to change. I turned my focus on strange cases.

“Investigation, expose, I sent many bastards to jail.

“My name grew, but I was targeted too.

“Several weeks later, I got a tip that Immortal Pharma was torturing children at its orphanage. I initiated a half-year-long investigation. The final result was shocking. Immortal Pharma’s orphanage wasn’t only torturing the kids, but they were also performing drug tests on them. It was crazy.

“At that time, all I wanted to do was to save those kids, even if it meant fighting Immortal Pharma. It didn’t matter if I died.”

Han Fei was anxious hearing the story, “And then what happened?”

“I forgot.” The reporter pointed at his head. “Someone placed a worm inside my head. It is chewing on my memory. I can’t even remember who put the worm there. I can only remember that they were laughing madly, and that the room was filled with flowers that looked like human heads.”

Chapter 789: Taboo

The reporter picked up Han Fei’s blood wine and finished it in one gulp. Probably only alcohol could make him forget the worm in his brain.

“You’ve once investigated Immortal Pharma’s orphanage?” Han Fei’s eyes changed. He pointed at his own face. “Have you seen a child with a healing persona?”

“All my memories related to those kids are wiped. If you really want to know, you have to find the people who put the worm in my brain.” The reporter tossed the empty glass away. “Okay. Now let me see the path you speak off.”

“No problem,” Han Fei took two steps back. “Spirit-farer!”

The blood sea tore open the menu. The smell of blood raged like a storm and swallowed the small room. The reporter looked at Han Fei with disbelief. He slowly sat up. He couldn’t see the ghost door, but he could sense the endless presence of horror coming out from one part of the room. That presence didn’t exist locally in the skyscraper.

“Huang Yin!” The two words caused the storm to rage even harder. The other monster summoned by Han Fei seemed to sense something. The bloody shadow moved madly through the building. The ghost faces started to scream. The soul bell chimes. Huang Yin’s name was bitten by a ghost face and dragged out of the sea. Five fingers grabbed the edge of the ghost door. Blood dripped down the white coat. Huang Yin followed the shifting nightmares and walked out of the ghost door. The black pupils slowly returned to normal. After Huang Yin saw Han Fei, his expression relaxed, “What do you need from me?” Huang Yin would always help Han Fei.

“Why are you that close to Level 40?” Han Fei didn’t expect that. Huang Yin was truly stepping into the role of being the No. 1 player.

“I’ve picked three hidden professions most suitable for me. I should be able to help you more now.” Previously, Huang Yin’s attitude was similar to other casual players. However, ever since he was attacked by Butterfly, Huang Yin changed. Before Han Fei said anything, Huang Yin opened his inventory and showed off the rare items he had collected, “These are for you. I haven’t had the chance to give them to you.”

“Brother Huang, you’ve been such a great help.” If they were somewhere else, these things might be useless, but in the skyscraper, anything uncorrupted could trade for many things.

“As long as I can help.” When Huang Yin removed the items, he saw the reporter. “Who is he?”

“A fallen hero.” Han Fei could sense the bloody shadow moving closer. The creature from the blood sea seemed to be interested in Huang Yin too. “Brother Huang, I need to send you back. This place is too dangerous.” After Han Fei placed everything Huang Yin brought in his inventory, he used Resurrection to send Huang Yin back. After Huang Yin returned, the bloody shadow seemed to have lost its target. It slowed.

“You should have seen that, right?” Han Fei placed an actual bottle of wine from the surface world before the reporter, “I can bring you home.”

“Home...” The reporter hadn’t heard that for a long time already. He looked at the spot where the ghost door opened, and his pupils trembled. The bloodred names appeared on his neck like brands. However, the reporter didn’t feel pain. He grabbed the bottle and downed it. His throat burned, and his eyes were bloodshot. However, deep inside his eyes, the ashes started to flicker again. “As long as you can bring me away from this skyscraper for me to meet my child and see him being alive, I’ll give you everything I have! Including my soul, freedom, and dignity!”

The reporter stood up unsteadily. His dirty hair flapped on his face. His thin body contained explosive energy. The bloodred names were like poisonous bugs. They granted him special power but also tormented his mind.

“You have a deal.” Han Fei shook the reporter’s hand.

“Notification for Player 0000! You’ve discovered Night Police, Ji Zheng!

“Ji Zheng (Forbidden Rank Night Police): The Night Police are ranked into four levels, Danger, Forbidden, Tragedy, and Night.

“Warning! They who once uphold justice are now the scariest people in the skyscraper! Be careful! Even the weakest Night Police can be extremely dangerous!”

The system didn’t provide any info regarding Ji Zheng’s ability. Perhaps it was because Ji Zheng hadn’t fully trusted Han Fei yet.

“There’s a reason why I’ve come to see you. There’s a Calamity Ghost hidden deep inside the sixth-floor corridor. A Rusted Stairs cleaner told me to come to find you.” Han Fei planned to start the high difficulty grade E mission.

“Has he become a Calamity Ghost?” Ji Zheng revealed a cruel smell. “In the past, Rusted Stairs requested me to kill that child, but they didn’t know that child was once the victim of Immortal Pharma’s orphanage. I also didn’t know why he’s suddenly appearing on the sixth floor and as a Calamity Ghost.”

“Do you know him?”

“More than that.” Ji Zheng touched his camera. “After I took the rewards from the Rusted Stairs, I didn’t kill the child. In fact, I taught him how to be stronger. I raised that child with sin and resentment. He’s losing control now!”

Ji Zheng was indeed different from before. The scale of good and evil in his heart was destroyed. Only a shell was left.

“Does the child know that he’ll end up a monster?”

“I’ve given him a choice, whether to leave the world painlessly or survive in extreme pain to spread the pain to the criminals who like to create pain.” Ji Zheng stood up and exited the room. The light shone on his gritty face. “He made the same choice as I did.”

As Ji Zheng walked out, the bar became silent. They looked at Ji Zheng with fear and Han Fei with shock.

“An eye for an eye. How this skyscraper treats us, we’ll treat it back the same way.” Han Fei nodded. “It’s only fair, right?”

“Why are you so much like a Night Police?” Ji Zheng’s smile grew bigger. He and Han Fei walked out of the bar together. The other unique citizens followed behind them. They walked to the elevator. Before they reached it, a sharp scream came from somewhere beneath them. Han Fei’s soul felt like it had been pierced. He could sense that his connection with the bloody shadow had suddenly intensified!

The bloody shadow had a conflict with something inside the stairwell. It used its full power and some unknown ability.

“It sure is brave to use the stairwell after midnight.” Sister Hong grumbled under her breath. Han Fei heard her and asked, “Is the stairwell that dangerous after midnight?”

“Taboos roam the stairwell after midnight.” Ji Zheng used his camera to take a picture of where the scream came from. “However, such a big commotion wouldn’t happen if it was a normal citizen running into a Taboo. This should be two Taboos fighting.” He glanced at the camera and urged Han Fei, “Come. We need to get to the sixth floor. I’ll bring the Calamity Ghost away from here with me.”

“You should go there first. I have to go somewhere else for now.” Han Fei grabbed the collector. “You’re the boss of Rusted Stairs on the tenth floor. So you should have other elevator cards, right?”

“Yes, but I can’t give them...”

“Stop rambling.” Han Fei turned to Ji Zheng, “If the Calamity Ghost knows how to control himself, I am willing to accept him. The sixth floor is my territory, you can try to negotiate with him there.”

“Is the Taboo in the stairwell your reason for leaving in such a hurry?” Ji Zheng waved his camera. “I can see that your fate is bound to that Taboo.”

“Just move!” Han Fei underestimated Ji Zheng’s power, but that was a good thing for Han Fei. Han Fei grabbed the collector and forced him to use his elevator card. They entered Elevator 9.

“Move!” Han Fei was anxious. He could feel the bloody shadow fast approaching. The Taboo in the stairwell appeared to have injured it.

“Which floor are we going to?”

“The higher, the better!” Han Fei closed the door. He saw the collector press the button for Floor 25. “Can’t we go higher?”

“Taking the elevator is a very dangerous thing to do. The higher we go, the higher the chance for us to run into an accident. The 25th floor is the limit for me.” The collector wanted to cry. He hadn’t felt so helpless in a long time already.

“I’ll trust you this time.” Han Fei glanced at the changing numbers. His face was dark. The bloody shadow was getting closer!

The thing had entered the elevator shaft. It was climbing up the shaft using the elevator chains.

‘I’ve triggered it when it used Spirit-farer for the third time. Then, it fought the Taboo in the stairwell and was injured. It should be highly enraged now. I can’t let it catch up to me now.’ Han Fei opened his menu. The exit button hadn’t lit up, but it was almost time.

Han Fei sweated profusely. The collector shivered as the number on the panel increased. There were many Taboos on the higher floors.

11, 13...

When the elevator reached the 15th floor, some blood spread on the bottom of the elevator booth. In a short amount of time, the blood spread, and it leaked through the bottom!

“What is going on?” The collector was scared. He had not encountered something like this before.

“Is there anywhere dangerous on the 15th floor?” Han Fei pressed for the elevator door to open.

“I rarely come to the 15th floor.” The collector was stunned. The doors opened, and Han Fei charged out. The collector shouted in fear. “Where are you going?”

“Run!” Han Fei answered succinctly. A few seconds later, the collector who was still inside the booth felt his whole world turn red. He looked up, and the crimson shadow had enveloped the whole booth. Among the waves of red, there was a human face that resembled Han Fei.

Chapter 790: All

“Why would his face appear in the blood pool?” The collector looked at the blood that was bubbling under his feet. His legs were soon swallowed by blood. He slowly sunk, and he didn’t feel any pain. “My legs!”

Wherever the blood touched, it would turn red. Everything was swallowed by the bloody shadow. The collector finally understood Han Fei’s warning. He tipped his body out of the elevator booth and then gritted his teeth, and used his knife to cut off his legs. The collector resisted the pain and crawled to the corner. “What monster is this? Why is it after him?” Even though the collector was not the bloody shadow’s target, he was heavily injured by it. Temporarily, he lost his mobility. This was very dangerous.

“The thing moves so fast!” Han Fei was running at full speed. He didn’t have time to care about the collector. “The elevator cards are on the collector. The chef’s card is with Ji Zheng. I only have a broken card now. If there’s no other choice, I need to enter the stairwell.” Han Fei’s mind was clear. “I’ve stayed here long enough. I should have a few minutes left to have the exit button. I can survive that.” Han Fei

held his breath and sensed his heartbeat. His connection to the monster was made through Spirit-Farer. There was a connection between him and the monster that only they could see. "I finally know why those people in the horror movies would be haunted when they start to randomly summon ghosts. However, this is also good because the monster will want to keep me for it alone. It won't allow me to be taken by the other monsters." It was hard for Han Fei to keep his mind fresh. He wanted to chat with the monster coming from behind the ghost door, but clearly, the monster didn't have the intention of doing that.

Han Fei turned back to look. The bloody waves crashed through the corridor. Wherever it passed, the walls and floor would turn blood red. This reminded Han Fei of the bloodred city he saw whenever he logged in and logged out of the game.

"I've used all my Resurrections tonight. Even if I want to send it back, I need to wait for tomorrow." All Han Fei could do now was to drag things out. He knocked on every door he passed. He followed Big Sin's direction and ran towards the most dangerous location.

Big Sin, hidden inside the ghost tattoo, was very excited. It had the best life after having Han Fei as its master. Other than Xu Qin, it was closest to Han Fei in the cryptic world. With Big Sin's lead, Han Fei successfully reached the most dangerous zone on the 15th floor. All the corridors were dominated by mold and trash. There was not one living person. All the rooms had transformed into Mausoleums. With some rustlings, the strange figures hidden under the trash piles started to crawl out. There were so many of them. They no longer looked like humans. Their skin was dominated by mold and rotten wounds. Their eyes spoke of death.

"Rest in Peace!" Han Fei took out his knife and activated the Ghost Tattoo. He had Xu Qin's pet stick to him, and he tried to cut through the zone. Compared to Han Fei, the monster from the blood sea had fewer things to worry about. The meaning of its existence was to turn everything red. No matter who the enemy was, it wouldn't escape. The 15th floor was like an oil painting covered in mold. But now, the red paint was rapidly spreading through it.

"Notification for Player 0000! You've triggered Grade E Hidden Map Mission, Grave Digger!

"Mission Requirement: Destroy 44 Mausoleums. Current progress: 6/44!

"Warning! After completing this mission, you'll get a clue to unlocking a hidden profession and some high rewards.

“Notification for Player 0000! Current progress: 9/44!

“Notification for Player 0000! The hatred Deviants has towards you has coagulated into a curse! You’ve been hated by many Deviants who have more than 70 percent mutation!

“Warning! A Deviant’s power is directly correlated to its mutation percentage! Whenever the percentage crosses the 10th percentile, its power will greatly increase! The first Deviant in the skyscraper might be God’s creation too!”

Han Fei had no time to study the system notifications. The further he ran, the quicker his heartbeat. Big Sin perfectly led Han Fei to barge into the 15th floor’s forbidden zone. The mold floated in the air and fell on Han Fei’s body. It tried to dig into his body. The scary thing was there were a few Mausoleums that were connected by brownish red mold. Something big was living there. A deep growl came from the Mausoleum. In the dark, six eyes suddenly opened.

“Notification for Player 0000! You’ve discovered an extremely rare Deviant who has reached 80 percent mutation! Please leave immediately!”

The system was too late. Han Fei saw the meat mountain in the Mausoleum move. A humanoid creature crawled out of the meat mountain. It had six eyes but an extremely slender body. Endless tentacles grew out of its back and chest. The face leaned against another face. Brownish red liquid leaked out of the mouths. When the monster awakened, the connected Mausoleums started to tremble. The monster’s tentacles stuck into the bodies of the other Deviants.

“Will Li Rou become like this in the future?” Han Fei didn’t fight this large Deviant. He turned into an adjacent Mausoleum. He was ready. If this were a dead end, he would summon Big Sin and create his own path. The howl came from behind him. The bloody shadow chasing after Han Fei clashed with the Giant Deviant. Blood dyed the Mausoleum, but it didn’t affect the Deviant that much. The Deviants were originally humans. Before they died, they were tormented too much. The hate in their hearts refused to dissipate. The hate slowly combined with the death inside the building. In the end, they were reborn through the trash. They lost their rationality and memory. Most residents would avoid Deviants because they were already dead. The bloody shadow slowed down. It used brute force to raise a blood storm to crush the Giant Deviant. However, no matter what it did, the Deviant’s soul remained defeated. It became uglier. With the Deviant’s help, Han Fei used this chance to escape.

“I can’t stop! It’s still not safe!”

When Han Fei was about to leave the 15th floor, he finally saw the exit button light up. Just as Han Fei was about to sigh in relief, the monster seemed to sense something. It abandoned the Deviant and chased after Han Fei.

“I can’t do this anymore.” Han Fei doubted he’d find any other chance like this. He ran into the stairwell and clicked the quit button. Blood descended. As time stopped, the monster from the blood sea was still moving. “It can still move?!”

As Han Fei’s consciousness was detached, he saw a human face hidden in crashing waves moving toward him. Han Fei focused, and his breathing stopped. The human face was his face. However, the face was slightly younger. He looked like Han Fei from about two years ago!

“Why would the version of me from two years ago be in the bloody shadow? Why did it become a monster in the blood sea? Is that really me?” Han Fei felt a jolt of pain in his brain. He opened his eyes. He returned to real life. Han Fei crawled out of the gaming hub. He held the back of his head. He couldn’t recover from the shock. “The person in the blood is not Mad Laughter or me! He looks too young!”

Han Fei could use Resurrection and Spirit-Farer. These two talents were related to the blood sea that connected the cryptic world and the surface world. “It isn’t a coincidence that I can use this power. I’ve paid heavily for it, but I probably have forgotten about it.” Han Fei felt numb all over. “I feel like I’m getting closer to the final truth...”

The sudden knocking broke Han Fei’s thoughts. He resisted the pain from the back of his head and slowly approached the room door. “Who is outside?”

“We’re the police unit sent to protect you. We heard you scream. Please open the door now!” The plainclothes appeared at the door. They had been guarding Han Fei to ensure his safety.

“I’m fine.” After hearing the familiar voices, Han Fei opened the door. The police checked his room. “I merely had a scary dream.”

“It’s good that you’re fine. Sorry for disturbing you.” The two police were about to leave when Han Fei caught up to them.

“Can I follow you to the station? I have something important to discuss with Li Xue’s teacher.” Han Fei wanted to look through all the murders and unsolved cases over the past 50 years in Xin Lu so that he would understand the skyscraper better.

“At 3 am?” The officer was shocked. This was his first time hearing such a strange request.

“This is very important.”

“Okay... I’ll help you ask.” The officer knew Han Fei’s background. After layers of connections were made, Han Fei left with the officer at 4 am. Li Xue’s teacher personally sent people to fetch him so that they could meet at the headquarters.

It was 5 am, but the police at the headquarters were still busy. Recently, Xin Lu was not peaceful.

“Han Fei!” Li Xue stood at one end of the lobby. She waved at Han Fei. With Li Xue and her senior’s accompaniment, Han Fei walked down the long corridor and came to the headquarters’ file room.

“I’m sorry, but I can’t open the room for you.” The middle-aged man who was responsible for the file room rejected Han Fei’s request to enter. “I know what Han Fei has done for the city, and I know he is a good man. However, this place is forbidden to outsiders. The biggest compromise I can do is to allow the two of you to enter but not him.”

“Uncle Liu, my teacher called us to come today.” Li Xue’s senior walked to the door. “You might not trust Xiao Xue, but do you not trust me?”

“Why would Uncle Liu not trust me?” Li Xue didn’t argue. She took out her phone to call her teacher.

“Don’t call. Even if your teacher came in person today...” Before the manager finished, the ringtone came from the end of the corridor. He looked down the distance, and two special agents came over, pushing an old man in a wheelchair.

“Teacher!” Li Xue and her senior ran over. However, the elder’s eyes were fixed on Han Fei. He seemed to have noticed something.

The manager quickly straightened himself. “You’ve really come in person?!”

“Xiao Liu, open the door.” The elder’s voice was even. “Han Fei is my student too. If anything happens, I’ll be responsible.”

At this point, the manager stopped hesitating and opened the door.

“All the cases that have happened over the past few decades in Xin Lu are here. Which case do you want to look at?”

“All of them?” After Han Fei thanked the elder, he walked into the file room without wasting any time.