

Iyashikei 821

Chapter 821: Without Tomorrow

“Protect the thirty children and don’t let any of them die!” Han Fei felt like he was trying hard to grasp something but the thing still slipped through his fingers.

He opened his eyes and tears stained his face. The sadness of the Unmentionable filled his heart. He couldn’t speak. The smell of disinfectant filled his nostrils. Han Fei felt pain in his body. It tried to separate his mind from his body. Han Fei looked around. He was lying on the bed in the school infirmary. Everything felt so real.

“Where is this?” He used a long time before he could remember his name.

“Han Fei....” Han Fei slowly sat up in bed. Han Fei wore very normal clothes. There was a bag of cheap cigarettes and a wrinkled class result report in his pocket. Footsteps came from the corridor before Han Fei could take a closer look. The sound of high heels against the tiles could be heard miles away. The door was pushed open. A normal-looking woman entered the room. When she saw that Han Fei was awake, she sat beside Han Fei. “Teacher Gao Cheng, I suggest that you stop working here. Your physical conditions are bad and your persona is collapsing. You need to rest.” She handed a physical report to Han Fei. The words were hard for Han Fei to understand.

“Name: Gao Cheng.

“Male, 28, Teacher of Class Seven.

“Basic greed persona. 31 percent of collapse. Appears to have an undetected hidden persona.

“Mental corruption 39 points. Close to the danger zone!

“Born with personality defects like heavy depression and temporary anger issues.

“Suggestion: This teacher is already not suitable for his job. If his conditions don’t improve in three days, he will be kicked out of school.”

The pain came from Han Fei's brain. He held the report. "What's going on? What's wrong with this world?"

"Your brain is refusing to accept the reality. But I didn't expect someone as determined as you to fall under mental corruption." The school nurse sighed. She pulled back the curtains. "It has been 22 years since Xin Lu's fall. Your beautiful childhood is just a memory. It's gone forever." Every word the nurse said seemed to be a hint of something. Han Fei tried very hard to think. He looked out the window and his eyes focused on the city outside the window.

Dark clouds covered the sky. High walls surrounded the edge of the city. The windows and doors of familiar buildings were sealed by wooden boards. The whole city was lifeless. Seeing the confused Han Fei, the nurse shook her head. She placed a bottle of medicine on the table and left.

"Has Xin Lu fallen? Is the city outside Xin Lu?" Han Fei sat on the bed. He slowly pieced together the memory in his mind before some pieces came to him. "Mad Laughter and the thirty children used Usurpation to force entry into the garden owner's altar world. They burned away all their memories. However, my memory is still intact." Han Fei looked out the window. He was confused. "Dead Gods usually have altar worlds featuring the past. Does this mean that existing Unmentionables will have their altar worlds feature a world they wish for in the future?"

Han Fei put the bottle in his pocket and exited the infirmary. He was at a school. This area hadn't been boarded up. The school looked no different from a school in real life.

"None of the thirty kids can die..." Han Fei moved down the corridor. He tried to analyze the info on the report. "I'm the teacher of Class Seven. Where is Class Seven?"

Han Fei walked down the corridor. The classes were still ongoing in the rooms on both sides.

"Every one of us has our own persona. That is the crystallization of one's value in life. It's also the key for you to resist mental corruption.

"To kill these unknown things, you have to protect your heart so that you are not shaken by them!

“Two-thirds of this city has been taken over by ghosts and monsters. The boarded-up buildings are filled with ghosts! We need to cleanse them building by building until we chase them all out! Some of us might be sacrificed but remember that death is not the end. The more afraid you are, the more you’ll be hounded by death!

“The most precious thing in this era is hope and you are hope!”

The teacher wrote on the board. His voice carried a barely concealable sadness. He seemed to know he was lying but he had to say so.

“There are five categories of sealed buildings in Xin Lu. The easiest buildings are white buildings. Animated Regrets and Normal Lingered Spirits leave there; Red Buildings are medium in difficulty. They have Lingered Spirits and objects with Pure Hatred’s influence; Then, it’s the Black Buildings. Entry into the Black Buildings means death!

“Above the three are two unique buildings. The first is the unexplored Strange Buildings, no one knows what’s inside; the other is the Unmentionable Buildings. Don’t ask and don’t talk about the Unmentionable Buildings!

“Most of you are orphans. Many people are sick due to the influence of tragedy. The world is unfair to you. If you want to change this horrible situation, exploring those sealed buildings is the easiest path.

“If some of you can clean a building, you’ll gain the respect of everyone in that zone. Of course, even the simplest White Buildings are too dangerous for you.

“Other than cleansing these buildings, you’ll be heavily rewarded if you carry out cursed objects from the sealed buildings. The objects will be used by us to defend against ghosts.”

The teacher touched his glasses. The image of a student hanging from the ceiling appeared in his glasses. “Based on the school requirement, you’ll have to go out to explore the building on your own in three days. I hope you’ll find something. And I hope we’ll not have any empty seats in our class.” The teacher continued the class. This provided Han Fei with a basic understanding of the garden owner’s altar world. This world was different from the ones Han Fei had experienced. The garden owner was still alive. His altar world represented his wishes for the future. This ghost world would be Xin Lu 22 years later if no one stopped him.

“Class is over!” The classroom door was pushed open. The bespectacled male teacher exited the classroom. He was shocked to see Han Fei. “Teacher Gao, why are you here?”

“There’s something wrong with my body. I felt uncomfortable when going down the lobby. So I leaned against the wall to rest.” Han Fei was indeed very weak.

“I have no idea what happened to you in that Strange Building that your mental corruption drops from 71 to 39.” The teacher felt sad for Han Fei but he didn’t get close to Han Fei. “The headmaster is looking for me. I’ll be going.” The bespectacled young teacher was Ma Jing. His teacher id showed that he was the teacher for Class Three. However, that was not what Han Fei paid attention to. In his memory, there was a crazed murderer with the name Ma Jing in Xin Lu. He was one of the ghost cards. The bell rang for a long time but no students came out to play. Everyone stayed in the classrooms. Han Fei came to the second floor. After he passed by many abandoned classrooms, he finally found Class Seven. He entered the classroom. The children looked familiar yet strange. They seemed to have appeared in his memory before.

“1, 2... 29, 30.” There were 30 students in total, just as the system mentioned. However, Han Fei was worried. “There are 30 children in class but what about Mad Laughter who followed the children?”

Just the thought caused Han Fei to have breathing difficulties. He opened his mouth to gasp for air.

“Sir, why don’t you rest? We can study on our own?” Han Fei still didn’t know the names of these students. He needed time.

“I’m fine.” Han Fei picked up the chalk and repeated the important points he heard from Ma Jing. From the moment he opened his eyes, he decided to try his best to ensure the survival of all the children. His brain was dizzy. The more he tried to focus, the faster his mental corruption spread. He felt there was a monster growing in his body, slowly corrupting his persona. When he wrote down the last useful info, Han Fei’s sight started to blur. Half of the world was consumed by shadow.

“Teacher, you should take your medicine.” A student appeared beside the lectern. He took out the bottle from Han Fei’s pocket. He studied it and then tossed out a smelly pill. This bottle was left behind by the nurse. Han Fei had no idea if the pills were problematic or not. He didn’t eat the medicine but told everything to study. He decided to get more info before trying anything in this world. After Han Fei

left the classroom, the student's smiling face was gone. He glanced at Han Fei's board and then took the lectern himself.

"Do you see the city outside the window? Even though I've forgotten many things, I still remember the basics. We do not belong here." The student took up his notebook. "The name here is Zhou Qi but I have no impression of this name. Instead, I remember a number. Number 5."

Everyone in the class had their own name. They couldn't resonate with the names but each of them had its own number.

"Concluding the clues, we've arrived at this city and became students at this orphanage school. The teachers here treat us like hope but actually, we're their disposable tools." No. 5 wiped away Han Fei's lesson and wrote down self-preservation. "What do you think?"

"My thoughts are more pessimistic." A student who had lost both legs sat in the corner of the room. "The students here are either orphans or abandoned children. Look outside the window. There are sealed buildings near the school. So many living people are here, so why aren't the ghosts attacking the school?" He folded a paper plane and tossed it out the window. The plane was made wet by the rain and landed on the mud land before the education block.

"I think we're less than tools. We're just the feeds for the ghosts." The male student nudged his body to face the other students. "The teacher said that we'll be going out on our own three days later. These three days might be our last chance."

Chapter 822: Han Fei's Class

The thirty students were not worried about arriving in this strange world. They had forgotten many things but their numbers and instinct. But that was enough for them. "We have three days to prepare." No. 5, Zhou Qi, placed his hands on the lectern. "The exit three days later might be dangerous, and it's also our chance to find freedom." "We shouldn't specify a goal so soon." A student at the back of the class twirled the pen in his hands. He crossed his legs and dressed like a ruffian. "Since the teachers, other students, and the neighbors might be our enemies, why not consider killing them? The buildings seal ghosts. They want to sacrifice us, so we can sacrifice them too."

"No. 9, your thoughts are too dark." Zhou Qi knocked on the blackboard. "Currently, our focus should be survival. Don't focus on taking revenge."

“If you don’t bully others, you’ll be bullied. I’m doing this for everyone’s benefit.” No. 9 glanced at his notebook. His name was Tang Ning. “We can’t even remember our names. Why care about morality in this situation?”

“As long as all of us are still together.” The male student who sat in front spoke. He was larger than the other kids, like something scary was hidden within him. His notebook’s name had been wiped away, and his number was 1.

Once number 1 spoke, no one else objected. “No. 5 is the one who has the best leadership skills. He can quickly assess the risk and observe the situation. No. 5 should be the class monitor.” The leading kids nodded. No. 9 didn’t object either.

“If we’re sacrifices to ghosts, then at least we’ll be safe for three days. We need to use this time to understand this world and ourselves. We can only rely on each other.” No. 1’s presence was different from everyone else. His eyes had pain that others couldn’t understand.

“This world is very dangerous. We might not be able to survive.” No. 1 looked at everyone. “I’ve forgotten most of everything, but I have a feeling that we’ve experienced things worse than this.”

“Yes, I have that feeling too.” The kid without the legs silently cleaned up his table. “For children who haven’t been abandoned, this might be hell, but this is just another cage for us.” “We’ll treat this as a game.” No. 8, who wore spectacles and was small in stature, spoke. He held the notebook that was covered in cartoon stickers. “Chen You, I quite like this name.”

“You all are so optimistic, even though you resist death. You are conflicting.” A thin and tall student sat in the corner. He kept writing the number 4 on the paper. They connected to form a self-portrait. “Death is the only release. Living is too tiring.”

The thirty students had their own personas. They were found all over the world by Immortal Pharma. Each persona represented a secret deep inside humanity. Some of them were weak, and some were strong. Some were optimistic, and others were pessimistic. They formed a unique class. They would survive in the Unmentionable’s wishful future.

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Holding the medicine bottle, Han Fei walked down the corridor. His world was engulfed by shadows. Many things changed shapes in his eyes. It felt like he was walking into nightmares.

“Teacher Gao Cheng? Why did you leave the infirmary? You need to go back and lie down. I’ll take over your class for these few days.” A warm voice appeared behind Han Fei. He turned around to look. There was a middle-aged man standing not far away. The man was very well-dressed, like it would drive him insane if he weren’t.

“You are?”

“Have the mental corruption affected your memory?” The middle-aged man supported Han Fei. “I’m Principal Crow. Can’t you recognize me?”

The crow who fed on decay was squeaky clean.

Before Han Fei could answer, the man took out a bottle from his pocket and tossed a pill out. He shoved it into Han Fei’s mouth. “The suppressive power of the medicine will get weaker. You should take half a pill to have your body adjust to it first.”

After taking the pill, Han Fei felt the pain fade away. However, he felt extremely lethargic too.

“What medicine is this?”

“A medicine to save your life.” Crow helped Han Fei to his office. There was another teacher standing outside his door. The man looked about 30, and he had a long scar on his face. “Teacher Wang, do you need anything from me?”

The scarred man’s name was Wang Chuqing. Chuqing was his girlfriend’s name. He took her name after she died. “The students will leave the school in three days. Teacher Gao wouldn’t be able to do that in his state. Why don’t I take his place?” When the man spoke, the temperature dropped. He looked at Han Fei viciously.

When Principal Crow heard that, he smiled. He stared at the other man unblinkingly, "Based on the order, it should be your Class Five already. Why? Have you really considered yourself their father?"

"I just want to help Teacher Gao."

"Put away your unwanted pity. You just don't want to feed Class Five to ghosts, so you want to replace them with Class 7." Crow leaned against Wang Chuqing. "This is not kindness. If you do that, you're a murderer who violates the rules."

Han Fei had already noticed something was wrong. He noticed a problem in the conversation. The exam three days later was not simple. Every class had a quota to feed the ghosts.

"Teacher Gao, don't worry. Everything will follow the order." Principal Crow became his sunny self again, "Rest for these three days so that you can join the children in the test three days later."

"What is the test?" Han Fei leaned against the wall.

"Have you forgotten that too?" Crow frowned. "The test is a simple test. It's to trigger the hidden persona in each student to see if they're food or spark."

"What will happen to them?"

"Food will be eaten, and spark will be extinguished." Crow's voice was so cold that it woke Han Fei up.

"The student's textbook says that 2/3 of the city has been taken over those things but the reality is that 9/10 of the city has been dominated by them already. And that is when they haven't been actively expanding." Crow pointed at the city map. "We need to find a new way to coexist with them. That is the purpose of the school."

Treating children as food? Is this a school or a canteen?

Han Fei didn't voice his thoughts. His focus was on how to save the thirty children. This time his enemy wasn't only ghosts but also the other teachers and the people living around the school.

"You were the best teacher I had. If only I'd stopped you when you went to that Strange Building." Crow said with regret. Gao Cheng appeared to be very popular in school.

"I'll recover as soon as possible."

"Don't give yourself too much pressure."

Han Fei used his mind to stop the drowsiness. He left Crow's office and planned to tell No. 2 about the test first. He walked to his class. He was dragged into the shadows when he passed by a corner.

"Teacher Wang?" It was Wang Chuqing who pulled Han Fei. He looked agitated.

"Gao Cheng, I have medicine that I've taken out of Red Building. It might cure your illness." Teacher Wang took out a glass vial with blood out of his pocket. "I wish to use this bottle to exchange a promise from you."

"What promise?"

"On the day of the exam, have your students enter the building instead of Class Five." Teacher Wang looked harsh, but he really cared about his students. He was probably also the only teacher who wanted to protect his students within the rules.

"Those kids are just food. Why do you want to sacrifice so much to protect them?" Han Fei used Masterful acting.

"That's my business, not yours." Teacher Wang stared into Han Fei's eyes. "Our powers come from persona, consciousness, and ghost. You're mentally corrupted. You can use the power of persona. You're a useless person. You know how the school treats the useless, right?"

“Then, I need to examine your medicine first. What if it’s poison?” Han Fei took the medicine from Teacher Wang. The system sang, “Notification for Player 0000. You’ve discovered Grade F Item, diluted ghost blood. Using this medicine can lower partial mental corruption, but there’s a chance to be cursed.”

Han Fei grew up eating curses. He was highly resistant to curses. This medicine was crucial to him. Han Fei opened the vial and took a small sip. It felt like ice had flowed through his blood.

“It appears to be useful...” Han Fei kept the vial.

“So you’ve agreed?” Teacher Wang was surprised.

“Yes.” Han Fei nodded. He didn’t plan to have his students join the exam. He wanted to use something outside of the rules to lead everyone out.

“No wonder you’re Crow’s chosen heir. You’re bloodless and cold.” Teacher Wang praised Han Fei, but his eyes were filled with disgust. After that, he left.

Han Fei found a secluded corner and drank the blood. He felt like his body was frozen.

Han Fei rubbed his arms to stop himself from sleeping. Soon, there was a warmth spreading through his body. The negative emotions in his brain depleted slightly.

“Notification for Player 0000. Your mental corruption is now 29. You’re still in the danger zone.”

Han Fei felt better, but he acted like he had not. He held the wall and slowly moved into the teacher’s lounge. He found his seat and looked through his files.

“Notification for Player 0000, you’ve found the key to Room 204 at Teacher’s Apartment.

“Notification for Player 0000, you’ve found Grade E special item—strange mirror.

“Strange Mirror: The only thing Gao Cheng took out of the Strange Building, Third Ocular Hospital.”

Han Fei noticed some problems. Gao Cheng was not simple. He was blind before the big tragedy, but after the tragedy destroyed Xin Lu, he regained his sight.

As the least popular teacher, he had a good life and was the only teacher who managed to survive five trips into Strange Buildings.

Based on his file, Gao Cheng had a twin brother who was trapped inside an unknown Strange Building. Gao Cheng would dream about his brother every night.

Chapter 823: Sad Han Fei

“Was Gao Cheng that strong?” After Han Fei collected all the info, Gao Cheng was in the top three strongest among the eight class teachers. He had strange abilities and plenty of cursed items and entered many Strange Buildings.

“How did he end up like this? If everything came from the persona, how could I trigger it?” There was limited info in the office. Han Fei took the apartment key and prepared to go home. He just stood up when he heard the door open. Two female teachers entered the classroom together.

“Strange. I wasn’t haunted yesterday night.” The teacher for Class Eight was a tiny woman called Zhang Menglan. She was cute and lively. She had a manicure. She looked young.

“Isn’t that a good thing?” The woman beside Zhang Menglan was Yan Lan. She was the teacher of Class One. Her skin was covered in scary tattoos.

“But that has been happening for a week already. Why wouldn’t it come back yesterday night? Has it gone to haunt another woman? No. I need it to give me an explanation tonight!” Zhang Menglan hugged her arms. She sensed Han Fei in the room and changed her pose. The two teachers didn’t talk to Han Fei. Han Fei had accepted the fact that he was not popular. He cleaned up his table, grabbed his bag, and left the office.

“Have you made the decision so soon?” Yan Lan’s voice suddenly appeared behind Han Fei. Han Fei didn’t even notice she moved there. “You might survive if you stay in school. After you leave, you’ll become a crazy monster and then sealed up in the buildings.” The metallic chains rattled. Han Fei turned

back to look at Yan Lan. She was taller than he was. In her black pantsuit, she was intimidating and professional.

“What else can I do?” Han Fei didn’t get why Yan Lan could be so oppressive when she was a mere human. This appeared to be the power of the persona.

“After you leave, your class will be disbanded and taken in by other classes.” Yan Lan’s gaze was scary.

“Do you have any good suggestions?” Han Fei felt like she could break his head with a single punch.

“I just feel like it’s a waste for you to die like that. If you’re willing to accept my previous conditions, I might help you.” Yan Lan ignored Han Fei and returned to her seat. Throughout the process, Han Fei observed Yan Lan. The woman had a grey metal branded on her spine. Her hands were bound with cursed bandages. Her muscles appeared to contain endless power.

“Has there been any deal between Gao Cheng and Yan Lan? Or is this the effect of Lapidarist?” Han Fei glanced at Yan Lan’s fists. He left the office with a frown. “I should talk to the children and then go back home to get to the bottom of Gao Cheng’s secrets.”

The ‘weak’ Han Fei returned to Class Seven. He wanted to give the news to the kids so that they could be prepared, but when he got close to the class, he heard these conversations.

“We don’t know the outside city. Leaving the school is death. Why don’t we stay and try to kill all the staff?” “I agree with No. 11. Thinking it from the worst perspective, assuming this city is not 2/3 dominated by ghosts but fully dominated by ghosts, we’ll be hunted if we leave.”

“Then we’ll start with our teacher. Shall we kill him?”

Han Fei was frightened. He just left for a bit, and his class had started to plot to massacre the school.

“I need to calm down.” Han Fei moved forward and looked into the class. A few seats were vacant. “Where are they?”

“Teacher Gao, it looks like your conditions have improved.” No. 1’s serene voice came from the corner. Han Fei wanted to retreat, but No. 4’s thin figure silently moved out of the shadow to block Han Fei. They appeared to be normal kids, but Han Fei felt that they were very dangerous.

“Did you say all those things in the classroom for me to hear?” Han Fei backed against the wall. He didn’t think he’d run into a life-threatening situation the moment he woke up. No. 1 was fine, but No. 4 would really kill him.

“We want to see what kind of person you are.” No. 1 stopped before Han Fei. “We don’t sense any malice from you. This is strange. There can’t be any kindness in this cruel place.” Han Fei felt a chill run up his spine. No. 4’s eyes turned black. He had mastered how to use persona.

“I come from the same place as you. I’ve promised someone that I’ll protect all my students.” Han Fei didn’t use Masterful Acting because he didn’t think he could fool the kids.

“Get into the classroom first.” No. 4 placed his hands on Han Fei’s shoulder. The black eyes scared Han Fei.

Han Fei took the lectern again. He looked at the 30 students. Under the innocent faces were monsters. He felt like he was not teaching a class, but the class was deciding his fate.

“Teacher Gao should be on our side.” As the tension heightened, a girl raised her hand. She was very young. She was No. 30. “I feel like she’s very kind. He’s like a brother or a father.” No. 30 was not a fighter but she could see a person’s essence. She had given Han Fei the best review.

“It’s hard to trust someone at somewhere new.” No. 2 closed his notebook. “But someone has to try. His actions match his words. This man is not lying.”

“I still don’t secure. Plus human heart is the most complicated. How can you be sure that he’ll follow on this path?” No. 4 kept his hand on Han Fei’s shoulder. It was like a snake.

“In that case, we’ll vote.” No. 5 raised his hand. “Raise your hand if you trust him. Keep it lowered if you don’t.”

Less than half of the class raised their hands. Zhou Qi understood the meaning. "I'm sorry, Teacher Gao. We have to ask you to leave. If you really want to help us, please don't interfere. If you want us to trust you, then you have to trust us." Han Fei remembered Mad Laughter saying something similar.

"Okay. I'll go." There was no argument. Both parties did this to survive. Han Fei took a few steps and then stopped. He asked No. 4 with some embarrassment. "Have you mastered how to use the power of the persona? How do you do that?"

"It depends." No. 4's eyes returned to normal.

The door closed, and Han Fei heard Zhou Qi say this, "Three days later, once we leave the classroom, I hope everyone can start to focus on their mission so that all of us can live!"

Han Fei wanted to be with them, but the kids didn't want to play with him. "I've underestimated them. Instead of worrying about them, I should worry about myself."

Han Fei, who was hated by most of the school followed the map and entered the teacher's apartment. Han Fei opened the door with the key. The room was filled with trash and smashed furniture. The wallpaper was scratched with knives, and mad ravings were written everywhere. Han Fei noticed that police seal was hung on the door. His apartment room had been listed as a danger zone by the school. Han Fei stood inside the room and looked around. There were several different sets of footprints.

"The cursed objects Gao Cheng have been stolen already. The looters didn't even leave behind some clean food and water."

Rusted spring poked out of the old sofa. Han Fei sat on the overturned dresser. He looked at the darkening sky, and his anxiety grew. This emotion was corrupting his persona.

"It'll be more dangerous after dark. I need to change this around." Han Fei took out the mirror. "This is the only thing Gao Cheng took out from the Strange Building. The Optometrist Hospital is strange too. Gao Cheng was blind before the big tragedy, but he regained sight after the tragedy struck Xin Lu..." Han Fei looked at himself in the mirror. "Should I go to the third Optometrist Hospital?"

Han Fei suddenly realized his reflection was laughing. He seemed to try to tell Han Fei something. "It looks like he's mouthing the bathroom."

Han Fei entered the bathroom and examined every spook. He pried open a tile and took out a notebook and a black key hidden underneath.

"Notification for Player 0000! You've found Grade E Special Item, Gao Cheng's Diary, and Grade F Special Item, White Building's Rental Key."

"Diary? Why would my reflection be so familiar with Gao Cheng's home?" Han Fei stared at his reflection. The man looked just like him, but he looked so unfamiliar. "Is the real Gao Cheng trapped in the mirror?" When Han Fei entered Fu Sheng's altar world, he became Fu Yi, Fu Sheng's father. And the real Fu Yi was inside Han Fei's body. Their fates were bound.

"What is the relationship between Gao Cheng and Gao Xing? Why would I become Gao Cheng?" Han Fei looked through the diary, and he was hooked.

Gao Cheng had an eye illness, and his birth parents had an eye illness too. On the night he was born, his selfish parents swapped him out for another normal child so that Gao Cheng could get the treatment he needed. Their fates were changed. One flower bloomed, and the other wilted.

While he received various treatments and his parent's love, the original child had to suffer the world's darkest fate.

When tragedy came, Gao Cheng's adoptive parents told him the truth. They already knew Gao Cheng was not their child, but their child and the blind parents were already, so they had been treating Gao Cheng as their own child.

His adoptive parents took care of Gao Cheng during the tragedy until they died being killed by the ghosts. Gao Cheng lost his family and became a monster. Han Fei knew many things from reading the diary. Gao Cheng had done many things to survive.

He traded with ghosts to regain his sight. He sacrificed people to Red Buildings to gain power. Humanity was gone on Gao Cheng. He was a ghost in human skin. Other than the description of the change in Gao Cheng, the diary also contained some hand-drawn maps and exploration notes.

Gao Cheng had entered the Strange Buildings five times and managed to escape. His diary contained info on the third Optometrist Hospital, Gu Yang Tian Nian Elder's Home, and Deep Sea Aquarium. This was what the school was after.

Other than the info on the three 'Strange Buildings', Gao Cheng had a secret storeroom at school. The storeroom contained his most precious materials and cursed items. The key to the storeroom was kept with the diary.

Chapter 824: Persona

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

"Mission Requirement: Enter Gao Cheng's storeroom before dark and obtain his belongings." After reading the diary, Han Fei triggered a quest.

"The most important thing to Gao Cheng is not at the apartment. He stored them in the storeroom outside of school. It looks like he doesn't trust the people at the school either." Han Fei memorized the map in the diary. He put away the diary and key. He found an old backpack in the room. He put a lot of paper money and some tools in the bag and left. Han Fei left the school from the backdoor. Beyond the high wall was the land of death. The skyscrapers were the same as before, but the humans who built them were long gone. It was silent and unsettling. Han Fei was tense as he moved in the shadow. There were other humans near the school. They wore dirty old clothes. Many of them had pus and wounds. They looked at Han Fei strangely, with fear and disgust.

A beggar with disheveled hair spat at Han Fei. He leaned on the dirty mat, and his eyes glowed with hatred. "Disgusting monster!"

"Monster?" Han Fei looked at the beggar, but the latter was not afraid.

"Kill me. Why don't you kill me? You monsters! You are not humans!" The beggar was agitated. The wound around his neck tore open, and the dirty blood dripped on the mat.

“I have no reason to kill you.” Han Fei didn’t want to cause trouble. He read the survivor’s attitude towards the school from the beggar. Han Fei left in a hurry. While he ran, strange voices came from behind him. Han Fei turned back and realized that the beggar was gone. There was only the bloody mat left.

“Did someone follow me out of school?” Han Fei had sharp senses, but he wasn’t at his best due to mental corruption.

“Gao Cheng’s secret storeroom is inside a White Building. The place is adjacent to the Third Optometrist Hospital, so people rarely go there.” Han Fei glanced at his watch. “It’ll be dark after an hour. I can’t wait any longer.” Han Fei picked the most dangerous route. There were fewer humans. There were no merchants, only sealed-up buildings. “The thick wooden boards shield the sunlight. Every building here is a small ghost zone.” Gao Cheng’s map had some info on the special buildings around the school. However, it was limited to the area around the school. Xin Lu had changed fully. No living humans could venture deep into the city anymore. Based on the experience he gained in the cryptic world, Han Fei used 40 minutes to walk to a small hostel. This hostel was meant for foreign workers coming to the city. The landlord split the space into small cubicles and rented them out to workers. It was a White Building.

The cursed object inside the hotel was a saving box. It had an unknown number of ghosts, but the scariest ghost should be the evil landlord. Han Fei removed the seventh board on the back window of the first floor. He entered the building silently. The temperature inside was much lower than outside. “This place feels scarier than the cryptic world. Did something happen when the two worlds merged?”

Han Fei came to the second floor. The cubicles here were like beehives. Normally, no matter how populous a place was, it wouldn’t look like this. This was caused by the influence of the cursed object. Han Fei took out the key and opened one of the cubicles. He scattered the paper money and continued to move forward. He walked for a few minutes when he heard rapid footsteps. Something sensed his presence and was rapidly gaining distance!

The doors were pushed open, and the sound of slamming doors came closer!

Due to the mental corruption, the negative emotion Han Fei felt would be amplified.

“If only it’s just an Animated Regret.” Han Fei started to run too, but he was still too slow!

There was no light in the building. Han Fei stared at the cubicle door behind him. A poor-quality door stood between Han Fei and the ghost. Han Fei stared at the doorknob that was slowly turning. These few seconds felt like a century. The door opened a gap and then stopped.

“Huh?”

Han Fei pulled the door fully open. A normal-looking saving box sat outside the door.

“Since the cursed object is here, that means...” The chill appeared behind Han Fei. Han Fei took out the mirror. A pale face lingered around his shoulders. The man’s eyes were filled with greed. His stomach and brain had been hollowed out to be stuffed with paper money.

“The landlord!”

Han Fei was very calm. He took out the paper money and stuffed it into the box. The box was like a deep abyss. It didn’t look large, but it took the whole bag of money. Han Fei didn’t dare to let his guard down. He kept shoving the money into the box. It was not until he depleted his last note that the box and the ghost behind him disappeared.

“Did I just pay him for my life?”

This made Han Fei realize something. One didn’t need to kill to deal with ghosts. One could aim at their weaknesses too.

“The rental is very complicated with the cubicles. It’s hard for outsiders to find the landlord’s saving box. A greedy man’s determination can’t be underestimated. That’s probably why Gao Cheng has his storeroom here.”

Han Fei walked back to Gao Cheng’s cubicle. He opened the door, and the system notification came. “Notification for Player 0000! You’ve completed the random mission, Secret Storeroom, and gained a lot of EXP!”

Han Fei locked the door. He found a lot of supplies in the room and some rare cursed objects.

“Notification for Player 0000! You’ve found Grade E Cursed Object—The Coin of Fate!

“The Coin of Fate: This will unleash unexpected results when paired with someone with a greedy persona. When you use this coin when you’re mentally corrupted, there’s a chance to increase your mental corruption!

“You’ve found Grade E Cursed Object—Death-seeing Fake Eye.

“Death-seeing Fake Eye: There’s a ghost hidden in this eye. To use its power, you have to offer the eye of a living human. One eye, and it’ll help you for ten seconds.

“You’ve found Grade E Cursed Object—Black Cap.

“Black Cap: The owner of this cap had his head pierced through by a metal rod when walking past the construction site. His soul is now inside the cap. Wearing this cap will allow you to see and hear some unique things, but wearing it for too long will increase mental corruption.

“You’ve found Grade D Cursed Object—Birth Certificate.

“Birth Certificate: This thing is more important than your life! He is the proof of your memory and the reason for your existence!”

Han Fei examined the certificate. It looked normal.

“Xin Lu First Hospital? Was Gao Cheng born there?” Han Fei memorized the hospital address before studying the other three cursed objects. The biggest difference between Han Fei and Gao Cheng was Han Fei was highly resistant to curses.

Han Fei put on the black cap, and instantly, he could hear some strange noises. He could guess the locations of the ghosts in the building. “This thing is quite useful.” There was a ghost living inside the cap, but it was very lazy. It just wanted to sleep. Han Fei didn’t feel uncomfortable putting on the cap.

But after wearing it for too long, he would feel that there was something trying to crawl into his brain. His scalp was growing to mesh with the cap.

Han Fei took up the fake eye. He could feel something looking at him. The eye was filled with greed.

“The landlord and the ghost inside the fake eye have the greedy persona. Gao Cheng has that persona too. That must be the reason why he can use these two cursed objects.” Han Fei picked up the coin last. He tossed it, and he felt his life turn as well. The coin was of an unknown origin. Using it could change Han Fei’s situation, but it might push Han Fei deeper down the abyss.

While he studied the coin, Han Fei triggered the power of his persona. The greedier he was, the crazier he’d become. The madness would stimulate his brain so that he would start to absorb the power from the cursed objects. His body slowly overlapped with the ghost inside the cursed objects before he became a crazy monster.

“Greedy people are easily blinded by external factors. But if they last until the end, they will win everything.”

Han Fei held the coin. He felt like he was suitable for this world.

“Gao Cheng’s health report states that he has another persona. Different persona brings different power.” Han Fei then remembered that he had a healing persona. He wondered what that would be like in this world. Sitting in the storeroom, Han Fei ate the food left behind by Gao Cheng. The supply here could last him for a long time, but it was not enough if he wanted to share them with 30 students.

“Mental corruption comes from ghosts and curses. I need to heal as soon as possible. Teacher Wang feels like a nice person. I can trade with him.” After knowing how to trigger the power of the persona, Han Fei had another question, “Gao Cheng needs cursed objects to trigger the power of his greed persona. So how did the child at school trigger his persona power this morning? He just woke up and wouldn’t have the time to find any cursed objects!”

Han Fei had greatly underestimated the 30 students. Even though they were kids, they were probably stronger than Han Fei. After all, they were Mad Laughter’s family. The despair they carried could implode this world. There were three more days to the exam. Han Fei didn’t plan to return to school that night. It was dark. The world outside might be more dangerous than the White Building. Han Fei

pulled a thin blanket over. He just wanted to lie down when there was the sound of something heavy falling. Han Fei looked out through the gap in the boarded-up window. A woman about 1.8 meters tall stood in the street. She removed her black fur coat to reveal the tattoos underneath. There was no fear on her face. She stared at the shadow before her and smiled excitedly.

The unknown metal in her spine expanded. 'White bones' stuck into her body. The chains were torn through. She punched at the darkness and shattered it.

"Why is Yan Lan here? Did she kill the beggar? Has she been following me?"

As the Teacher of Class One, Yan Lan, with a fearless persona, was the strongest of all the teachers. No one could win here in face-to-face combat. Han Fei hid in the dark to study Yan Lan. This woman appeared to be looking for something.

Chapter 825: Greed Persona

In this future, the cryptic world had overlapped with the real world. Xin Lu became the largest ghost zone. Most of the city had been dominated by ghosts. However, there were still people who dared to face the darkness. Yan Lan's appearance surprised Han Fei. She had a rare persona that could allow humanity to walk out of tragedies.

"It looks like one has to follow basic rules when building the altar world. God can't just imagine everything. He has merely picked the one future that he prefers the most among all the possibilities.

"There's hope for people in this world, but that path will be hard since God is on the cryptic world's side."

Black metal gushed into the tattoo. Yan Lan tore apart the shadow, and black snow fell around her. Strong, violent, and fearless. Yan Lan squashed the ghosts hiding in the dark. She scanned all the buildings. She raised her hand and punched!

The door was crushed. Yan Lan used brute force to pass through the White Building and came out the other side. At the end of the alley was an optometrist hospital planted with flowers.

"The Strange Building of Area B3. Is the gambler back here to gamble his life?" Yan Lan stood in the back alley. She worked her knuckles. The metal on her spine had combined with her tattoos. She strode

towards the hospital. There was no fear on her face. There were two balls of inextinguishable fire in her eyes. Shadow consumed Yan Lan. Soon, Han Fei heard a loud boom. The hospital door's rusted door was sent flying. The center of the hospital caved in.

"That powerful?" In this world, the persona was one's value. The power within was amplified and everyone was influenced by their persona. Those with weak personalities couldn't survive here. For them, suicide would be easier than surviving. The humans still alive all had their own persona. Han Fei wanted to stay overnight in the White Building, and Yan Lan was following him. He didn't know her and her purpose.

"Do I stay here or go back to school?" With the risk of gaining more mental corruption, Han Fei could use the coin, or he could sacrifice both his eyes to get the ghost inside the fake eye to help him for 20 seconds. "I still can't protect myself. I better go back in the morning." Han Fei stood beside the window and focused on the Third Optometrist Hospital. Gao Cheng was blind before the tragedy, and he had a fake eye artifact. To get to know Gao Cheng's secret, Han Fei had to visit the hospital sooner or later. Han Fei glanced at the watch. It had been two hours, but Yan Lan hadn't left the hospital.

"Strange Buildings are unexplored buildings. Could she be trapped?"

For some reason, Han Fei felt uneasy. His heart pumped, and the room temperature lowered. Han Fei put on the black cap. He realized something was standing outside his door. At that moment, there was a knock. Han Fei wasn't so stupid to open the door. He looked at the wiggling doorknob and hid the fate coin in his palm. Moments later, the door opened. The landlord appeared at the door with the saving box. He looked at Han Fei greedily, reminding him that it was time to pay the rent.

"You sure are greedy." Han Fei reached into his backpack to pull out the last paper money. "Greed and fear come in pairs. After satisfying endless greed, you'll face fear." He didn't give the paper money but tossed the coin of fate. As the coin twirled, the face on the coin took on Han Fei's resemblance. His fate was bound with greed. Han Fei planned to bet everything on this coin toss. Every emotion related to greed in his mind imbued the coin. Han Fei had never viewed himself like this before. He realized his greed and ambition were deeper than any ghost he had met. Even the previous owners of the black box were no match for him. The ambition deep inside his soul morphed into flame and lit up the Strange Mirror. Gao Cheng, in the mirror, looked at Han Fei like the latter was a piece of art. His wish that couldn't be fulfilled finally saw hope. The mirror cracked, and the coin started to fall. Han Fei could hear the voice from the mirror. "End everything. Destroy everything. I don't need this switched destiny!"

Gao Cheng saw Han Fei's ambition and felt Han Fei's real thoughts. He didn't stop Han Fei but cooperated with Han Fei to trigger the greedy persona. The coin turned. Han Fei's face was on the front,

and Gao Cheng's face was on the back. When the coin landed in Han Fei's palm again, his greed and ambition morphed into an endless abyss.

"Who do you think hates him the most? His innocent victims who were made into an artwork? The people he has bullied? No!

"The person who hates him the most is me. The switch at birth traps me in this hell. I can't live, and I can't die.

"Therefore, I'm willing to work with you. I'm the only person who won't betray you in this world. Let our fate twine together to complete this gamble."

The mirror shattered. After Gao Cheng swapped fate with someone, that person trapped Gao Cheng in the altar world to suffer the worst life. Gao Cheng was a normal person a long time ago, but now his brain was an abyss filled with past memories. The people he cared about were tortured again and again. The children he cared for were made into food. The city that he couldn't escape from. He tried everything and was left in despair. The memory became the abyss of greed. He buried his humanity and became a monster. "Did I do something wrong? I was not the one who swapped our lives, so why should I suffer the consequences?"

The black mist came out of the abyss. The rotten memories gushed into the coin. With Gao Cheng's help, Han Fei triggered the greed persona for the first time!

His presence changed. Ghost faces appeared on the coin. Their scary presence surrounded Han Fei.

"Notification for Player 0000! You've triggered the Greed Persona!

"Greed Persona: Consume the essence of ghosts to obtain their power! The maximum number of ghosts that can be consumed is based on the player's greed, ambition, and determination!

"Warning! You will never know when your persona will collapse. Perhaps it's after consuming ten ghosts or... the next ghost."

The landlord still stood there. Han Fei suddenly felt that his ugly face was quite cute. The black mist swallowed the landlord whole.

This power consumed the ghosts in their entirety if they were weak.

“Notification for player 0000! You’ve used your Greed Persona to consume a Normal Animated Regret. The Abyss of Greed is empowered. You’ve not gained any new power. Mental corruption +1

“Current mental corruption is 30! Please cleanse it immediately!”

The black mist faded away. Han Fei looked at the saving box on the ground. He had no idea Gao Cheng’s power was so scary.

“Eating ghosts? Just how much torture Gao Cheng has experienced in the cryptic world that he could awaken such a horrifying power?” Based on the info he had been given, Han Fei had a good guess of Gao Cheng’s identity. “The greed persona is scary, but my healing persona shouldn’t be weak either. I wonder what will happen when both are awakened. If the healing persona can heal everything, then does this mean I can use the greed persona’s power without worry?” That was a good thought, but it was hard to put into practice. Han Fei desperately needed more ghost blood. “I need to find Teacher Wang again tomorrow.” When others used too much ghost blood, it was no different from suicide, but it was not the case for Han Fei.

“The landlord has been eaten. If I take away the saving box, this place will return to normal. The supply here might be stolen.” Just as Han Fei contemplated, a figure appeared out of the long alley. Yan Lan was uninjured as she stared at the hostel where Han Fei was hiding.

“How can she be fully uninjured? She didn’t enter the hospital!” Han Fei moved, but Yan Lan had locked onto his location. She leaped into the air. Her metallic knuckles crushed through the ceiling, and she landed in Han Fei’s room. The floor cracked. Yan Lan stood up. “You’re quite the hider.”

Han Fei figured out everything at that moment. Yan Lan kicked the hospital door high into the sky but didn’t enter the building. She did all that to make Han Fei let his guard down to confirm his location. “Hide?” Han Fei switched on Masterful Acting. He was different from how he was at school. He didn’t look like he was mentally corrupted. “The students are going to take the exam in three days. You’re not

going to fight me now, are you?" Han Fei held the coin. The black mist surrounded Han Fei. The mist aimed to swallow everything.

"The school's machine will not lie. Stop acting." Yan Lan's gaze was sharp as knives. "Since you're going to die soon, why don't you replace my class with yours? That way, more useful kids will survive."

"Do you think my students are useless?"

"They are orphans with mental problems. Them being alive doesn't help Xin Lu." Yan Lan was rude. She was ready for Han Fei's rejection so she was prepared to fight. The test was a sacrifice. Each class had to give up a fixed number of students to serve the ghosts.

"Both you and Teacher Wang want my students to die for yours. Since you love your students that much, why don't you resist the school?" Han Fei smiled. "I'm a greedy person. I don't want any of my kids to die, but I don't want your kids to die on their behalf either. Their lives are just starting. They shouldn't be sacrificed."

Yan Lan frowned. She believed Han Fei had really lost his mind. "I'd rather trust a crazy person than you."

"Then just wait and see. I'll turn this city around." Han Fei put the coin away. His eyes glowed. "One more thing. My students are not orphans. They have each other, and they are my family."

Chapter 826: Location

Han Fei used masterful acting, but Gao Cheng left too bad of an impression on Yan Lan. Time was needed to change that. They faced off in the hostel. Han Fei had just awakened the Greed persona. He wasn't afraid of Yan Lan. If he wanted, he would run to the Strange Building. Yan Lan wanted to protect her students so she wouldn't risk her life.

The wind blew up the paper money on the ground. Yan Lan scanned Han Fei as if trying to look through him. She didn't sense a lie from Han Fei.

"A madman who would sacrifice a whole building for his own life would protect his own students?" Yan Lan thought Han Fei treated his students as leverage, but she realized that might not be the case.

“There are three more days to the exam. I don’t need you to help me. I only need you not to interfere.” Han Fei was very confident, like he had already figured out how to deal with the school. But in reality, he had no plan. If he couldn’t protect his students, then he would be trapped in this world forever, so he had to be confident.

“I’ll give you two days. If I don’t see any changes before the test, I’ll take your quota regardless.” Yan Lan didn’t fight Han Fei.

“Criminals will brute force their way through, but madmen will create new rules.” Han Fei smiled. “Two days are enough.”

“The school is connected to the black building. I have no idea why you’re so confident.” Yan Lan turned around. The special metal on her spine slowly disappeared. “There are many annoying rules at school, but they are there to help the winner. How big is your chance to win?”

Yan Lan leaped into the darkness and disappeared. Negative emotions surged into Han Fei’s mind. Han Fei picked up the wooden boards and fixed the cubicle. He didn’t dare to return to school. He stayed there until dawn.

The city was covered in dark clouds. There was no sun. The survivors mostly hid at home. After a quick breakfast, Han Fei walked to school. When he arrived at the door, he noticed the atmosphere wasn’t so nice. Vines crawled all over the walls. Two guards stood beside the gate. They inspected everyone who entered the school. “Did something happen?” Han Fei stammered like he was going to die.

“Teacher Gao?” The guards knew what had happened to Gao Cheng. They moved away from him. “Yesterday night, Teacher Xu Hui of Class Six was killed. An unknown ghost appears to have appeared around the school. It might have possessed a student or a staff.”

“A teacher was killed?” Han Fei was shocked. All the teachers were very powerful. It was not easy to kill them. Han Fei sucked in a cold breath. He had a feeling that this was related to his thirty students. They had just woken up, and a teacher was killed.

“If you have any info, please tell us. The headmaster has posted a reward. We need to grab the killer before the exam so that the semi-annual exam can be carried out smoothly!” The guards asked Han Fei

some simple questions before letting him into the school. They didn't think Han Fei was the killer. He was barely alive at 39 mental corruption.

Han Fei climbed up the stairs 'weakly'. The bespectacled Teacher Ma Jing suddenly appeared behind him. "Why are you only at school now? I thought you died last night." Ma Jing made an unfunny joke. He patted Han Fei's shoulder. "Headmaster Crow has been looking for you. Let's go to him together."

"What does he want from me?"

"Probably to confirm that you're still alive."

"Han Fei and Ma Jing entered the office. Crow sat at the office table. There was another person in the room, Yan Lan.

"Everyone is here." Crow didn't look too good. He dropped the files on the table. "Xu Hui was killed when he went home yesterday night. The killer is extremely cruel. They even destroyed all the evidence. This is not their first crime.

"Xu Hui has a Research Persona. He is good at investigation and analysis. He likes mind games. He has the highest intellect of the eight teachers, and he was the sharpest too." Crow held his chin. "Why was he the target?"

"Is the killer targeting our school? And start by killing the smartest person first?" Ma Jing realized the problem too. Normally, Xu Hui wouldn't be ambushed so easily, so something very unexpected must have happened.

"The exam is coming soon. Accidents happen every time. It's not the first time staff has been killed either." Yan Lan didn't care about Xu Hui's death. Other than her students, she didn't care about anyone else.

"The killers know about school very well too." Crow insinuated, "Yesterday night, the three of you weren't at school. Can you tell me where you were?"

“My apartment was ransacked. All my furniture is ruined. I don’t dare to stay in school in my current condition.” Han Fei smirked. “I have no power to kill, and I have no motive. In fact, I might be the next to die.”

Crow nodded. He also didn’t think Han Fei was the killer.

“I was out yesterday night to study the exam route. This is the mission given to me by the headmaster. I didn’t have time to get to the other side of the school to murder people.” Ma Jing nudged his glasses. He glanced at Yan Lan. It was clear who he suspected.

“Yan Lan, where were you yesterday night?” Crow narrowed his eyes. His voice changed subtly.

“I was out hunting ghosts.” Yan Lan answered succinctly. “Do you?” Crow opened the document and shook out the picture of the dead body. “Xu Hui was killed by a punch from the back. In the school, only you can do that, Yan Lan.”

“If it were me, I would have crushed his ribs first and not his spine.” Yan Lan said simply. “I always attack from the front.”

“You’re right.” Crow tossed the document into the trash can. “I called you here to remind him so that this won’t happen again. Since Xu Hui is dead, I’ll split his quota among the rest of you. But I hope you can understand this is an exception.”

“Understood.” Ma Jing nodded respectfully.

“You’ll stay in school today. The headmaster will be here in the afternoon. Then I will summon all the teachers to do a draw to pick the exam location for each class.” Crow signaled for them to leave, but Yan Lan stayed. “Is there anything else?”

“Since Xu Hui is dead, do we still need to draw?”

“Of course,” Crow said firmly. “Go back to class. Cherish your last moments together.”

The three exited the office. After Ma Jing left, Han Fei whispered softly to Yan Lan. "What is the draw?"

Yan Lan looked at Han Fei with suspicion and then explained, "The eight classes will have different exam locations. One of them is a White Building, one is a Black Building, and the other six are Red Buildings. The class who gets the White Building will all survive, but if the class gets the Black Building, even the teacher might die too."

"Crow said that the headmaster picked these locations himself?"

"That's right. The headmaster has a connection with the black building, so this exam is just a trade." Yan Lan was agitated. She didn't kill Xu Hui, and she knew Han Fei didn't do it either because she was with him yesterday night. So who was the killer?

"Okay." Han Fei followed Yan Lan. He had no intention of going to his class.

"Are you planning to keep on tailing me?" If they were not at school, Yan Lan might have punched him already. She knew Han Fei was acting, but she wouldn't expose him.

"Erm... Can I borrow your teaching plan?"

Han Fei carried the thick files and returned to Class Seven. He didn't need to worry about the thirty students. They were all studying diligently.

"Today, you'll study on your own again. Just assume that I'm not here." Han Fei placed the files on the lectern. "If you think I'm being an annoyance, I can leave."

It was rare to have students like the ones in Class Seven, and it was even rarer to have a teacher like Han Fei. They formed a tacit understanding.

"This is the info I found from the other class. You need to decide the authenticity yourself. I will place them here. I hope they can help." Han Fei had a very good memory. He read through the files and then handed them to the students. The class soon ended. Han Fei wrote down the important points on the board.

The bell rang. Han Fei moved a chair down the lectern. "That's all. I won't disturb you anymore." With the students watching, Han Fei had 'much difficulty' moving the chair out of the class. To not influence the kids, Han Fei sat at the staircase alone. When the bell rang for class, he picked up the chair and then sneaked to the backdoor of another class and sat there. Han Fei wanted to examine the other teachers at the school. At first, he was quite shy, but soon he unleashed himself. He didn't hide and looked into every class.

"The general teaching direction of this school is not wrong. It's to help the students trigger the power of their persona. The teaching plan is tailored to each student." On the surface, the school was indeed cultivating a new batch of ghost hunters.

"Something doesn't feel right..."

"Hey!" The classroom door opened. Wang Chuqing of Class Five walked over with a dark expression. "What are you doing?"

"I just want to observe your class." Han Fei picked up the class and planned to move to another classroom.

"Why are you attending classes during school hours when you should be teaching your own class?" Wang Chuqing's scar wrinkled.

"Fine. Actually, I want to ask you something." Han Fei lowered his voice. "Do you still have more ghost blood? Name a price."

"Do your students know that you're trading with their lives?" Wang Chuqing looked down on him. "I've given you my last vial. Leave."

"Then, can you tell me where you get them?" Han Fei revealed a sinister smile. "I'm dying, and a madman will do anything."

"The Red Building in Area B4, Shi Wei Eatery." Wang Chuqing closed the door. "There is more than one Lingering Spirit there. If you go there now, you'll die."

Then, the system rang. "Notification for Player 0000! You've triggered a random mission, Blood Feast.

"Blood Feast: Enter Shi Wei Eatery. Participate in the Blood feast and survive until the end."

Chapter 827: Lucky Han Fei

Wang Chuqing didn't like Han Fei. To be accurate, no one at school like Han Fei. When they saw Han Fei appear at the backdoor of their classes, they frowned, but they didn't want to be on the same level as a 'person who was about to die.'

Han Fei used that and attended all the teachers' classes. There were eight classes at school. The teacher of Class Six, Xu Hui, was killed. The teacher of Class Four was off work due to injuries. Of the remaining teachers, the person who grabbed Han Fei's attention was the Teacher for Class Two, Yin Yan. This teacher appeared to have two personalities, one was hiding in the shadow, and the other was fiery like a flame. He was the other extreme of Gao Cheng. He was very popular at school. The headmaster liked him a lot and had been training him as a successor. Han Fei stayed the longest outside the door of Class Two. After Yin Yan discovered Han Fei, he didn't chase him away but smiled at Han Fei and invited him into his classroom. Even though Han Fei was thick-skinned, he was not that thick-skinned.

To not interrupt his students, Han Fei walked around the school with his stool, trying to discover the secrets of the school. The time passed by quickly. When it was almost dark, a black modified car entered the school. Crow summoned all the teachers to hurry to the office.

The injured teacher of Class Four, Dan Yan, was hauled over from the infirmary too. To prevent a curse, he had to sacrifice his legs and one arm to escape from the Black Building. Of the seven teachers, he was the weakest other than Han Fei.

After everyone was in place, they stared at the chair at the end of the conference room. It was the headmaster's seat. The chilly presence spread in the office. There was no footstep, but the conference door suddenly opened. A middle-aged man whose left side of his face was ruined walked into the room. There were many smelly wounds on his body.

"Headmaster, have you decided the route and the location of the exam this time?" Crow stood up to hold the headmaster pull back the chair. Other than respect, there was fear in his eyes.

“It has been decided. Time for the draw.” When the headmaster spoke, his mouth appeared to tear open. His wounds had been sewn together. Without the threads, he would look scarier and uglier.

The headmaster removed his black hat and took the center seat. He took out eight envelopes. “There’s a little problem with the exam this time...”

“You mean how Xu Hui was killed?” Crow immediately said, “I’ve already sent people to investigate it. We’ll get the result latest by the week.”

“It has nothing to do with him.” The headmaster shook his head. He placed the eight envelopes inside a black box and placed the box on the table. “Two classes are going to the Black Building this exam.”

“Two classes?” The teachers were shocked. The Black Buildings were very dangerous even for the teachers.

“I’ve tried to negotiate, but...” The headmaster pointed at the box. “Start the draw. At least you have a choice.”

The teachers looked at each other. No one moved forward. This simple draw would decide the fate of their students and themselves.

“What are you waiting for?” The headmaster said darkly. He didn’t like those who went against him.

“Fine, I’ll go first.” Dan Yan had nothing to do. He had the doctor carry him to the black box and reach out his one hand. “My class only has five kids. If I draw the Black Building, I need another class to go with me.”

The test affected everyone’s fate. Even the fearless Yan Lan was nervous. She was not afraid of death, but she didn’t want to sacrifice her students. Dan Yan pulled out an envelope. He opened the envelope before everyone. It had a bloodred bamboo stick.

“Red Building! It’s a Red Building!” Dan Yan sighed and leaned on the doctor. Dan Yan finally smiled. “I’m sorry for stealing one spot for the Red Building.”

“There are dangers in Red Buildings too. Don’t get happy too soon.” Ma Jing chided. His gaze was scary. His knuckles cracked.

“Don’t fight. End the draw before dark.” The headmaster observed the teacher in the conference room, especially their expression. He scanned everything until he settled on Han Fei. Gao Cheng looked different from before but he couldn’t tell where.

“I’ll be next.” Yin Yan stood up. He was very calm but his slightly pulsing pupils still revealed his nervous heart. Black Building was the code for death. Yin Yan took an envelope and opened it. It was a red bamboo stick too.

“Cheng Xing Kindergarten in Zone B1. That’s one of the easier Red Buildings.” Yin Yan looked at the words on the stick.

There were two black sticks among the remaining envelopes. The other teachers were nervous and didn’t dare to do anything crazy. Since no one moved, Han Fei stood up, but before he could go for the black, Wang Chuqing moved first. His hand reached into the box. He paused for a long time before he took out the envelope. From the surface, this envelope looked just like the others. The trembling hands tore open the envelope. A pure black stick fell on the table. The small bamboo stick was written with vicious words. The cursed presence spread immediately.

“Black Building of Zone C3—Xin Lu’s Third Mental Hospital!”

The scar on Wang Chuqing’s face started to twist. He didn’t even have the energy to pick up the stick.

“Pick your stick and return to your seat.” The headmaster hated Wang Chuqing. The hatred in his tone was unfettered, “Think about why you’ve stayed to be a teacher. Look at yourself now!”

Wang Chuqing slowly picked up the black bamboo stick. He returned to his seat. His hand that held the stick burst with veins. When the other teachers saw that Wang Chuqing had gotten the black stick, they were happy and worried. There was another black stick.

Compared to the other teachers, Han Fei was more relaxed. He didn't hesitate. He picked up a random envelope. Everyone stared at Han Fei as he tore open the envelope. The pure white bamboo stick fell on the table. Han Fei was shocked. His luck in the cryptic world was always good. The blessing Fu Yi gave him appeared to follow him. "White Building in Zone C3—Good Friend Supermarket." They had locations in the same zone but Han Fei and Wang Chuqing's choices couldn't be more different.

Han Fei felt chill. The teachers looked at him with daggers. Wang Chuqing even wanted to kill him.

"Crow, can we swap the draw result?"

"No. Sit down." The headmaster knocked on the table. He glanced at Han Fei. "Gao Cheng, what is your mental corruption now?"

"39. Headmaster, I need ghost blood. If you have some, I can pay any price to get it from you." Han Fei used Masterful Acting.

"Mental corruption will make you crazy, but too much ghost blood will kill you." The headmaster ignored Han Fei and turned to the other teacher. The draw continued. Each envelope was an invitation from the ghosts. They couldn't be changed after drawn. A few seconds later, the last black bamboo stick was chosen by Ma Jing, the Teacher of Class Three.

"The draw is over. In the next two days, you need to train your students. Try to raise their survivability." The headmaster put his hat back on. "Don't do anything under the table. I don't want any more problems." After the headmaster left, the room temperature slowly returned to normal.

Ma Jing slammed the table. His glasses screamed. The image of two hanged students appeared. "1/4 chance. Why am I so unlucky?"

"Due to Xu Hui's death, I'll lead Class Six. Go back to prepare." Crow took the Red bamboo stick for Class Six and left. Now, only a few teachers remained.

"Actually, I wish to trade, but the headmaster doesn't allow it." Han Fei leaned on the chair. He twirled the white stick. He was close to hinting to the other teachers that he would make the trade outside of the school.

“Yes. You’re about to die soon. Why do you have to get the most useful thing?” Wang Chuqing’s expression was dark. He was in no mood for joke.

“We’re all in Zone C3. I can go help you.” Han Fei put the white stick in his pocket and returned to Class 7.

“Everyone, quiet down.” Han Fei placed the white stick on the table and explained the situation to everyone. Then, Han Fei walked to the seat of No. 2. “What do you think we should do to get the biggest benefit?”

“The bamboo sticks don’t matter. Our biggest enemy now is not Black Buildings but the school.” No. 2 sat at his seat but the words he said were cruel. “I suggest you use the white stick to trade for things that you normally can’t like reputation.”

“Who do you think I should approach?”

“The people who need the white bamboo stick now are Teacher Wang and Teacher Ma. They cannot be more different. When your demand is higher than what Teacher Ma is willing to offer, he will kill you, so Teacher Wang is the better choice.” No. 2 closed his book. “Teacher, actually, you know what to do. You don’t need to ask me. If you attempt to use this to get close to us, you can save it because it won’t work.”

“That’s right. You’re acting like a child.” No. 4 was even ruder. “Plus, you got this due to luck.”

“You bunch of kids. One day, I get you to respect me.” Han Fei didn’t get mad. From the conversation, he sensed that the kids stop resisting him as much. Even No. 4 talked to him. Han Fei ended the class early and returned to his apartment. When it was dark, he left the school. That night, he planned to go to Shi Wei Eatery to find ghost blood.

“Wang Chuqing told me the location to find the ghost blood. If I’m not mistaken, he should be there to wait for me.” It was dangerous to go out at night. Han Fei put on the cap and focused.

After the big tragedy, Xin Lu was split into 12 zones. The most dangerous was Zone A, where there were the most Black Buildings, Strange Buildings, and was closest to the school. After using two hours, Han Fei finally entered Zone A. There was no sign of human life anywhere.

“Cryptic world? Is this the result of the overlap?”

Han Fei had already used the coin twice to reach this place. Now his mental corruption was 32.

“Shadows appear in my eyes again. I need to get there as soon as possible.” Han Fei put away the map and looked down the street. The skyscrapers weaved to form a human cage. Neon didn’t flicker in the night. Instead, there were ghost fires and eyes of unknown creatures.

Chapter 828: Blood Feast

Shi Wei Eatery was once Xin Lu Old City’s famous restaurant. The signboard apparently had more than 200 years of history. Those who had lived in the old city knew this place, but most people wouldn’t have the chance to eat here. Han Fei looked around as he exited the shadow.

The former top restaurant was now an abandoned morgue. The two red lanterns that hung by the signboard swayed in the wind.

“The Yin Energy is strong here.”

Han Fei wore the black cap. The lazy ghost in the cap was awakened. It kept reminding Han Fei to leave. A lot of ghosts were gathered inside the eatery!

“Is it the Ghost Festival? Why does it feel like every ghost is moving here?” Shi Wei Eatery was just a Red Building. It had no Pure Hatred, but the Lingering Spirit inside had far surpassed a normal Red Building, and more was still gathering here.

“The random mission has been triggered, and the exam is happening soon. If I come back tomorrow, I won’t have enough time.” To enter Zone A, Han Fei’s mental corruption was already 32. If it worsened, he wouldn’t be able to protect himself, much less his students. Han Fei ignored the warning of the cap ghost and walked under the red lanterns. The last light of the day disappeared down the horizon. Darkness enveloped the city.

There were three floors to Shi Wei Eatery. The higher the floor, the rarer the dishes served. Han Fei entered the building, and it felt like he had returned to the past. The building itself radiated a special fragrance. The smell of food had imbued the building.

“Is the place reserved for guests tonight?”

There were red lanterns every few steps. The red light reflected human faces, the staircase banister with the dragon carving had been wiped, and the wooden floor was paved with new carpet. Han Fei silently approached the dining table closest to him. The red tablecloth was laid with dining sets. There was a cursed white paper underneath the plates. Only selected people could taste the food. Han Fei walked along the wall and avoided the giant sculptures of dragon and phoenix in the lobby. He wanted to go up the stairs, but he heard the sound of scolding.

Han Fei hid under the window to look. A fatty about the size of a barrel occupied Booth Three. He held a small knife in his left hand and a pair of chopsticks in his right. His beady eyes stared at the table. Another version of himself was placed on the table!

The giant body, the fatty folds, he was tied to the table like a turkey. The sound of gulping, scolding, and cursing mixed together. The fatty was eating himself.

“Notification for Player 0000! You’ve discovered the first guest of the blood feast.”

“This monster is here for the Blood Feast too?”

The mission required Han Fei survived until the end, so he didn’t want any conflict.

“Gluttony and greed. His persona was similar to Gao Cheng's. When I find the ghost blood, perhaps I can eat him.” Even though the side effect of using the Greed Persona was huge, it was undeniably strong. As long as one’s mental fortitude was strong enough, Greed Persona had endless possibilities. Han Fei silently retreated to the other side of the booth. The fragrance in the air thickened. It was very alluring. One wanted to stay here forever until one was served on the table.

“Lobby, booths, I’m getting closer to the kitchen.”

Due to its many secrets, the kitchen was a taboo location. No guest was allowed entry.

“Ghost blood is a kind of ingredient. Did Wang Chuqing get his vial here?” Ghosts were mostly resentment and hatred. Only a small handful would have a bleeding heart. Han Fei slowly approached the kitchen door. He looked at the waving curtain and slowly raised his hand. Han Fei was about to pull the curtain back when a hand fell on his shoulder.

“Shush. I’m Wang Chuqing. The kitchen is forbidden to all living humans. Do you want to die?” Teacher Wang’s voice appeared in Han Fei’s ears. He turned around. Teacher Wang had been hiding in the shadow between the stairs and the kitchen. He was certain that Han Fei would be there.

“Come with me.”

Wang Chuqing dragged Han Fei to First Floor’s Booth Eight. They hid under the table. “Why are you here?”

Wang Chuqing frowned. He didn’t waste time. He took out his black bamboo stick. “If you trade with me your exam location, I’ll get you the ghost blood!”

“Didn’t the headmaster forbid trading?” Han Fei stretched lazily. With Wang Chuqing there, his mission should be simpler.

“The cursed sticks are the keys to enter the exam buildings. You only need to trade with me. You don’t need to care about the rest!” Wang Chuqing’s eyes were red.

“I’m curious. Why do you want to protect your students so much? You found me even before the draw. You seem to worry that bad things will happen to your students.” Han Fei asked some sensitive questions.

“If I tell you the truth, will you trade with me?” Wang Chuqing hesitated after Han Fei nodded. “The last teacher of Class Five was my wife. Before she died, she told me that our child was in Class Five too.”

“Did you imagine your wife? Your name is your wife’s name, but none of the other teachers has seen her...” Han Fei felt the chill and quickly shut up.

“My persona is Loyalty. I will not lie to anyone.” Wang Chuqing took out a strange bone knife. “This blade is forged using my wife’s body. She has been watching over me to make sure that I don’t violate our vow.”

“Our school really doesn’t have a single normal teacher.” Han Fei held his chin. “Our test locations are at Zone C. If you really can find me enough ghost blood, I can trade with you. But you can’t release this info before the exam.”

“What do you mean by enough ghost blood? Do you think they’re easily acquired?”

“My current mental corruption is 32. I need enough ghost blood for my mental state to return to normal.” Han Fei held the Coin of Fate. “You should know my ability. I might not be able to kill you now but we can get away from this both heavily injured.”

“Deal.” Wang Chuqing didn’t trust Han Fei, but he didn’t have a better choice. “After tonight, I’ll give you the ghost blood. Give me the white stick, and I’ll help you keep it.”

“Sure.”

Wang Chuqing was surprised that Han Fei was so easygoing, “I’ve been here before. Even though this place is a Red Buildings, sometimes ghosts from Black Buildings will come here.”

“Ghosts can exit their buildings?”

“Normally, they won’t, but this place is special. Every few days, this place will hold a Blood Feast. As long as we avoid the feast, there shouldn’t be any problem.” This worried Han Fei because the system said that he was there to participate in the blood feast.

“Can you tell me what the blood feast is?”

“It’s to console the Ghost Mother.”

Han Fei heard a new term. “Ghost Mother? Is she a Pure Hatred or Unmentionable?”

“Ghost Mother is the most unique ghost at Zone A. No living human has seen her before, but some ghosts know of her existence.” Wang Chuqing whispered, “According to legends, she is a ghost that eats ghosts and most ghosts in Zone A are her children.”

“A ghost that eats ghosts?” Han Fei was reminded of Gao Cheng.

“The dishes served at the blood feast are made with ghosts and monsters. Last time, I was lucky to have found the ghost blood here.” Wang Chuqing sighed.

Suddenly, all the booth doors opened. Blood rain in the air. The carved phoenix and dragon wept. Screams echoed from every booth.

“Blood rain? Is tonight the blood feast?” Wang Chuqing’s lips trembled. Han Fei nodded. “That’s right.”

The giant sculpture in the middle of Shi Wei Eatery was drenched by the blood rain. The red lanterns swayed. The heavy doors were pushed open. Black-robed figures entered Shi Wei Eatery holding cursed food. They appeared to be cultists.

“Wilted flowers, yellowed missing person’s notices, dried cat body, children’s sweaters, moldy cakes, handwritten letters...” All the cursed objects on the trays came from the same person. The items looked common, but they radiated a Pure Hatred level of resentment. “All these cursed items belong to the Ghost Mother? How scary is she? Why would such a unique ghost exist in Gao Xing’s altar world?”

The strange black-robed individuals placed the cursed objects in different booths. The cursed objects appeared to be manifestations of the Ghost Mother.

Footsteps came to the booth door. Han Fei and Wang Chuqing tensed. They held their breath. The creature placed a thick stack of missing person reports on their dining table!

Wang Chuqing and Han Fei hiding under the table, felt immense pressure. They knew they had to escape before the blood feast started. Wang Chuqing and Han Fei lifted the corner of the tablecloth and crawled out.

“Leave! I’ll get you the ghost blood tomorrow night!” Wang Chuqing moved forward, but he noticed that Han Fei had stopped. “What are you doing?”

When Han Fei crawled out of the dining table, he glanced at the cursed object. He saw the words on it.

“My son has been taken away at Xin Lu’s First Hospital. There is a heart-shaped birthmark near his chest. He is bundled with a golden lock with his name, Gao Xing! I’m willing to pay 10000 for any info...”

“Gao Xing?” Han Fei’s eyes moved to see the picture.

The child in the black and white picture grinned wickedly at him. The child’s lips seemed to move to say, Your biggest greed is trying to steal my mother’s love!

Endless shadows appeared in Han Fei’s greed abyss. The pain tore at Han Fei’s soul. This pain didn’t originate from Han Fei but from Gao Cheng.

“The missing child is Gao Xing. He said that Gao Cheng’s biggest greed is stealing his mother’s love?

“Is the Ghost Mother Gao Xing’s biological mother or Gao Cheng’s adopted mother? But hasn’t she gone missing?”

Gao Cheng had lost his dignity and bottom line, but he didn’t back off this time. The greed abyss compelled Han Fei to tear up all the missing person notices.

Chapter 829: His Mother

In Zone A’s most dangerous Red Building, Han Fei risked a lot to destroy the cursed object. Wang Chuqing was stunned. He had no idea Han Fei would suddenly go crazy. Wang Chuqing wanted to stop Han Fei, but it was already too late. He saw the black mist ooze out of Han Fei. The giant dining table was like a lake. When Han Fei grabbed the missing person’s posters, the scary curses spread on his arms, and the warning in his mind rang!

“Notification for Player 0000! You’ve been cursed. Your mental corruption increases to 33! “Notification for Player 0000! You’ve been deeply cursed. Your mental corruption increases to 33!”

Gao Cheng’s greed persona was fully triggered. The strange mirror shattered. He knew that he was no match for the kid in the posters, but he wanted to fight him anyway.

“The love is not supposed to be yours. You and your biological parents are shameless thieves.” The kid in the poster spoke. Hearing this voice, the black mist boiled fully. The darkness of the Greed Persona wanted to tear the cursed object apart. They clashed in Han Fei’s mind. Curse and greed treated Han Fei’s mind as a battlefield.

Mental corruption rose. When they clashed, a lot of memory fragments fell from the posters. Strangely enough, the fallen memories from the posters became cruel red flowers. They bloomed in Han Fei’s mind, leaving behind unforgettable memories. The kid in the black and white posters seemed to come alive. He was the person with a pair of normal eyes in the family.

Since he was small, he noticed something strange. His blind parents would go around tearing down missing child’s posters from the wall. They couldn’t see, so why would they need the poster? They wouldn’t help search for the child, but they patiently tore down the posters and dropped them into the toilet. The child had no idea what his parents were doing, but since they were his parents, he didn’t expose them.

Bloodflowers bloomed in the abyss. Curse spread through his body. The hatred changed into the most vicious words and branded Han Fei’s skin. Han Fei was highly resistant to curses. Others would have died already. Wang Chuqing’s shocked expression showed how scary Han Fei’s curse resistance was. However, without any other help, it was only a matter of time before Han Fei was corrupted by the curse.

When the curse from the missing person’s report covered every inch of Han Fei’s body, the fake eye he gained from Third Optometrist Hospital changed. The ghost in the eye was triggered. Without any sacrifice, it mixed into the black mist radiated by the Greed persona. New memory fragments appeared in Han Fei’s mind, but they were very different from before. The memory of the missing person’s posters came from Gao Xing, but the memory of the fake eye came from Gao Cheng.

Many years ago, in the Third Optometrist Hospital, Gao Cheng and his adopted mother sat outside the high-class ward. His adoptive mother took good care of Gao Cheng. The nurse knelt to record the various data on the fake eye. They were planning the second eye surgery for Gao Cheng. The second building's ward was showered with light. It was warm and comfortable. However, the first building's wards were chaotic, hectic, and smelly. The moving patients begged the bug nurses. Everyone was frowning. Among the crowd, there was a thin kid holding the hands of his blind parents. He stood out among the crowd.

His adoptive mother arranged the best treatment for Gao Cheng.

Gao Xing and his blind parents collected a lot of money before they decided to come to the hospital to conduct an examination to see if there was a possibility of surgery.

The two memory fragments overlapped, and the two kids looked at each other. One could see, but he was surrounded by darkness. The other couldn't see but he was embraced by the light. That was how they met for the first time.

The curse from the missing person's reports and the Greed Persona clashed violently. The two didn't care about Han Fei. They just wanted to consume the other so that they could be the only one remaining. For twinflowers to bloom, one of them had to die.

"We need to go!" Wang Chuqing was a good person. Even though it was dangerous, he didn't abandon Han Fei. Of course, it was also he still needed the white stick from Han Fei. The ghost who had been hiding in the fake eye was Gao Xing's nemesis. This battle in Han Fei's brain became more violent. The curse spread from Han Fei to the booth. Rapid footsteps came from outside the booth. Children's laughter came from the red lanterns. The booths opened. The guests were moving their way.

"It's over! We're going to be killed because of you!" Wang Chuqing took out a blade wrapped in black cloth. He just wanted to block the door when all the anomalies in the building stopped. The crying, laughing, and footsteps disappeared. The silence was unsettling. Wang Chuqing gripped the blade and moved closer to the door. However, before he got there, the power of an Unmentionable shoved it open. Fresh flowers grew on the booth doors. The flowers then wilted, and the booth door turned into ash. A figure entered the booth. Wang Chuqing couldn't see them clearly. His eyes were not fast enough. Fading warmth fell on Han Fei's shoulders. The greed abyss and the endless hatred from the missing person's reports started to roll back. They were like kids who had been comforted by their mothers.

“Mom?”

When Han Fei recovered, the missing person’s reports had been taken away. The curse on his body had been cleansed. Someone in the greed abyss tried to stop something, but he failed to get anything.

“Notification for Player 0000! You’ve survived Gao Xing’s memory curse! Your resistance to memory-type curse increases by 20 percent! Your overall resistance to curse increases to 5 percent!

“Notification for Player 0000! The Blood Feast is over! You’ve survived until the end! You’ve obtained a lot of EXP and a chance to access your inventory!

“Notification for Player 0000! Your mental corruption is 40 percent! You’re at the edge of a mental collapse!”

The mission was completed, but Han Fei felt no joy. His emotions were affected by the greed abyss. All the positive emotions had been consumed. If he didn’t walk out of it, he would be eaten by the abyss.

“This is bad.”

Lying on the ground, Han Fei was like an abandoned child. He looked as they walked away and chose another child. The pain of abandonment pierced his heart like needles. With each breath, his body trembled with pain. Living was torture.

“Let me die.”

“Stop being crazy!” Wang Chuqing carried Han Fei and rushed out. He was ready to fight to the death, but there was no one in the lobby. All the red lanterns had gone out too. “Did Ghost Mother just appear? All the ghosts went into hiding?” Wang Chuqing glanced at the dying Han Fei and said, “Remember our deal!”

Wang Chuqing barged into the kitchen. There was currently no ghost there. “Perfect opening!”

Wang Chuqing opened the freezer hidden in the basement. It was where most of the unique ingredients were kept. Other than ghost blood, there were also the hearts of Lingering Spirits and things from other monsters.

“The legends are true. Ghost Mother likes to taste different ghosts!”

A normal Red Building wouldn't have these things, but Wang Chuqing wasn't greedy. He knew he couldn't carry everything. He picked a Lingering Spirit's heart and enough ghost blood for Han Fei and rushed to the exit. After running for a long time, Wang Chuqing finally dared to turn to look. The red lanterns of Shi Wei Eatery came on again. A man in a red chef outfit chased to the door. It remembered Han Fei and Wang Chuqing.

“The heart of the Lingering Spirit and ghost blood are good for other ghosts. It'll be hard getting back to school tonight.” Wang Chuqing didn't know whether Han Fei was lucky or unlucky.

He rushed down the streets. Wang Chuqing sacrificed a lot to carry Han Fei back. He overused his persona. He dropped Han Fei in the infirmary and then grabbed much medicine to prevent the curse from spreading to his body.

“If living is torture, why live?” Despair overwhelmed Han Fei's mind. He couldn't control himself. His soul was sick due to the corruption.

“After Mad Laughter left, I'm much weaker. After all, I'm just a fake.”

“I have no idea what you're talking about, but you're the first who I've seen who can speak normally at 30 plus mental corruption!” Wang Chuqing opened the ghost blood vials. “Drinking too much ghost blood will break down your body mechanism. It's equal to suicide. I have no idea where your limit is. If you feel uncomfortable, tell me to stop.”

Wang Chuqing noticed Han Fei's body temperature dropping as he poured the ghost blood down Han Fei's throat. He wanted to stop, but Han Fei grabbed his wrist and continued to slurp on the blood.

“Hey! Stop! Even ghosts don't dare to do this!”

Han Fei's stomach was trained. His heart pounded. Han Fei didn't feel like a person but more like a new ghost.

"Notification for Player 0000! Your mental corruption has dropped..."

The greed abyss in his mind was washed away by the ghost blood. Most of the memory fragments and negative emotions were digested. Han Fei's eyes slowly focused.

"How are you not dead?" Wang Chuqing looked at the empty vials, and he was confused.

"Do you have meat? I need to eat." The mental corruption was cleansed, but he was still very weak. Han Fei had no other choice but to use Midnight Butcher's talent to recover Gao Cheng's body.

"I'll bring you to the canteen." Wang Chuqing silently sneaked Han Fei to the canteen. He took out the stocked eat. "Can eating meat restore the damage caused by ghost blood?" Seeing how Han Fei feasted, he was shocked.

"Not enough! I'm still hungry!" Han Fei could move his body already. He opened the freezer door and placed all kinds of meats on the stove to cook. Han Fei's body temperature rose after finishing the meat prepared for the whole class. He opened his menu to look. His mental corruption dropped to 20.

"Drinking ghost blood and eating meat. I think I've found a way to heal. This way I can use the Greed Persona endlessly." The encounter that night shocked Han Fei. He still remembered the feeling of the hand on his shoulder. "Is that mom? Gao Cheng's emotion was affecting me. Even I wanted to be close to her."

Chapter 830: Black Merchant

The appearance of the Ghost Mother touched Han Fei's soul. He didn't quite understand his parents' love, but in the memory world, through the Mirror God's and Fu Sheng's past, he felt care from their parents.

"Ghost Mother eats ghosts, and she appears to be on Gao Xing's side. However, yesterday night, she didn't harm Gao Cheng and me. Perhaps in her heart, both Gao Cheng and Gao Xing were her children." When the curse from the missing person's reports and the greed abyss clashed, Han Fei saw the memory fragments of Gao Cheng and Gao Xing. In their hearts, the Ghost Mother was a very gentle

person. “The black-robed individuals who follow Ghost Mother are all living humans. It feels like Ghost Mother is on the human’s side. She is using her own way to help the weak.” Han Fei wanted to know more about the Ghost Mother. She was the key to understanding this world. After swallowing the last piece of meat, Han Fei’s condition was noticeably better. His body temperature returned to normal, and 20 mental corruption was Han Fei’s acceptable range.

“Oh Wang, I have no idea you’re so reliable.” Han Fei leaned against the dining table and studied Wang Chuqing. They were just colleagues. Who would have thought he would risk his life to carry Han Fei back from Shi Wei Eatery to school?

“I just want to complete our trade.” Wang Chuqing replied coldly. He maintained a safe distance from Han Fei.

“If we stay at school, we’ll have to keep on drawing for the exam. Are you interested in doing something big with me? It’ll solve your problem forever.” Han Fei lured Wang Chuqing.

“Are you planning to resist the school?”

“I can only tell you that Yan Lan has agreed.” Han Fei whispered, but his voice was loud enough for Wang Chuqing to hear. “You saw how Xu Hui died, right? He was killed by a fist through his chest. Who in our school can do that?”

“With the headmaster there, you’ll never succeed.” Wang Chuqing said coldly.

“So you’ll join us if the headmaster is dead?” Han Fei’s eyes burned with ambition.

“I never say that!” Wang Chuqing was scared.

“But your expression sold you out.” Han Fei took out the white stick. “Even though I have the white stick, I’m ready to revolt. What about you who has the black stick?”

“This is something beyond our trade.” Wang Chuqing’s eyes wavered. He stared at the white stick Han Fei was holding, and he frowned. Trading with the devil was something dangerous. He licked his dry lips. He didn’t say anything and left.

“Teacher Wang has saved my life. How should I repay him? By leading him on the right path?” Han Fei recovered everything in the kitchen and then returned to his apartment. The teacher’s apartment was huge, but there were not many teachers who chose to stay there overnight. Everyone had their own secret storerooms outside of school. It was safer to sleep there. Han Fei’s eyes narrowed as he entered the room and sensed a vicious presence. He looked around and saw a man seated on his couch.

“You dare to go out with 39 mental corruption? Aren’t you afraid of dying?” The man turned around and looked at Han Fei with mal intention.

“Ma Jing?” Han Fei was surprised, but he soon reacted. Ma Jing and Wang Chuqing both got the black stick. If they didn’t want to enter the Death Building, the best choice was to trade with Han Fei, who was the most easily bullied.

“You should know why I’m here.” Ma Jing pushed on his glasses and took out his black stick. “Since you’re going to die, give me your white bamboo stick. I’ll look after your students.”

“Do you think I’m the kind of person who would sacrifice his own students?” Han Fei smiled kindly. He closed the door behind him. This caused Ma Jing to narrow his eyes. Normally, a cornered person wouldn’t lock himself in an enclosed space. This meant that Han Fei had confidence he could deal with Ma Jing.

“Wang Chuqing has already found me. If you want to trade, then tell me your offer.” Han Fei sat opposite Ma Jing. He flicked the coin of fate.

“I don’t think you can reject my offer.” Ma Jing took out a wrinkled file from his pocket. The file was stained with black fingerprints and blood. “This has the things that you’ve done.” He poured the content out. Han Fei saw many pictures and a pieced-together bill. These things recorded how Gao Cheng sacrificed living humans to trade with ghosts. There was a picture that showed Gao Cheng consuming ghosts after trading with some monsters. Gao Cheng looked scarier than ghosts.

“What are these?” “Stop acting dumb. You sacrificed living people to the dark merchant to get him to help you consume ghosts, and from there, you gain their power. Do you think you hide it well?” Ma Jing pointed at the pictures. “I escaped from the old city’s prison. The inmates in that prison have been consumed by your greed. You’ve given their souls to ghosts!”

“That makes me feel better.” Han Fei’s smile didn’t waver. “They were sinners, so they should die. I only sacrifice sinners.”

“Do you think the citizens around the school will believe you? They will burn you at school! The headmaster also forbade teachers from having private dealings with any ghosts. If caught, your persona will be destroyed, and you’ll be made into a live specimen.” Ma Jing crossed his legs. He believed he had won. “You have committed the greatest sin. There are two more days to the exam. I hope you can think this through.”

“Are you threatening me?” Han Fei flipped the coin. “Aren’t you afraid that I’d sacrifice you too?”

“You can try.”

The room was silent. Darkness corrupted human hearts. Han Fei and Ma Jing were considering whether to make a move. “Think about it. Give me an answer on the night before the exam. I’ll give you another ghost blood then to help you lower your mental corruption.” Ma Jing was the first to cave. After saying this, he left without even taking the pictures.

The smile disappeared. Han Fei picked up a picture to look at. “What is a black merchant? Gao Cheng’s diary doesn’t mention anyone like that.”

The building in the picture was between Zones B and C. It was not far from school. Han Fei hesitated before burning all the pictures and left the school again. Han Fei’s understanding of the world came from the school and Gao Cheng’s diary, but this world was not that simple. From living in the cryptic world, Han Fei knew that not all ghosts were dominated by resentment. A small handful retained their rationality. They were called managers in the cryptic world. Han Fei, who had recovered, felt braver. Before the sun came up, he came to the building in the picture, An Kang Pharmacy.

“I think I’ve seen this pharmacy in Xin Lu before. It’s a chain pharmacy under Immortal Pharma.” Han Fei had a question in his mind. “I wonder how Deep Space Tech and Immortal Pharma will appear here. Or perhaps they’re already history.”

The pharmacy’s front door was locked. The building looked abandoned. To Han Fei’s surprise, as he approached the door, the rust on the lock started to fall, and an eye opened. It scanned Han Fei. The lock fell. A pale arm covered in needle holes reached out.

“Black merchant?”

The arm kept extending until it touched Han Fei’s face. Han Fei resisted the discomfort. Several seconds later, the arm grabbed Han Fei’s shoulder and yanked him into the room. After Han Fei entered the pharmacy, the front door closed again. He was locked inside.

“Where is he?”

The shelves used to place the medicine were toppled over. The medicine bottles were scattered everywhere. There were some pills used to calm down the mind.

“This medicine is similar to the one I was given in the infirmary.” Han Fei picked up a bottle to study when the temperature dropped. A ball of shadow behind him expanded. Han Fei turned around. The tattered black robe floated in the air. Twelve thin and pale arms reached out of the robe. Each arm had an eyeball encased in the middle of the palm.

“Notification for Player 0000! You’ve discovered the unique ghost—black merchant. You’ve triggered the random mission, Trade.

“Mission Requirement: Complete a trade with the black merchant.”

Han Fei’s heart dropped back into his stomach. The various factors signaled that Gao Cheng and the black merchant knew each other. Using Soul-depth touch, Han Fei touched one of the hands. Endless greed and pain entered Han Fei’s mind.

The monster didn't harm Han Fei. The black robe slowly opened around the chest. The arms pulled out a withered head from underneath the robe. The head radiated an intense smell of medication. The mouth moved to emit a hoarse voice, "Cheng, what have you brought me this time?" The voice came from the human head. Black merchant used this method to communicate.

"Do you have any new merchandise here? Can I see the catalog first?" Han Fei had no idea how strong the black merchant was.

"Close your eyes." The black merchant dragged Han Fei into the black robe. After temporary vertigo, it brought Han Fei underground. "All five rooms contain new merchandise." The black merchant held the head and floated behind Han Fei. "The first room has a young Lingered Spirit. He likes to play. If you play with him for at least one hour every day, he won't harm you. Sacrifice to me two living adults, and you can bring him with you."

Through the peephole, Han Fei could see the ghosts trapped inside. Black merchant was basically slave dealer. He walked past the doors. Han Fei didn't plan to make any trade, but the system rang.

"Notification for Player 0000! You've discovered a unique Lingered Spirit, Envy.

"Envy (Growable Lingered Spirit): A new amalgamation of envy. Feeding it negative emotions and curses can help it grow!"

Xu Qing was a curse amalgamation. Envy was an envy amalgamation. Han Fei could sense its potential. "I want to buy this ghost. Name a price."

"I need ten of your students."

"Impossible." Han Fei rejected it immediately.

"Cheng, the students are already sacrifices. I only need you to sneak your students here. This is no different from our usual trade."

"Not my students, but I can bring a teacher to you." Ma Jing's smiling face appeared in Han Fei's mind.