

Iyashikei 851

Chapter 851: Self-Sacrifice Persona

Han Fei opened his eyes and noticed he was lying inside a clean room. Beside his bed was a doll that resembled Xu Qin. This looked like Minghun.

“You’re awake? I thought you would sleep longer.” The voice of leader One came from the balcony. His head was bandaged, and an unlit cigarette dangled on his lips.

“Where am I?”

“The center’s special ward. We have applied it for you.” The leader put away the cigarette and walked to his bed. “It has been two days and two nights since the Deep Sea Aquarium investigation. I represent all the surviving members to thank you. Without your help, more of us would have died, and I wouldn’t have returned.” The reticent man said a lot this time.

“Compared to that, I should thank you for pulling me back from the edge of death.” Han Fei’s mental corruption was very high, but he was much better now.” Hearing that, the man shook his head. “It wasn’t us who saved you. It was yourself and a student from your class, the kid without his legs.”

“No. 2?”

“Yes.” The leader nodded. “The kid was courageous. He fed you the Lingering Spirit’s hearts.” “And then?”

“I don’t know the details because he didn’t let anyone enter the ward. You are a good teacher. Every student came out to help you once they knew you were in trouble.” The man placed a sign beside Han Fei’s bed. “You’ve investigated the Strange Building, confirmed Pure Hatred’s identity, killed a normal Pure Hatred, and assisted in the retreat of all the teams. You’ve gained 50000 contribution points.”

“All of us worked together to kill the Pure Hatred. Am I getting too much point?” Han Fei turned to look at the report. However, he noticed that the point he got was negative.

"I was not done. To save you, we've exhausted five Lingering Spirits' hearts, and two of them are extremely rare. Considering your contribution, the director decided to charge you 10000 points each." The leader pointed at the other numbers. "Other than that, your students took away a lot of cursed items and medicine in the name of saving you. Therefore, your debt is a lot." When Han Fei saw the negative 200000 points, his mind cleared. That was probably what No. 2 expected.

"The director removed the small change for you." The man kindly reminded Han Fei.

"If you don't mind me asking, how much contribution point do you normally get from one mission?" Han Fei didn't like owing people stuff. Of course, if he couldn't repay the debt, then it was another story.

"Normally, it's around 1000. Only those members who have contributed a lot could get up to ten thousand in a mission." The man knew what Han Fei was thinking and smiled. "You can pay up slowly. The center needs you and will not urge you to pay up."

"I guess that's the only choice." Han Fei couldn't move his body yet. He gritted his teeth. "Can I see my students? Bring No. 2 to me. He's the most cunning."

"Earlier, you said he's the cleverest." The leader pressed the button beside the bed and had the nurse tell the students of Class Seven that their teacher had awakened. While waiting for his students to come, Han Fei looked at the leader's head. "What's the power of your persona? How did you manage to be alive after you've been trapped inside the pure Hatred's eye."

"I have the self-sacrifice persona. Every time I make my move with the understanding that I might die."

"Self-sacrifice persona?" Han Fei heard that for the first time.

"My persona will be activated whenever I'm cornered. If I can escape, then my persona will become stronger. If the opposite happens, you'll never see me again." The man shrugged like this was nothing important.

"Your persona has awakened seven times, so that means that you've sacrificed yourself seven times already. However, you were saved every time?" Han Fei didn't expect this.

“Yes, the way everyone awakens their persona is different. I need to sacrifice myself to get stronger.” The man’s eyes dimmed. “Team one has the highest fatality rate. I don’t suggest anyone join my team.” There was a knock that interrupted their conversation. “Come in!”

The door opened, and the doctor led the nurses into the room. No. 5 carried No. 2 on his back. The doctor did the final examination on Han Fei, and the two students stayed quietly to the side.

“Your physique is much better than normal. It appears to exist for this tragedy.” The doctor said with admiration. “I wish to open you up to see how you’re made up.”

“Doctor Wang, please watch your words.” The leader of Team One tapped the doctor on his shoulder. After the examination was over, he led the doctors and nurses out of the room so that only the two students remained.

“Have a nice chat. I’m going to have a cigarette break.” The team leader left. He wasn’t interested in the secret between Han Fei and his students.

“Tell me. How did you cure me?” Han Fei looked at No. 2. He couldn’t tell what he was thinking. The boy seemed to exist in another dimension.

“It sounds like you’re angry about the 200000 debt.” No. 5 picked up the apple and peeled it. “Why are you acting like a kid?”

“The items were mostly used on you. You need to submerge into your consciousness and sense the changes to your persona.” No. 2 looked at Han Fei with anticipation. “At first, no one has any hope for you, but you have surprised us.” Han Fei followed No. 2’s instructions. The greed abyss had doubled in size. The negative emotions at the aquarium morphed into a black river and slowly flowed through the abyss. A weak Pure Hatred was trapped there.

“Notification for Player 0000! Greed persona has reached another awakening. Your endless ambition burned Pure Hatred. Your maximum number of ghosts has increased to 17!

“Notification for Player 0000! You’ve trapped Pure Hatred with black flame—the abandoned Xiao Yu (Little Fish).

“Little Fish: She is God’s last friend, a puppet God made for himself. She has the same experience as God!

“Little Fish’s power: Illusion of Memory (Blur the lines between reality and illusion to make souls go lost.

“Attached power: Abandonment (Strip a part of the target’s soul and body to force them to abandon their most precious thing. It can be memory, faith, or even life.

“Ghost territory (The influence is 100 meters): After the ghost territory is activated, all the souls within the 100 meters will be affected. They will lose the power of resistance, and the Pure Hatred’s ability will get stronger.”

Pure Hatred with black flame was very strong. Han Fei was lucky because his ambush was successful. He managed to kill the girl before she could use her black flame.

“Notification for Player 0000! Healing persona has become stronger! To heal others, you have to heal yourself first.” The starlight was stronger than before. All the negative emotions were suppressed inside the greed abyss, so they didn’t affect Han Fei that much. A new balance appeared in his mind. Healing persona appeared harmless, but it would grow with the greed persona.

“My persona appears to have gotten a bit stronger.”

“A bit?” No. 5 placed the peeled apple beside Han Fei’s lips. “Earlier, you helped to heal everyone. After your incident, everyone in class used their power to share your burden and improve your power.”

“Even though some of the children might not want to admit it, we are a unit.” No. 2 sat beside the bed. His voice was very mature. “The persona of the thirty children matches your persona. The only explanation I can think of is you’ve once healed every one of us. That is how I explained it to everyone.” Even though the students had caused Han Fei to get into heavy debt, his heart was warm, like the children had finally accepted him.

“Then should I thank you?” Han Fei ate the apple. “I’m 20000 in debt, but it feels like I’ve gained something. Is that the art of speech?” No matter what, Han Fei’s injury did pull him closer to the children. Han Fei’s two personas became stronger too.

“Take some rest. Don’t worry about us. After you recover, you should feel the improvement clearer.” No. 2 told Han Fei some other things and left. This memory world was more dangerous than any of the ones Han Fei had experienced. Due to the presence of Class Seven, the pressure on Han Fei was a lot smaller. Han Fei had the doctors prepare a lot of meat. With the doctors and nurses looking on in shock, he gorged himself on the food. That night, Han Fei could walk already. After Li Xue knew about this, she summoned the core members of the group to discuss the next step of the plan. Han Fei was wheeled to the conference room. When he passed by that special wall, two new names were added to it. When the team leader carried them out of the eyeball, they were already dead. When Han Fei arrived, everyone was already there.

“The initial investigation of Deep Sea Aquarium is completed. The dating rating is tragedy.” The details on the eyeballs Pure Hatred were placed on the table. Xue Ba explained it to everyone, “With our current power, we have no chance of killing it.”

The room was silent. Then, Li Xue turned to Han Fei. “Teacher Gao, did you discover anything at the aquarium? I heard that you claimed something from the water at the last moment and distracted the Pure Hatred on your own.”

“I’ve told you that there’s something called Unmentionable that’s stronger than Pure Hatred. This eyeball is part of the Unmentionable’s memory.” Han Fei didn’t bring up Gao Cheng and Gao Xing’s names. “The other kid’s memory was submerged in the aquarium. I saved it and kept it in my greed abyss. When I recover, I should be able to find God’s weakness. Then, it shouldn’t be too hard to deal with the eyeballs.”

The conference room was suffocating after finding out about the eyeballs, but Han Fei gave them hope.

“Then, we’ll do it your way. You don’t need to participate in any mission temporarily and focus on recovery. If you need anything from the evidence department, just take it. We’ll talk about the debt later.” Li Xue gave Han Fei a lot of special clearance. The other core members didn’t say anything. Han Fei earned this with his life. The meeting soon ended. Before Han Fei fully recovered, the center stopped any investigation into Deep Sea Aquarium. They changed their target to the black building, Xin Lu’s Third Mental Hospital. Han Fei was very familiar with this place. The Pure Hatred at the hospital was the reason why the school was a farm. Before the official investigation, many preparations needed to be done.

Han Fei returned to the ward and tried to communicate with Gao Cheng's memory in real life. His consciousness jumped into the greed abyss and stood on the Flower of Resentment. He looked for the boy. The thin boy had his eyes gouged away. His shoulders shivered. When the starlight shone on him, his shadow was a strong young man. The shadow radiated greed and cruelty.

"The boy is Gao Cheng's memory in real life and the shadow should be Gao Cheng's memory fragment in the altar world." A complete person was made up of many things. Body, memory, emotions, consciousness, soul, shadow and boy were all part of Gao Cheng.

"Notification for Player 0000! You've obtained Grade D Altar Item, Gao Cheng's memory. You've triggered the hidden mission—Gao Cheng's wish.

"Gao Cheng's Wish: In the years of being tortured, there's only one thing that's supporting him. He wants to see his beloved family again and ask her whether she still loves him.

"Notification for Player 0000! This mission is a core mission! It'll decide the path of fate! After completing the mission, Gao Cheng might fully combine with you! You will decide his everything!"

Chapter 852: Criminals

After Han Fei woke up in the memory world, he took over Gao Cheng's body. In a way, he was very similar to Gao Cheng. They had endless greed and wanted to kill God. However, Han Fei was not Gao Cheng. Just like how Han Fei took over Fu Yi's body, Fu Yi would come out to disturb Han Fei at crucial moments. He didn't trust Han Fei and only used Han Fei. Perhaps Gao Cheng had the same plan at first, but as he got to know Han Fei, he started to make a choice different from Fu Yi. From how Gao Cheng saw it, Han Fei was doing things better than he was. To complete his ambition, he could hand everything he had to Han Fei. Gao Cheng hated God so much that he would pay any price to destroy it. Waking up the boy and helping him to meet Ghost Mother was Gao Cheng's last test for Han Fei. It was his last wish too. This core altar mission was related to Han Fei's fate. "I'll bring you to meet your mother and have her tell you in person what she really thinks."

No matter how hard Han Fei tried, he couldn't wake up the boy. The boy stayed between the starlight and the abyss. With a sigh, Han Fei left his mind. "No wonder Gao Xing treats the twinflower as his best creation. Gao Xing and Gao Cheng have intertwining fates. One flower will only bloom if the other flower is fully wilted. He wants to replicate that despair on Mad Laughter and me."

In real life, Gao Xing's fate was dominated by Gao Cheng. His family, life, and even eyes were all taken by Gao Cheng. However, something changed, and the reverse was true.

"Mad Laughter and I are twinflowers too. But we are more tolerant of each other." Han Fei lay in bed and looked out at the dark city. The warm starlight shone on every ghost. The greed abyss slowly calmed down. Even the black water faded slightly. When Han Fei woke up the next morning, his mental corruption had dropped to 39. For him, this was already very safe. He put on his clothes and tried to move his body. After three days of convalescence, he was feeling much better. After having a meal, Han Fei grabbed his card to the Tragedy Investigation Department. He wanted to get some missions related to Ghost Mother.

"Teacher Gao, aren't you still receiving treatment?"

"Humanity is dying. How can I still rest?" Han Fei sounded weak but determined. "Now is the time that everyone is needed. I can't waste the center's resources." Han Fei used actions to prove that he was valuable. Even though he was heavily injured, his heart remembered the innocent being bullied by the ghosts. He volunteered to go to the most dangerous Zone A. Those who didn't know that he had greed persona would think he was a kind teacher. After receiving a mission related to Shi Wei Eatery, Team 13 departed. Han Fei borrowed a motorcycle from another team. Han Fei moved along the safe path and parked the motorcycle outside Zone A. Even though it was daylight, sounds and smells could attract ghosts because not all ghosts were afraid of the light.

"This is my second time here." Seeing the red lanterns, Han Fei remembered his previous visit here. "Now things are completely different. I've awakened my persona six times. With two Pure Hatreds, a normal Red Building is no match for me." Han Fei pushed open the front door. "Is anyone home?" He entered the lobby. The dining table was seated with paper dolls. Munching sounds came from everywhere. The temperature dropped. To Han Fei's surprise, he didn't feel any discomfort. Han Fei moved through the paper dolls to the back kitchen. If the ghost wouldn't come out to meet him, then he'd eat everything in the kitchen. Han Fei pried open the ground, and Han Fei summoned Envy. "Boss, if you don't come out soon, I'll rob you clean."

After the blood feast ended, there was nothing important in the kitchen. There were just unknown meat and some ghost blood. "They are not souls, so I have to use them here." Han Fei summoned Wu Chang. This ghost was very special. He was Gao Cheng's first ghost. He raised him from an Animated Regret to a Medium Lingering Spirit. It was only a sacrifice away from becoming a Large Lingering Spirit. "These are rare sacrifices. Feast on them." Through Gao Cheng's diary, he knew that Wu Chang and Du Niao were Gao Cheng's best friends. Just on that alone, Han Fei wouldn't abandon them. With Han Fei's permission, Wu Chang picked up the sacrifice. The temperature dropped again. The paper dolls all turned their heads to look at Han Fei.

“What are you looking at?” Han Fei took out Rest in Peace. “Call your boss out, or I’ll crush this place.” Three days had passed, but many things had changed. The creaking voice came from the second floor. A family of seven came out of the most luxurious booth. The old man who stood in front was the boss of Shi Wei Eatery.

“I didn’t expect you to become like this.” Han Fei had seen this family on television before. They studied the art of cooking. After the tragedy, they became ghosts and cooked for other ghosts. “I have no intention of having a conflict with you.” Han Fei flipped the coin. The greed abyss appeared behind him. “You should remember the last time I was here.” The show of strength was to avoid conflict. If Han Fei wanted to kill, he wouldn’t show Rest in Peace so early. “I am Ghost Mother’s child. I want to see her.” A living person called himself the ghost Mother’s child. The boss didn’t know how to answer. Ghost Mother was the most unique ghost at Zone A. No one dared to offend her, and no one dared to be connected to her.

“Shi Wei Eatery is a place you want to defend, and I have something I need to protect too. If you don’t tell me, then I’ll have to force you.” The headmaster opened his eyes. The old man waved at the smallest kid beside him and lifted up his shirt. The kid’s back was written with various menus and taboos. The words were curses too.

“This is a menu someone made especially for Ghost Mother?” Han Fei realized that all the dishes had been flavored with the emotion of regret. “To carve the menu on your descendant’s back. Who could be so cruel?”

The old man pointed above him and didn’t say anything else. He patted the kid’s head. The kid understood and led Han Fei to the third floor. He crawled into the Ghost Mother’s booth and came out with a heavily-damaged nightlight. The Ghost Mother seemed to know that Han Fei would return and left this for him.

“Do I need to switch it on?” Han Fei tried to activate the light but the kid waved his hands. He led Han Fei to the window. He pointed at a few buildings in Zone A and then the clouds in the sky.

“You mean I need to light the lamp at those buildings after dark?” Han Fei had seen many documents at the center. The buildings the kid pointed out were related to education and charity. They were not that dangerous. The kid nodded. He was scared of Han Fei.

“Then, I’ll trust you.”

Han Fei returned to the first floor and pulled Wu Chang back into the abyss. “I will not take these ingredients for nothing. In the future, I’ll protect your family. Of course, the premise is that you didn’t lie to me.” Han Fei left the eatery and came to the orphanage close by. Inside the empty yard, the toys moved on their own. The cartoon paintings on the walls winked. They were cute but looked creepy.

“If I move further, I’ll enter the center of Zone A.” Zone A was one of the most dangerous locations in Xin Lu. There were five known Black Buildings and many Strange Buildings. “The center’s focus is on Zone C. Zone A is dominated by ghosts. If something happens to me, I won’t be able to get any help.” Han Fei put on the cap. When he approached the orphanage, he sensed that something was wrong. There were unfinished food and nutrient pack in the yard.

“The liquid is still wet, and the food is fresh. Someone has just been here.” The survivors in the city wouldn’t waste food. The expensive nutrient pack wasn’t something a normal survivor could afford either. Han Fei had great observational skills. He sneaked into the orphanage and noticed many signs of human activity. “The ghosts have no influence on them. They are more powerful than most ghosts. Are they like the headmaster? A follower of the ghost?”

Han Fei traced the track to the second-floor activity room. Through the door, he heard several voices speaking.

“It’s the birthday of God after 19 days. Have you prepared the gift for God?”

“It has everything you have. It needs what you can’t give.”

“In that case, why don’t we destroy Hope City? We’ll have a city-wide sacrifice to please God.”

“The others won’t agree. They have plans for Hope City.”

Han Fei looked in through the door. There were three men in standard uniform. Next to them were two severely tortured dead bodies. “They aren’t wearing the center’s uniform...” Han Fei had seen them on the center’s files before. Their uniform was unique to the citizens of Hope City, who had high contributions. “Why do these three look so familiar?”

Han Fei finally remembered them. He had seen them in the police station's file room before. When Mad Laughter entered the altar, many criminals from the skyscraper followed. These three were like Ma Jing. They were killers with the ghost card!

"God gave them special preference, and they have awakened their persona. They seem to have found a good life in Hope City."

Many killers were good at hiding. Plus, they had no guilt and shame. Even if these people spent their nights dismembering victims, they could chat happily with the victims' families during the day. Therefore, the people of Hope City didn't discover their real identity.

"God needs birthday presents too, especially God who has lacked love since he was young." The eldest among them spoke. "We can't give him the things he wants, but we can find ways to make him happy. For example, we can torture the people that God hates the most or help God to gain his mother's approval."

"Brother Chou, do you have a plan already?"

"My persona has the domination power. I want to dominate that ghost's soul and replace her to love God."

The three in the room were actually crazy criminals, so Han Fei was not shocked that they'd think like this.

Chapter 853: Mother

"Do you want to be God's mother?" This crazy thought excited the other two too.

"It's hard for us to do this alone. I bring you here today mainly to investigate God's mother. After we confirm her ability, I'll contact the people in Hope City and Tragedy Investigation Center to head into Zone A, luring them there." Brother Chou had planned everything. "With the personality of the people at the center, they wouldn't be able to stop themselves from capturing such a unique ghost."

“We’ll be able to kill three birds with one stone. We can use this to weaken the center and silence the protest against us at Hope City.” The man with a tattoo of a black club on his face laughed. His wish was for everyone to die.

“We have to take this slow. When we have control of Hope City, we can do anything we want.” Brother Chou smiled wickedly, “Ruin and tragedy. We’ll create our own heaven.” The three criminals were so stuck in their dream that they didn’t realize death was coming.

Brother Chou had prepared a lot for this plan. He took out tattered clothes from his bag. “God’s biological mother is very rich. She didn’t have to do anything on her own until she had her own child. She started baking for her kid and used different fruits to help her kid differentiate between colors. She sewed this bright shirt for her kid. It’s bright and eye-catching. It’s good for safety.” Brother Chou then stuck the blade into the collar. The cloth bled. Soul screamed.

“This cursed object will lead us closer to God’s mother.” Brother Chou put the clothes on. They destroyed their friends’ bodies and took out a large luggage bag from the side room. “Take everything and be ready to depart.” The three left the orphanage. Han Fei followed them silently. These criminals were not attacked by ghosts. They were protected by the altar world. They were the ‘police’ God used to defend this world. In this worst future, the criminals were the rule makers.

The three criminals and Han Fei came to Sky Garden. This skyscraper was one of Xin Lu’s most luxurious residential areas. A garden was built on the rooftop. A famous rich people’s kindergarten was here too. Gao Cheng was sent to school here. Even though he couldn’t see, with his parent’s protection, no one dared to bully him.

“Things went smoother than I thought.” Brother Chou touched the bloodstain on the clothes. “I can feel the mother’s love and the reliance on God. I can’t wait to be its mother.”

This was the first time Han Fei ventured so deep into Zone A. This place was not like what he remembered. Compared to the abandoned Zone C, Zone A retained its current appearance. “I hear that God’s mother likes children. God became so twisted because God’s mother fell in love with another child.” The man with the club tattoo mocked. He wasn’t respectful towards God.

“There’s such a rumor, so I’ve prepared other things too to convince God’s mother to appear.” Brother Chou opened the large luggage. Inside was a little boy with cute features and fair skin. “I’ve spent a lot to find this pretty thing.” He removed the rope around the boy. He held a candy in his left hand and a knife in his right. “Kid, listen to me, and I’ll give you the candy, or else I’ll cut your face.”

Han Fei felt that things weren't going well. He was about to stop the man, but he was too late. Brother Chou placed his hand on the boy's head. He used his power on the innocent boy. Brother Chou chanted, and his voice changed. His voice became as young as a child.

Brother Chou's body collapsed, and the boy opened his eyes. His face twisted with a scary smile. "Haha. I didn't expect the desire to dominate can be a part of my persona too. I love this city too much."

The man with the club tattoo glanced at the fainted Brother Chou. "I wonder how did you awaken this persona. Isn't it a bit ridiculous to take over another person's body?"

"I guess it's because I've been wishing to do that. I've killed all the women I've loved. Most of them had never really looked me in the eyes and talked to other men before me. I was tortured by this man, and my goal was to dominate all of them." The young boy said these horrid things.

"Now, you get your wish."

"Yes. After I get this power, I have not killed. I made them into my living specimen. When I want to see them, I'll bring them out." The crazy smile was a high contrast to the boy's cute face. Han Fei held the knife and slowly approached the murderers. He had to murder all of them, or Hope City would be in danger.

"God's mother is here. Let us go." The boy put on the old clothes and walked down the empty hall.

"Based on the center's information, Sky Garden is a Black Building, but the Pure Hatred here likes to wander around..." Brother Chou suddenly stopped. He felt his clothes being pulled by something. Many ghosts lived in the building. It was dangerous in the day. However, the piece of old clothes was the best talisman. All the ghosts ignored them. Han Fei benefited too. They came to the fifth floor without any issues.

"This is it! Take my body and retreat! She is coming!"

After opening a glass door filled with children's paintings, a horrible scene appeared. The kindergarten was slathered with blood. Several teachers with missing eyes kept repeating the same words. There was

not one normal kid at the kindergarten. Everyone was missing something. They wore the most expensive clothes but had to suffer the worst torture. There was a small altar in the middle of the kindergarten. In the middle of the altar was a human head red floor. The kids' heads hung on the roof. Their soul was connected to the flower. Once the flower wilted, every kid would die.

Han Fei stopped. He looked at the pictures on the wall. These kids were Gao Cheng's classmates. They looked after Gao Cheng and were willing to play with him. They didn't bully Gao Cheng because he was blind. These kids were kind, but they offended God.

"Gao Xing was bullied since he was young, but Gao Cheng was surrounded by friends." Han Fei smelled the blood in the air, and he frowned. "Gao Xing's hatred has expanded beyond Gao Cheng. He wants to take revenge on everyone."

"This flower is so special." Brother Chou was distracted by the flower. It was bloody and red. The kids and teachers didn't stop him. If anything, it looked like they were asking him for help. Brother Chou wasn't there to help anyone. He sat beside the altar and stared at the human head on the pot. He resisted the urge to pull it down. The light in the building dimmed. It was afternoon, but it felt like it was night. The kids suddenly sensed something. They started to chatter like birds. Footsteps came from the empty corridor. The clean walls became covered with blood vessels. Soon, they covered the whole building. Something moved in the dark. When Han Fei reacted, there was another figure at the kindergarten door.

"Ghost Mother?" Han Fei had seen Ghost Mother, but this was not her. Her skin was clean and smooth. "The Ghost Mother I've seen is covered in wounds like a ragdoll that has been torn apart and sewn back together."

Han Fei held his breath and continued to observe. The woman slowly entered the kindergarten. She held a pair of pruning scissors. When she saw the boy beside the altar, she stopped. Her hatred-filled eyes froze on the boy's clothes. Blood tears slid down her cheeks. With just a glance, the woman's eyes shattered like glass. Her body started to crack too. The woman wailed in pain. Her hands waved around. The eyes cracked and fell to the ground. Two empty holes remained on her face. The woman was cursed that she could only lay eyes on her own child. If she saw some other children, her eyes would shatter. Han Fei compared the woman and Ghost Mother.

When Ghost Mother was on Gao Xing's side, she was the perfect woman. However, when she wanted to help Gao Cheng, everything she had would be taken away.

“How much pain Ghost Mother suffers to come to see me that day?”

Han Fei sent his consciousness into the abyss and shared his thoughts with Gao Cheng. “Your mother really loves you.”

Chapter 854: Brave

People would start to appreciate something when they lost it. Han Fei wanted to send this message to Gao Cheng when the boy, who had been quiet suddenly, fluttered his eyes. “You can open your eyes to see it for yourself. Your mother has suffered so much for you. She hasn’t told you any of these and has been suffering silently.”

She was squeezed between two children. One was her biological child, and the other was the child she raised. Ghost Mother was crushed in between. The mutation inside the kindergarten was still happening. Ghost Mother’s fair skin started to have more ugly scars. The curse was like a blunt knife cut into her soul. If she didn’t pull her eyes away from the kid, then her body would deform even more. Han Fei couldn’t bear to see this, so he walked out of his hiding spot. However, before he got close, Ghost Mother walked to the boy. She carefully grabbed the boy’s hand that reached for the altar. The ghastly appearance and her gentleness formed a great contrast. Even if she was tortured into a monster, she was still very gentle. The boy who was controlled by Brother Chou was shocked. He also didn’t expect Ghost Mother to appear and that she was a Pure Hatred with a special power.

“This clothes... Where did you get this?” The tired voice came from everywhere. Ghost Mother was part of the building. This was her ghost territory. Brother Chou was very clever. He knew that he couldn’t be exposed now. He didn’t speak. He triggered the boy’s nature so that he’d cry. The boy Brother Chou found was indeed very cute. Tears slid down his face. Brother Chou lowered his head. He was planning something else. The boy was just a stepping board. Brother Chou’s real target was Ghost Mother, but it was not easy to take over a Pure Hatred.

“Did the clothes guide you here?” Ghost Mother said softly. She was a monster, but her voice was still very kind. She was very different from the other ghosts. The boy nodded immediately.

“Leave. The clothes will bring you misfortune. Don’t be affected by him.” Ghost Mother’s body collapsed rapidly. Once she showed concern for anyone other than Gao Xing, God’s curse would trigger. The surprising thing was Ghost Mother was connected to the souls of all the ghosts and survivors in the building. Once she died, all the people in the building would die, including the innocent children and teachers. Gao Xing was cunning. He made use of Ghost Mother’s kindness and tied everyone’s fate to her.

“Leave. Don’t come back.” Ghost Mother said this to the soul inside the clothes. She couldn’t protect Gao Cheng. She could barely protect herself.

Brother Chou noticed this as well. He made a brave decision. He forced the boy to lift his head to look at Ghost Mother. Then he stumbled towards her. He didn’t care about Ghost Mother’s reaction. He treated her like she was his real mother. Ghost Mother tried her best to control her emotions so that she wouldn’t harm the kid. The boy couldn’t see her difficulty. He leaned against Ghost Mother and called her mother.

The simple word had a different meaning for Ghost Mother. She could easily push the boy away, but when her hands moved to touch the old clothes, she didn’t have the heart. Instead, she ruffled the boy’s hair. “Go home, kid. This is not a place where you should be.” The curse from God didn’t break Ghost Mother. The boy sensed the Ghost Mother’s weakness. Brother Chou’s special power sneaked into Ghost Mother’s wound. The other kids were affected by the curse. Ghost Mother pushed the boy out of the kindergarten so that no one would be affected. After leaving the room, the boy was still crying, but there was excitement in his eyes. He couldn’t wait to take over Ghost Mother’s body.

“The rumor is real! Ghost Mother is scary, but once she dares to resist God’s will, she’ll become the weakest Pure Hatred.” Brother Chou tried his best to shield his wicked thoughts. “She’ll take time to recover. Now is the best chance! I can’t wait anymore!” Brother Chou ran down the corridor. His partners met with him downstairs.

“How goes it? Did you find God’s mother?”

“Protect my body! We’ll leave now!”

The three criminals left Sky Garden at the highest speed. They entered the adjacent building. Brother Chou was still hidden inside the boy. He took out a device. “Prepare to call the others! Get all the teams from Hope City to come to Zone A! We’re making a move now!” These three were painted on the ghost cards. They had God’s blessing. Thus, they gathered followers easily.

“That desperate?” The man with the club tattoo was shocked.

“We can’t miss this opportunity.” Brother Chou exposed his true nature once he was out. He tore at his skin. “You don’t know that feeling. When I saw her, I wanted to dominate her! I haven’t had such a

desire in a long time! God's mother, is there something more perfect than her in this city?" Brother Chou breathed heavily. Normal people couldn't understand his thoughts.

"Okay. We'll trust you this time."

The three took out a bloody communicator. They were different from Deep Space Tech's bands. They appeared to be found in the ruins.

"Zone A's Sky Garden. Hurry here within an hour..."

"40 minutes! I can't wait that long! No! Tell them to be here in less than an hour!" Brother Chou's eyes were red. His brain was filled with Ghost Mother. The sky darkened. Soon, the silence was shattered as a black truck drove deep into Zone A. This truck belonged to Hope City, but the symbol had been replaced by a giant eyeball painted with fresh blood.

"Boss, why did you summon us?" The black truck was filled with various sacrifices and supplies. These people came from Hope City, but they actually worked for the ghosts.

"You are lucky to be the first batch here." The boy stood up. "When I become Ghost Mother, I'll satisfy every one of your wishes." The new arrivals were confused. They were called into the room, and Brother Chou assigned them missions. The tactical team from Hope City was different from the center. The battle power was focused on a few departments. To preserve their power, they almost never leave the city. Other than them, the most powerful force was these criminals. Their twisted personas gave them immense power.

"11 people. Everyone has awakened at least twice. This is everyone I can mobilize." The man with the club tattoo was worried. "But it's still not enough to deal with a Pure Hatred."

"It's enough. Ghost Mother is cursed by God now. She needs time to recover. Plus, we don't need to kill her. I only need you to protect me when I use my power on her." Brother Chou said darkly, "Even though Ghost Mother is a ghost, she has saved plenty of living humans. She gave them black robes and had them live in Sky Garden." "What does that have to do with us?"

“The things inside Sky Garden are all related to Ghost Mother. You need to detain those people and use them to threaten her.” Brother Chou looked at the building. “Don’t worry. Ghost Mother is unwilling to submit to God. That’s why she’s cursed. I’m doing this to help her.” These criminals moved stuff out of the truck. They would do anything to achieve their goal.

Han Fei watched them from the dark.

“Fang Xue! Qiang Yun!” Fang Xue was another criminal. He was barechested and looked like an executioner. There was a small altar on the truck. The altar served a piece of blood that was still pounding. There were two survivors at the corner of the truck. Their limbs were tied. Pipes pierced into their body. Brother Chou used living humans as blood reservoirs. They would commit live sacrifice before every mission to improve their power. As fresh blood was injected, the meat grew larger. Its red light shone on the people around it.

“Qiang Yun, you’ll stay to protect the altar. Lao Gou will bring the newbies to capture the things we can use to threaten Ghost Mother. The rest comes with me.” These criminals were crazy but organized. After most of them left, Han Fei silently walked out. “Under the influence of the altar, they are stronger.”

The killer was as powerful as Ma Jing. Some of them, like Brother Chou and the man with the club tattoo, were even stronger. “Have they mobilized all their forces in Zone A?” Han Fei was no match for the whole group, but they were still too weak to deal with Ghost Mother.

“11 criminals with crazy personas. Sacrificing them should turn Wu Chang into a Large Linger Spirit.” Han Fei released Du Niao and had it monitor Brother Chou. He sneaked into the black truck. “Their religion is Gao Xing. The meat should be part of the flesh figurine.” When the ghost territory was triggered, Han Fei made his move. The coin flipped, and the giant axe swung at Qiang Yun!

Qiang Yun accepted death without knowing what had happened.

“Stop struggling.” Han Fei triggered the powers of the other ghosts. Illness Core worked together with Envy to corrupt Qiang Yun. Qiang Yun couldn’t resist for more than three seconds.

“Don’t be afraid. I’m Gao Cheng, the leader of Team 13 from the Tragedy Investigation Center. I’m here to save you.” Han Fei wanted to help the two survivors. He tried to pull the vessels off them, but they shook their heads.

“Once you cut off the connections, the altar will react, and those people will know something has happened here.” The man in the black uniform said weakly. “We’re both police from Hope City. Leave us and report the things here immediately! Those mad people have infiltrated into the higher hierarchy of Hope City!”

“It’s okay. I’ll bring you back alive so you can pinpoint these criminals yourself.” Han Fei had Wu Chang consume Qiang Yun. Du Niao sent back a message. The criminals had started to attack Ghost Mother. “They are brave.” The greed abyss floated out behind Han Fei and consumed the altar. Under his control, all the ghosts ate the meat on the altar. Blood splattered everywhere. A horrifying presence appeared from the altar. It disappeared after it targeted the Executioner. “It’s just an altar. The two of you find a place to hide first. I’ll be back.” Han Fei walked to Sky Garden.

“What about you?” The man shouted nervously at Han Fei. “What do you plan to do?”

“The center is never afraid of evil. I’m going to kill all of them.” Han Fei stood among the ghosts. Behind him was the abyss.

Chapter 855: Challenge

“Did he say he’d kill them? Are people from the Center that cruel?”

“I think... so.” The two victims pulled off the victims and helped each other move to the next room. Han Fei stood at the edge of the ghost territory. He moved after the victims were done hiding. Sky Garden was different from before. The inside of the building was like a giant maze. Without Du Niao leading the way, Han Fei wouldn’t be able to find Brother Chou’s group so soon.

“Don’t worry. You’ll see her soon enough.” The closer he got to Ghost Mother, the thicker the black mist. The shadow behind the boy melted into the black water. Giant waves slammed into Han Fei’s mind. The painful experience the boy suffered infiltrated Han Fei’s mind. He wanted to use this method to help Han Fei understand his pain. “I can understand your feelings. Do you want me to give my body to you so that you can talk to her in person?” Han Fei was not joking. He jumped into the endless abyss. Han Fei received the mission hint that after completing Gao Cheng’s wish, Gao Cheng might fully disappear. “Appreciate the last moments you have with your mother and leave the rest to me. I’ll destroy the altar and kill God.”

Han Fei had experience because he had handed his body many times over to Mad Laughter. Despair and greed consumed his consciousness. Han Fei handed his body over. Gao Cheng's memory fragment didn't react.

"Since you're not willing to appear, then I'll have to act as you." Fingers reached out of the murky water. "I'll transmit your emotions, pain, memory, and experience to her."

The time in the altar world and the real world was different. Decades had passed in the real world, but centuries might have passed here. Gao Cheng struggled in endless despair, tortured by Gao Xing. He didn't die, but he couldn't live normally either. "We hold hope in our hands. Since God doesn't want you and your mother to meet, then we'll use our fists to punch him in the face."

Han Fei opened his heart to Gao Cheng. He needed a friend by his side that shared the same goal!

The coin turned. Han Fei and Gao Cheng's faces turned in the air. Their fates mixed. Han Fei accepted Gao Cheng's pain and saw some of his hidden memories. None of the memory was filled with warmth. It was filled with torture and murder.

"Even if you have sinned, you've paid more than enough penance."

The cruel images were far more than Han Fei expected. Even he, who had seen so much cruelty in the cryptic world, was shocked. "I will help you kill Gao Xing!" Han Fei's consciousness didn't exit the abyss. He looked at the star above him and allowed the black water to flood over him. Opening his eyes, Han Fei revealed an innocent smile. The murderous intention in his eyes was solid. He took out Rest in Peace. He hummed the lullaby Ghost Mother used to sing to him and walked upstairs. The human head flower in the kindergarten had been uprooted. The walls cracked. The teachers had been mummified.

"Gao Xing, your mother is being bullied by these trashes. You can't even protect your mother. What kind of God are you?" Han Fei touched the pounding capillaries on the wall. "Why don't you let mother follow me so I can protect her?"

Du Niao's voice echoed in his ears. A man holding a chain appeared at the junction. He stepped on Du Niao's wings. "What is this?"

“It’s called Du Niao, a bird made from paper and has no legs. It is like my hope, always flying.”

The blinding light made the man’s eyes blink. He raised the chain to block but Rest in Peace cut through the chains easily. Blood splattered on the wall. The man’s shadow expanded. His persona was related to hiding. This persona was a famous stalker and voyeur among the ghost cards. He was not good at fighting, but he was impossible to find.

“Hope City’s team is on a mission! Don’t interrupt!” Perhaps the man saw the black band Han Fei was wearing, he shouted. He did this to buy time and to tell his teammates that Han Fei was there.

“Don’t worry. I’ll make sure you die quickly so that the mission is not interrupted.” Wu Chang appeared behind Han Fei. The terrifying presence stunned the man. His shadow tried to escape but ran into a red paper doll standing behind him. Curses entered the shadow. The shadow bled.

“Paper doll, headmaster, the abandoned girl, there are many ghosts in my abyss, but it’s not enough.” Han Fei had awakened six times. So normal persona user was not his match. Han Fei stood in the black ghost territory and held the broken nightlight. He gently switched it on. The weak light shone on Han Fei’s face and lit up his soul. This nightlight had always been placed on Gao Cheng’s bedside table. His mother was afraid that Gao Cheng would have nightmares or he would want to wake up in the night. The nightlight was always on so she could see her child every time at night. His mother knew that Gao Cheng was always living in the dark, so she tried to let him feel light. When Han Fei opened the nightlight, the ghost territory became brighter. All the ghosts led the way for Han Fei. Even with his eyes closed, he could find the mother.

The voice in his heart called. Han Fei moved up the stairs to the gym on the 13th floor.

All the doors had been broken. The blood slithered toward the indoor pool. The man with the club tattoo had morphed into a beast about 3 meters tall. He was more animal than man. Other than him, the other criminals also activated their persona. There was vengeance, madness, desire, and so on. Normally, they were no match for Ghost Mother, but Ghost Mother was in a special situation. She held the old shirt. The cracks on her body grew. Just recovering would take up a lot of her time.

The criminals on the ghost cards were the cruelest people in the world. They trapped innocent souls and living humans in the building and used them to threaten Ghost Mother.

“What an absurd world. In the future, people can bully ghosts?” Putting down the nightlight, Han Fei stood among the greed abyss. The balance maintained between Brother Chou and Ghost Mother was broken by Han Fei’s arrival.

“Tragedy Investigation Center?” The short guy discovered Han Fei and the black band he was wearing. “The Hope City is hunting Pure Hatred. If you’re not here to help, leave now!”

“So cold. I thought you were here to celebrate my birthday.” Han Fei looked at the bloody pool with a smile. Ghost Mother’s presence weakened. She was worried about Gao Cheng.

“What? What birthday?”

“I’m born on the same day as God. Our fates are bound. The things he hates are the things I like. Since he wants you guys to live then, I have to kill you. I need to burn all the sins into ashes.” While Han Fei distracted everyone with Cursed Words, the paper doll moved to a criminal who was torturing one of the survivors. Paper crawled into his wounds and the curses exploded.

“Do you want to incite a war between the two bases?”

“Even at death, you want to talk about wars. Violence is human nature.” Han Fei glanced at his mental corruption. He sent the coordinates to the center and then tried to release the little girl. The two blood reservoirs he saved were still hanging around Zone A because Han Fei was worried that no one could carry him away after he fainted.

“When I was young, you protected me. Now it’s my time to protect you.”

Han Fei didn’t want to waste time talking to these people. After saving the survivors, the mist spread. The weak black flame ignited. The black water boiled. Fishes leaped out of the water and swam in the mist. All the people appeared to be dragged into the ocean. The fish swam around them.

“Don’t leave me behind. I’ll be quiet...” The girl walked out behind Han Fei. Her body was repaired by starlight. The black flame burned again.

“Pure Hatred? How could someone from the Center have Pure Hatred?” The man with the club tattoo found part of his rationality back. After the altar was destroyed, they were weakened. Now, another Pure Hatred appeared!

“Thank you for coming to my early birthday party. I’ll keep you in my abyss, so you’ll accompany me forever!” Two Pure Hatred’s ghost territory covered the sky. In the pure darkness, only Han Fei’s nightlight shone. “Since it’s dark, I better put away my new toys.”

Han Fei unleashed all the ghosts. He was at Zone A. He needed to finish this fast.

The giant axe crushed their formation. When everyone fought Ghost Mother and the girl, the headmaster melted one of the criminals silently.

“Another Pure Hatred? There’s another Pure Hatred hiding in the mist!”

Unknown was fear. Han Fei destroyed their constitution to fight. The criminals were scared. They had no idea how many ghosts were still hidden in the mist.

Screams echoed in the building. This massacre was very successful. The criminals had one big difference from the Center’s team. When the criminals were cornered, they would never cover for each other. They only cared about themselves.

“Notification for Player 0000! Blood feast completed! Wu Chang has feasted enough!

“Wu Chang (Large Linger Spirit): Everything in life is unpredictable. I don’t believe that everything is fated. You’re the weakest regret, but I’ll make you the strongest ghost in the city! This is Gao Cheng’s promise to you!”

Wu Chang was Gao Cheng’s first ghost he got through the greed abyss. Its fate was changed by Gao Cheng and Han Fei. The bodies were sacrificed, and Wu Chang evolved. Its body was the same, but its presence was not weaker than Executioner. It was very stranger and hard to describe.

Chapter 856: I’m Back

The man with the club tattoo collapsed in his pool of blood. He looked at Han Fei with unwillingness. This was such a perfect and crazy plan. However, it failed due to Han Fei's appearance. Most of their subordinates at Zone A were sacrificed to ghosts. They felt despair for the first time. "He's born on the same day as God..."

Brother Chou's soul was still inside the boy. He was the only living criminal. Han Fei stepped on Brother Chou's original body and held the nightlight as he came to the boy. The Executioner stood on his left, and Wu Chang stood on his right. The two Large Lingering Spirits followed him.

"Little boy, you've stolen the clothes my mother made for me." Han Fei pressed the boy's head. He used Soul-depth Touch and shone the starlight into the man's brain. The ugly soul had nowhere to run. Even the prettiest skin couldn't hide that ugliness. Brother Chou's soul was like a pool of rotten mud. Everyone he saw would eventually be swallowed by the mud and slowly die from suffocation.

"The stronger he'll be as he dominates more bodies." Han Fei knew Brother Chou's power. He had awakened his power five times. His followers had taken up part of Hope City. This criminal worked with ghosts to sacrifice humans to the evil God and kill everyone who knew the truth and dared to resist him. Eventually, all the survivors thought he was a good person. Han Fei didn't kill Brother Chou. He wanted to try to use this man's power to save the living specimens. Han Fei trapped Brother Chou's soul inside the greed abyss. Han Fei pulled back the black mist. The fish swam back into the abyss. The girl didn't attack the weakened Han Fei. She seemed to have taken the abyss as her second home. Han Fei had no idea how No. 2 healed her, but he didn't have the time to think about these things now. When the mist dissipated, his legs wobbled, and he fell into the pool of blood. His mental corruption was impossibly high. Another person would have lost his mind. Thanks to the healing persona, Han Fei maintained the last shred of rationality.

"Can you let him call you mom one more time? Your child is trapped in despair and numbness. Only you can awaken him." Han Fei reached towards the blood pool. Ghost Mother didn't move away this time.

"You shouldn't have come here." The healing starlight cleansed many misunderstandings. The boy moved slightly. His eyelids opened. His two hollow eyes stared in one direction. He wanted to open his eyes not to see the colorful world but to see his parents.

"Gao Cheng, you're indeed all grown up now." Ghost Mother's voice echoed in Han Fei's mind. She dragged her wounded body out of the blood pool. She resisted the intense pain to hug Gao Cheng. "I've never blamed you. Both of you are my children. If possible, I wish to take the pain on your behalf..."

Ghost Mother's lips were torn apart. Cursed blood splattered everywhere. She was being punished by God but she didn't let go. She touched Gao Cheng's head. The boy in the abyss heard his mother. He stood up, reached out his hands, and stumbled forward. Han Fei's starlight guided the boy. However, before he could hand the body over to the boy, Ghost Mother's body was collapsing. God's curse was triggered. Ghost Mother was torn apart. If this continued, she might die before the boy. As if sensing her pain, the boy stopped. There was nothing more despairing than this.

Han Fei sighed. He pushed God's Mother away. If completing this mission would cause permanent damage to Ghost Mother, then he'd give it up. Gentle people would group up in hell to make the city a better place. Han Fei paused like the boy in his mind. He slowly backed away from Ghost Mother. "I should go now. Next time we meet, I'll help you cleanse the curse."

Ghost Mother's attitude was clear. She still treated Gao Cheng as her child. She used her action to prove that. Even though her body collapsed, she wanted to give her children power. There was no more selfless love than a mother's love.

"When you came to find me in private earlier, you were injured by God's curse, and now you were even more injured. You don't need to worry about me. Look after yourself and wait for me to come back." Han Fei relayed Gao Cheng's message. The boy and Han Fei looked at Ghost Mother for one last time. As he left, Ghost Mother gave tossed something to Han Fei. "Notification for Player 0000. You've gained the unique altar item, Key to Room 601." Ghost Mother hoped for Han Fei to go to this room.

Han Fei held the key and nightlight as he entered the corridor. The whole six floors was filled with cursed items related to Gao Xing, including missing person's posters related to him. Coming to the end of the corridor, Han Fei opened the door to Room 601. There was a light floral fragrance. The room was filled with flowers. This room belonged to Ghost Mother. Han Fei couldn't imagine such a clean room existed deep inside Zone A. Smelling the familiar flowers, the boy's expression changed too. They came to the center of the room and saw the note on the table. The pages were filled with gentleness. The many different kinds of flowers and different colors formed the shared memory between Ghost Mother and Gao Cheng. A blind child used the senses of smell and touch to understand the beauty of the world and the growth of life.

Han Fei's arms raised. When he touched the notebook, all the words became magical power and entered his mind. The note recorded the many things Ghost Mother had done, every achievement Gao Cheng had since he was young. Ghost Mother had sacrificed a lot, but she had no regret. She was always there for Gao Cheng. The despair-filled eyes had other emotions. The boy's clothes gained colors. His mother had been protecting whether it was in the past or now.

A missing person's poster fell from the wall and floated into the wall. Then, more posters crawled in like bugs. The faces on the posters were scary. The flowers wilted, and the fragrance became stench. In the end, only a blank notebook remained. The last room was dominated by Ghost Mother. However, Gao Cheng had received Ghost Mother's message.

"Notification for Player 0000! You've completed the altar hidden mission—Gao Cheng's Wish with the lowest completion rate. You can pick one of the three following as a reward.

"Reward 1: Gao Cheng and Gao Xing are twinflowers. Their fates are intertwined. You can choose to unite with Gao Xing's real-life memory. When you have fully become Gao Cheng, there's a chance for you to use part of the altar's power and fight for the memory world's control with God.

"Reward 2: Retain Gao Cheng's real life and promise to help him kill God. Gao Cheng's friendliness level +10!

"Reward 3: Gao Cheng has shed all defense against you. You can choose to sacrifice it to God. There's a very high chance you'll get partial control of the altar."

"Lowest completion rate?" Normally, Han Fei might need to face Ghost Mother alone, but Brother Chou's group influenced his mission progress. Han Fei didn't make an immediate choice.

The boy had complicated emotions. He knew that his mother didn't blame him, but he also knew that if this continued, his mother would die. They returned to the bloody pool, and Ghost Mother was gone. The ghosts in the building ushered Han Fei to leave. Other Pure Hatreds were coming. The weak light shone on Han Fei as he left. He finally chose reward two.

"The meaning of our hard work is so that our future can be better. The best ending for me is for you to reunite with your mother." Han Fei stopped hesitating, and he heard the system say that his friendliness level with Gao Cheng had increased. "I'll help you kill God."

Han Fei found the two Hope City survivors. Han Fei got into the black truck with them. Everything on the truck was evidence. The inside of Hope City was severely corrupted, and they needed to be excised. Driving the truck, Han Fei returned to Zone C without issue. As he appeared within the territory of the center, the members were ready to fight. This was a blatant taunt for someone to drive a truck with the Evil God's symbol into Hope City.

Han Fei had already contacted the people from the center.

“Stop! I’m one of you! I’m Gao Cheng, the leader of Team 13 from the Tragedy Investigation Center! This is my document!” Han Fei stopped the car and walked down. He was so weak that he almost fell. Seeing him like this, the patrols didn’t dare to come closer. Many ghosts liked to possess familiar people and then ambush them.

“Is it Gao Cheng? But I remember he rode a bike when he left, and he didn’t even carry a bag with him.” One patrol looked at the black truck and the bloodstain on it. There was also the evil God altar. Who would come back with these things from a daily mission?

“Move away! The coordinates are correct!” The members of the center ran over. Tou Qi led the group. He rushed to Han Fei. “Gao Cheng, wake up! You haven’t even recovered from your last injury. Why did you leave the base again?”

“There are two Hope City police in the truck. Hope City is in trouble. I need you to bring them to meet the director.” Han Fei was helped up. He held his head. “Do you have ghost blood?”

“I’ll bring you over now!” “Do you have ghost blood...”

The black truck was driven away by the center. Everything on it was Han Fei’s winnings, but they had to be examined first. Han Fei and the two survivors were led to the conference room. The three shared their tales with Li Xue and the other management people. Everyone’s face was grim. They didn’t expect Hope City had been so corrupted from within.

“The evidence on the truck has been inspected. We can confirm that the three of them are telling the truth.” Xue Ba entered the room and handed the document to Li Xue.

“Zone A is the most dangerous zone at Xin Lu. These people can move through there freely?”

“Hope City has more than 60000 people. We need to handle this carefully. We can’t cause panic, but we can’t let these bastards go either.”

After a long discussion, Li Xue made the final decision. "Collect all the evidence. Protect the two survivors. Tomorrow, I'm going to Hope City myself."

"You're going?" The others were shocked. "Director, the current investigation into Zone C is at its critical moment. We need you at the center."

"There are more than one or two people who are dealing with ghosts. Some of them might even be managers at Hope City. Catching them won't be easy." Li Xue inherited her teacher's spirit. "Gao Cheng will stay. The meeting is adjourned."

After everyone left, Li Xue sat down beside Han Fei. "There's something else you didn't report, right?"

"How did you know?"

"You seem to have that bad habit." Li Xue looked into Han Fei's eyes. "Tell me. What did you encounter this time?"

Han Fei didn't know what Li Xue experienced in the tragedy, but she seemed to be able to see through Han Fei's acting. Han Fei didn't hide anything from Li Xue. He told her about Gao Xing, Gao Cheng, Ghost Mother, and Brother Chou.

"You've gained the full trust of Gao Cheng's memory that you brought out of Deep Sea Aquarium? Now, you want to help him deal with the Unmentionable?" Li Xue thought about it and said, "I have a suggestion, but I wonder if you'll hear it."

"Tell me."

"Since you didn't choose to unite with Gao Cheng, then you can find another way for him to use his power." Li Xue pushed Brother Chou's info to Han Fei. "The fate of the boy in your brain and the Pure Hatred eyeballs at the aquarium are connected. You said that their eyes had been swapped, and their memories are bound together. We can use that and this criminal's dominating persona to try to get the boy to take over the eyeball Pure Hatred."

Han Fei was stunned. "You can use other people's power like that?"

"You can discuss it with the leader of Team Ten. There's a power difference between humans and ghosts. We can live until now because we know how to use the different powers of persona." Li Xue stood up to arrange all the evidence. The door suddenly opened. The leader of Team One entered, holding a black box.

"Where are you going?"

"To clean up the bugs at Hope City. When they receive the report that their subordinates are missing, they will be on edge. So I plan to go there now." Li Xue accepted the heavy black box and left.

Chapter 857: The First Trap

After Li Xue left, there was only Han Fei in the conference room. He sat beside the table alone. "Mad Laughter has paid a lot to lead us into the memory world to usurp God! While Gao Xing is creating chaos in the real world, we'll mess up his altar!" Li Xue's suggestion inspired Han Fei. "Gao Xing's wish is an altar core mission. Three different choices represent three different fates. After I made my choice, the memory world would change. The mutation will become worse."

Han Fei had no idea when the real Gao Xing would appear, so he needed to hurry. He stood up. As he left the conference room, he was accosted by Tou Qi with a form. "Is there anything you need?"

"This time, you went out alone and discovered the loophole in Hope City and killed eleven servants of the Evil God. You also saved two police members from Hope City. You get a total of 35000 contribution points." Tou Qi handed the form to Han Fei. "The evidence department just got a Lingering Spirit Heart. The director told me to reserve it for you. It only requires 10000 contribution points. Do you want it?"

Normal ghost blood would be slow to cleanse mental corruption. Han Fei knew his situation. He only hesitated briefly. "Alright."

He didn't like to reject other people's kindness.

"That means you still have a debt of 175000 contribution points." Tou Qi sighed. "Based on your progress, I believe our warehouse will be cleared out by you soon."

“We’re all colleagues. Why mind these small details?”

“You say that, but I feel like I’m working for you.” Tou Qi touched the black band. “I’m here for another reason. The temp headmaster, Yan Lan, wants to rebuild the school. Do you plan to stay in the center or return to school?”

“This place is clearly more suitable for me.”

“Since you intend to do that, I suggest you pick some potential juniors to train. After all, you’re the only member of Team 13. It is very inconvenient for you.”

“Understood.” Han Fei felt like Tou Qi was looking out for him. The leader of Team Three was a loner due to his unique persona. He believed Han Fei was similar to him, so he liked to talk to Han Fei.

“I’ll have the heart delivered to your ward. I hope we can go out on a mission soon.” Tou Qi left with a smile. It was a good thing that the center had a new powerful team leader. After parting from Tou Qi, Han Fei returned to his ward. He was too tired. He collapsed and slept. The starlight shone into the greed abyss. Han Fei had a dream. In the dream, he became Gao Cheng and was inside a room filled with flowers with a strange woman. The woman pointed at the different flowers. Sunlight shone on her hair. The room was filled with fragrance. In the dream, Han Fei smiled.

“Hey, are you in a nightmare? You look so scary.” A child’s voice appeared in his ears. Han Fei sat up in a hurry. He looked to the side. No. 4, 5, and 2 sat on the couch in the ward. They stared at Han Fei.

“When did you guys get in here?”

“How oblivious are you? If I want to kill you, you’d be dead already.” No. 4 was very direct, but Han Fei knew he had a kind heart.

“Teacher Gao, we’ve finished our rest. We want to go out.” No. 5 took out a hand-drawn map. It marked a familiar location, An Kang Pharmacy.

“Why do you want to go there?”

“Earlier, we checked the center’s internal document using the excuse of wanting to treat you. We discovered an altar deep inside the Evidence Department.” No. 5 silently wrote down the number 0 on the map.

“The presence of the altar reminded me of someone, someone very special to us.”

Han Fei knew who No. 5 was talking about. The students probably sensed Mad Laughter’s presence on the altar.

“You won’t stop us, right?” No. 5 was polite. He was always similar. With the leader persona, his emotion was hard to read. To be a leader, one had to learn how to manage one’s emotions first.

“I won’t stop you, and I’ll help you with all my might.” Han Fei looked at No. 5 seriously. “In this altar world, I will protect you unconditionally because that is what he told me to do.”

“I thought we’d use a lot of time to persuade you... No. 2 got it right again.” No. 5 shrugged. “Take good sleep. We’ll depart after dark.” No. 5 opened a black box on the bedside table. The room temperature dropped. Inside the box was a pounding heart of a Lingering Spirit. “To thank you, we’ll help you cleanse your mental corruption.”

The ward door opened. A few kids walked in. They surrounded the bed. They helped Han Fei eat the heart. The scene would shock any doctors at the center. No one had eaten the heart of a Lingering Spirit fresh before.

“Don’t worry. If you’re scared, we can knock you out and then force-feed you.” No. 4 very kindly raised his fist.

“I can swallow it directly.”

The students triggered their persona. Han Fei’s luck was temporarily raised. His mental world became slow. He consumed the heart. All the negative emotions were suppressed. The spirit’s purest

resentment absorbed the stains in his brain and was transmuted into soul energy. Only a small handful of Lingering Spirits could nurture a heart. They all had the potential to become Pure Hatred, but now they were food for Han Fei.

Feeling his body getting better, Han Fei sighed. "Both of my personas have improved."

"For every 10 Lingering Spirits with a heart, one would become a Pure Hatred. Based on math, you've almost consumed half a Pure Hatred already."

After the treatment, the students left. They said they didn't care about Han Fei, but once Han Fei got into an accident, they came to help him.

"Do they all have stubborn persona?" Han Fei lay on the bed and entered the abyss. The boy that represented Gao Cheng's memory sat on the edge of the abyss. The girl stood inside the abyss and looked at the boy curiously. She and the boy were both trapped for a long time inside the aquarium. She also knew how much Gao Xing had been torturing the boy.

"The abyss is far more populated than before, but it's still not enough." Han Fei's plan was going well. The two personas complimented each other. As long as Han Fei didn't die, he could get endlessly stronger.

Han Fei grabbed Brother Chou's soul. He dangled the criminal over the edge of the abyss. "Tell me how to use your persona, or I'll make you regret being in this world."

"Do you think I'm afraid of death?" brother Chou smiled with disdain. "Despair will only please me."

"I love how stubborn you are. You have to hang in there." Han Fei kicked him into the black water. "God used these tortures on them, and I would use them on you. I guess you're closer to your God now."

Han Fei ignored Brother Chou and went to sit beside the boy. He was still thinking about that dream. "How does it feel like... to have a home?" Two children sat under the starlight. They were both one half of the twinflower.

A new day began. Han Fei arrived at the canteen. He used a lot of contribution points to buy plenty of meat. "It was a good choice to become a Midnight Butcher. When I'm a bad mood, I only need to eat."

The stack of empty plates was taken away. The members who wanted to get Han Fei all moved away. Animals were usually in a bad mood when they were feasting. Han Fei was a beast who killed 11 Evil God followers on his own.

"The members here are so polite. They give me space to eat. I like this place." Han Fei felt better. He found Xue Ba, and entered the document room together. He started to discuss with him how to use the dominating persona to control the eyeball Pure Hatred. When it was almost dark, Han Fei left the document room. He entered the center's support zone. Actually, it was basically where the residents lived. Every member pitched in so the center could work like a well-oiled machine. Han Fei walked down the clean streets. People looked at him with respect.

He entered the new school. The students were learning how to fight. To survive the tragedy, they had to deal with ghosts and humans.

"You came too early. It's not even dark yet." No. 5 saw Han Fei from afar. He jogged over and whispered. "We don't want to alert the others when we go out this time."

"If there are too many of us, we'll be noticed too easily."

"Only No. 1, 2, 4, 30, and me. Can you bring the five of us with you?" No. 5 glanced at Han Fei's black band. "You've finished such a big mission. The director didn't give you a promotion?"

"I'll do my best." Han Fei decided the time and palace with them. He wanted to take back the truck. The worker hesitated. The black truck was evidence. It couldn't be driven out so easily. In the end, Han Fei negotiated a car from the center.

The day was dark. Han Fei picked a mission closest to An Kang Pharmacy and drove the five students there. He went through the examination checkpoint, but No. 2 used his power, and they sneaked through. The night belonged to the ghosts. Han Fei had been fighting ghosts in the day, and the ghosts hadn't fully used their power.

“Are we being too high-profile to drive in the night?” Han Fei was not scared, but he was worried for the five students with him. The other four were fine, but No. 30 was an innocent little girl. She was the first to approve of Han Fei, but she didn’t look like she could fight.

“Other than the Black Buildings in Zone C, nothing can threaten us.” No. 1 said peacefully. “As long as we don’t taunt the Pure Hatreds, nothing can stop us.”

“It looks like you have been busy improving yourselves.” Han Fei stepped on the pedal.

“We’re just taking back what we’re owed. But you’re the real surprise.” No. 2 was in a good mood. “No. 1 has the miracle persona, and you are a miracle in itself.”

Han Fei was rarely praised. He didn’t know how to answer. He switched the subject. “There’s a black merchant under An Kang Pharmacy. It has been serving the altar. Perhaps we can ally with it.”

“After the Unmentionable disappeared, the black merchant still worshipped the faceless God. With such a devoted disciple, God should give it immortality.” No. 2 had planned everything. “When we’re there, you can eat it so that it can be immortal in the abyss.”

“Is... that a good idea?” Han Fei was hesitant. “Eating it is the only way for it to escape from the shackles of the altar world. You’re saving him.” No. 2 smiled. “When the old God fell, to be eaten by the new God is an honor.”

Han Fei arrived at An Kang Pharmacy at midnight. He led the five kids to the door of the pharmacy.

Black merchant floated out of the darkness. It took out the rotten head and studied the five students. “Gao Cheng, are these the new sacrifices?”

Chapter 858: Unknown Level Talent

“They are not sacrifices. They are my students.” Han Fei winked at the black merchant. He didn’t know what to say. He was not as shameless as No. 2.

“You haven’t brought new sacrifices in a long time already.” The head looked disappointed. It didn’t sense that danger was close.

“I’ve met some things. Shall we go in to chat?” Han Fei still had two mental patients at the merchant’s place. When he investigated Xin Lu’s Third Mental Hospital, they would be helpful. A slender arm reached for the shelf. The black merchant looked at the five students greedily. It resisted the urge to grab them.

“Come in.” The door that led underground opened. The black merchant ushered them to the basement where the ghosts were trapped. The black merchant had found more rare ghosts and kept them in cubicles to be sold.

“I have a question. Why do you like to trap these ghosts and use them as trading items?” Han Fei felt like the black merchant was a slave trader from the olden days.

“They serve a different God from us. I use them as sales items because the God I worship believes in trade.” The human head frowned. “Why are you asking this?”

“Us? Are there many black merchants in the city?” Han Fei astutely caught the information.

“There are not. Plus, once we’re discovered, we’ll be hunted by all the ghosts.” The black merchant stopped moving. It slowly moved around. “Good and evil are opposites. If I am captured by the other ghosts, they will sacrifice me to their God. We are ghosts, but we’re enemies because we worship different Gods. Isn’t it the same for you?”

The slender arm opened the door of the prison. The two mental patients Han Fei rescued were still there.

“Take them away. I anticipate our next trade.” The black merchant urged them to leave. If Gao Cheng weren’t such a good client, it wouldn’t let them leave so easily.

“Human life is a cage, changing from one to another.” The young man with the hat walked out of the room. He was still in a hallucination.

“Actually, I’m not here today for them.” Han Fei said with difficulty. “Can you bring me to see the altar? I’ve discovered some secrets. The God you believe in seems to be related to me. Our fates have once intertwined.”

The underground altar was the black merchant’s taboo. It didn’t promise Han Fei anything. In fact, its fingers started to grip so hard that the rotten human head was about to break. The black merchant was a ghost from the tragedy. Han Fei’s request had crossed its bottom line.

“Let me persuade it.” No. 1 walked out. Even if the storm was coming, he was able to give those close to him comfort. No. 1 walked towards the black merchant. At the same time, he raised his right hand. He held his fist. Before the black merchant and Han Fei reacted, immense pressure came from No. 1. Standing opposite him felt like one was fighting against the world. He was fearless. As he walked forward, all the evil involuntarily retreated. This was not an issue of strength. The 99 tests caused No. 1’s soul to change. No ghosts or Gods could shake his mind.

The fist raised and fell!

The black merchant’s black robe was torn apart. It wanted to stop it, but it couldn’t. No. 1’s target wasn’t the merchant’s soul but its resentment, the reason it became a ghost. The sound of mirror cracking came from deep inside the soul. The black merchant’s giant body started to shrink.

“The powerful is the one in charge.” No. 5 nudged Han Fei. “If you don’t consume it soon, it’ll disappear.”

“I thought you guys always try to win with brains.” Han Fei didn’t expect that these kids would be so ruthless. He walked to the merchant, and the black mist engulfed it. “Notification for Player 0000! You’ve trapped the giant lingering spirit—Black merchant.

“Black merchant (Unique Linger Spirit): It had retained most of its memory from when it was alive. It has immense learning ability. It doesn’t come from the cryptic world. It is a native that is born after the tragedy.

“Ability 1-Soulborn: It has no fixed shape. It is immune to most damage and curses.

“Ability 2-God of Study: It will learn everything around it to keep completing itself.

“Ability 3-Brain Territory: It’s trying to build its own ghost territory.”

Han Fei only knew that the black merchants were a very unique group. They were all mutated ghosts that retained most of their living memories after they died. They were not willing to rear humans with the ghosts of the cryptic world, but they were too powerless to resist. Therefore, they resided in dark corners of the world and placed their hope in other Gods.

“Bring us to that altar. These kids are not lying to you. The God you worship is indeed related to us.” Han Fei and the black merchant entered the underground. The broken altar was there. Different from the fully broken altar at the center, even though this altar was old, it could still be used. After seeing the altar, the few children, including No. 2, became excited. This was the first time Han Fei saw them with such expressions.

“Bring me there.” No. 2 was placed by No. 5 beside the altar. No. 2, who lost both of his legs, had no fighting power at all. However, Han Fei knew that he was the scariest of all the children. The small palms pulled back the black cloth that covered the altar. The faceless figurine stood in the middle of the altar. It was wounded, but the scariest thing was after one got close to it, there was barely-discernible laughter. The laughter was maddening, like a devil dancing in hell.

“Found him!” No. 2 smiled. He resonated with the smile on the figurine. “I knew it wouldn’t be dead.”

“The faceless figurine is Mad Laughter?” Han Fei was curious. “In the future, directed by Gao Xing, he should become an Unmentionable. After he died, everything about him in the world would be eliminated.”

“Yes, that is the price to pay for usurpation.” No. 2 looked at Han Fei and explained it, “But No. 0 has placed some of his consciousness in real life. That should be part of your contribution too.”

“Me?” Han Fei didn’t remember that he had done anything.

“In any case, things are more optimistic than I thought. After the usurpation was successful, No. 0 sacrificed himself, but he hadn’t fully disappeared. There’s still a chance to turn this around.” No. 2

looked at the altar. "If we succeed and become the altar's new owner, then No. 0 can come back safely. However, if we fail, then everyone will be trapped inside the altar, and we'll be tortured inside here forever."

"The risk is quite high."

"The risk is high, but I don't get it. Why would No. 0 choose you?" No. 4 glanced at Han Fei. "Our original plan was to have No. 0 sacrifice you and us so that he can usurp the position of God. But he has changed the plan himself."

"he is indeed a better choice than No. 0. In the city where monsters wander around, we need someone real." No. 2 signaled for No. 4 to stop. Han Fei was reminded of how Mad Laughter stood together with 30 monsters when he left the bloodred orphanage.

"No. 0's presence is still there. His presence is there at the junction of fate. We can make use of that." No. 2 reached out to grab the black merchant's black robe. The black merchant's body shrunk until its true appearance was revealed. It paused at the moment where his memory was the strongest. The black merchant under the black robe wore a uniform with Immortal Pharma's logo. It was carrying a child in its arms. Using Soul-depth touch, Han Fei saw the heart of the black merchant. The man was once a worker at Immortal Pharma. Before the tragedy, he just became a father. After getting the news that both the child and mother were fine, he left the company at midnight. He came to the hospital, and that was how he survived the first massacre.

"I think... I saw the future. The source of the tragedy was the intelligent city! It's from inside Immortal Pharma!" Han Fei just wanted to comfort the black merchant. He didn't expect this.

Everyone wanted to know the truth behind the tragedy. Plus, the tragedy was about to happen in real life!

Han Fei picked up the head and handed it back to the merchant.

"Do you remember what happened at Immortal Pharma the night your daughter was born? Why is that place the source of the tragedy?" The founder of Immortal Pharma was Fu Sheng. Fu Sheng suffered the pressure of the last century to wipe out the trace between the cryptic world and the real world.

“I know that one day I’d be eaten by you, but I didn’t expect the day to come so soon.” The black merchant looked at Han Fei with disdain. “You can use the dominating power to control my body, but I’ll never help you.”

“You worship him. The reason we’re here is that we heard your voice.” No. 30 held the black merchant’s hands. “Gao Cheng is just a shell. Now, it’s God who is inside Gao Cheng’s body.” No. 30’s power was very special. She could make someone put their guard down and confirm that someone wasn’t hostile.

“Eating you is for your own good.” No. 2 had Han Fei touch the figurine. The five children cut their wrists and dripped their blood on the altar.

The figurine started to heal after absorbing the blood. The blank face started to adopt a face. Even more crucially, there was a minute bond between Han Fei and the figurine.

“Notification for Player 0000! You’ve obtained part of the power from Manager 0000! You’ve triggered special power—Twin flower!

“Twin flower (Unknown level talent): User unknown.

“Notification for Player 0000! You will gain a random attribute upgrade after sacrificing to the figurine!”

Han Fei was thinking about a problem. “The system’s Manager 0000 is clearly Mad Laughter. Does the manager also need to level up? Does that mean that I have such difficulty leveling up because Mad Laughter has absorbed part of my experience?”

Han Fei shared his question with No. 2. No. 2 didn’t answer but pointed at the black merchant. “Pull it into the greed abyss. Let it see your soul.”

“Do you mean I was right?” Han Fei didn’t press. He followed No. 2’s instructions. He had the black merchant see his soul, which was similar to the figurine.

Chapter 859: A Whole Team

The feeling of brushing past one’s God many times was a strange feeling. After the black merchant saw Han Fei’s soul, his attitude changed, and he decided to help Han Fei. As Mad Laughter’s most devoted

follower, he had a small wish. It was to kill the Pure Hatred at the Third Mental Hospital. After the tragedy, that Pure Hatred killed his wife and newborn daughter.

The resentment turned him into a ghost. Perhaps he had participated in the special experiment at Immortal Pharma, and he retained parts of his memory after he became a ghost. He didn't want to side with the ghosts from the cryptic world, so he chose another path. There were many 'people' who shared his view. However, as time passed, some of them lost their mind and became pure evil, while the others were defeated by other ghosts. Eventually, they went into hiding. They stopped relying on their humanity. If the tragedy continued to worsen, they'd become like ghosts from the cryptic world.

"The black merchants are spread all over the city. They can be our eyes and ears." Everything was going according to No. 2's plan. "We'll form our own force where ghosts and humans can coexist."

"You don't need to leave the center. No. 4 and I will help you manage the black merchants," No. 5 stood with No. 4, "It's a waste for 30 students to stay together. When our persona awakens again, we'll split up."

"We'll talk about that later." Han Fei's mission was to protect all his students. "The black merchant has already told me the location of the other ghosts. Shall we go there tonight?"

"We need to get in touch with them as soon as possible." No. 2 leaned on No. 5's back. "God's birthday is coming soon. That day is very important to him. We need to gather more power before that day arrives." Han Fei consumed all the merchandise the black merchant had. They got back into the car. With the black merchant leading the way, they walked past Zone C to the edge of Zone A.

"The source of the tragedy is at the Immortal Skyscraper. That is one of the buildings owned by Immortal Pharma. The place is responsible for researching medicine that treats mental illness and various medical devices." The black merchant took the passenger seat. His black robe covered the car. He held the rotten head and refused to let it go. The black merchant had sacrificed most things for the figurine, but he kept this human head. "That day, I left home early. The people at the company all died. After I came back from the hospital, the company had become something else. It was consumed by darkness." Stuttering words came from the human head. The black merchant had lost the power of speech. He needed to rely on someone else to speak. "Immortal Skyscraper was called Yong Sheng Skyscraper. It was branded as a Taboo Building by the center." Han Fei recalled the things he had read. "Top Pure Hatred that can rival Butterfly can be found in Strange Building. Something stronger might exist at Taboo Building. We're going to die if we go there now." Han Fei was always clear on where he stood.

“We need to find the altar hidden in the memory world. The key to usurpation lies in destroying the old figurine and then rebuilding the new figurine on the ruin. We need to get to the Taboo Building.” No. 4 said with death in his eyes. Or he was death itself.

“I don’t have the capability to guide you there. The core of Zone A can be considered another world. The rules there are different from the outside world. Bad things will happen there.” The human head sighed helplessly. “The tragedy started at Zone A. The scariest ghosts are gathered here. However, all the ghosts avoid the central area. Even Pure Hatred won’t go there.”

“We won’t go to the Taboo Building temporarily.” No. 2 said.

“If you’re interested in the tragedy, you can find another black merchant named Kong Tiancheng. He was once an admin at Deep Space Tech. He stayed at Immortal Skyscraper several weeks before the tragedy. He was involved in some kind of special experiment. He knew many secrets.”

This got Han Fei’s attention. He remembered Kong Tiancheng. “We’ll go to find him tonight.”

“I’m afraid that’s not possible. He went missing a long time ago.” The black merchant shook his head. “There’s a rumor that says that he has been trapped by Pure Hatred. Some black merchants saw him around Hope City. He seemed to be finding ways to communicate with humans.”

Han Fei met Kong Tiancheng once at a gaming expo. “Immortal Pharma has been ruined, but their traces can still be seen. Hope City appears to be connected to them.”

“So Kong Tiancheng returned to Hope City to rebuild the connection with Deep Space Tech?” No. 5 nodded. “It looks like we need to go to Hope City to investigate the truth behind the tragedy and to select a new batch of sacrifices.”

“Sacrifices? You need to calm down.” Han Fei quickly said.

“Do you think the city is really perfect? Why do you think it’s called Hope City?” No. 2 looked at the human faces in the mirror. No one could guess what he was thinking. The car drove down the streets. They found a few ghosts who had no hostility towards humans, but they hated the ghosts from the

cryptic world. With the black merchant's help, Han Fei and the kids triggered the altars these ghosts protected. They shook the world's rules. After showing his connection with the altar, the ghosts' friendliness level with Han Fei increased. Han Fei didn't need them to do anything but protect themselves and collect information. On the surface, he was the only one in Team 13, but in reality, Team 13 was as powerful as half of the center.

After leaving the last building, Han Fei felt something. He looked up, and there were a few more weak stars decorating the night sky.

"Starlight is strong. God eventually has to pay for his hubris." No. 5 then thought of something. He smiled at No. 2. "You and No. 0 are the exceptions." This gave Han Fei valuable info. Among the 30 children, two had become Unmentionables.

"We're done here. Let's go to Hope City." No. 2 ignored No. 5. They got into the car. "The criminals should have received the message that their subordinates are gone. We can't give them a chance to eliminate the evidence." Han Fei drove to Hope City.

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"Do you know who Little Red is?"

"Recently, I've been having this dream. I can't remember where I met Little Red. We became friends and played together.

"I never told Little Red where my home is, but it kept coming.

"First, it called my friend from downstairs. Then it ran into the corridor and shouted for my name at the door.

"I was afraid. I didn't dare to open the door, and it kept knocking.

"One day, I opened my eyes and heard my mother talking to someone. They chatted happily. I rubbed my eyes as I left the bedroom. I saw Little Red sitting on the sofa!

“My family loved Little Red. It came to find me more and more. Eventually, my family spent more time with it than me.

“Little Red was slowly replacing me. I couldn’t allow it to continue. I needed to kill it. That day, I hid the knife under my pillow. I called Little Red into the bedroom to play. I remembered how happy Little Red was after I closed the door.

“It was so happy. I pressed it against the mirror and took out the knife.

“The sticky fluid splattered on my clothes and slid down the mirror. I looked up and realized I had become Little Red with my red skin and clothes!

Inside the treatment room of Dawn Clinic at Hope City, a madwoman in a red dress leaned on the doctor. “Ghost Doctor, I feel trapped in that dream. Little Red would always appear.”

“Take your medicine and come for treatment.” The handsome doctor kissed her on the lips. “Take a good sleep... Little Red.” The doctor was satisfied with his creation. There was a sudden knock. He pushed his glasses, adjusted his clothes, and opened the clinic door.

“You still have the mood to treat someone?!” A middle-aged man wearing a black robe appeared at the door.

“Judge? Why are you here?”

“11 of us disappeared at Zone A.” Judge took out a list. “I’m not sure who did it, but someone saw Truck 016 being driven to the Tragedy Investigation Center.”

Chapter 860: New Enemy

“Isn’t the center at Zone C? I heard that they had suffered greatly from investigating a Strange Building. How could they have the manpower to investigate Zone A?”

The doctor’s expression didn’t change even though eleven people had gone missing.

“Something outside of our expectation happened. I have two hypotheses. First, the news of the center entering the Strange Building was a lie, and their goal was to enter Zone A; Second, there was another force appearing in Zone A. They are different from ghosts and can travel freely through Zone A.” Judge glanced at the patients. “Don’t go overboard. Chou Nan has fallen to the center. We might be exposed.”

“We’ve contributed so much to Hope City and saved s many people. Why should we be scared?” The doctor was very handsome. He looked kind when he smiled. His voice was calming.

“The obedient ones will live longer.” The judge said expressionlessly. He knew what kind of person the doctor really was. “Is there a result on the ghost that I told you to investigate?”

“I can confirm that he’s in Hope City. The ghost avoided Deep Space Tech’s monitoring device. He is very familiar with Deep Space Tech and knew things that occurred at Xin Lu before the tragedy.” The doctor slowed down. “Such clever ghosts are very rare.”

“Kong Tiancheng was an admin Deep Space Tech sent to Immortal Pharma. He stayed at Immortal Pharmacy the whole week before the tragedy.” The judge said seriously, “No matter what, we have to find this ghost. We can’t let him gain contact with the Deep Space Tech members in the city.”

“In this world, we’re blessed by God. We don’t need to worry about anything.” The doctor shrugged.

“Don’t forget why we’re here. I helped you find your memory, not get you to kill. We need to stop anyone who might harm the altar.” The judge’s tone became cold. He was like a machine that meted out judgment.

“Stop being so nervous.” The doctor raised his arms. “Alright. I’ll contact the others and get you the report in a week.”

“God’s birthday is about ten days later. We can’t afford any accident.” The judge turned. The doctor looked at him, and his face twisted. “I’ll decide how to live. Those who hinder me will die.” The doctor closed the clinic door. Soon, the woman’s screams echoed. When everything became silent, the doctor opened the clinic lights. The woman was dead. Strangely enough, her eyes were still open as she stood behind the doctor.

“Little Red, send her into the closet. Then, change into a set of clean clothes to accompany me on the night patrol.”

The dead body appeared to understand the doctor. She opened another door. Sets of dead bodies stood inside. There were bodies of both sexes and all ages. Most of them had started to rot. The woman found a spot to stand. Soon, another woman in a white dress walked out.

“Doctor, I feel so bad recently. I keep having the same dream.”

The doctor hugged the woman’s waist and injected her with ghost blood. “When we come back from the patrol, I’ll tell you more about Little Red.”

They exited the clinic like a couple and walked toward the edge of the city.

Hope City was the largest survivor’s base. It was separated into four zones, the core zone, where the admin building, research center, and central building were, the inner city where the old and the weak stayed, the outer city which was where most citizens were, and the large outer buffer zone.

To ensure that ghosts couldn’t enter Hope City, Deep Space Tech and the persona users of Hope City joined forces to create the buffer zone. This was also the largest experiment center after the tragedy. Many experiments on ghosts were conducted here. The doctor’s clinic was situated between the buffer zone and the outer city. He often gave free treatment and was very handsome.

“Doctor Ghost, are you going to retrieve medicine again?” The passing patrols knew the doctor. This madman was a very kind person in the eyes of others. Many people liked him.

“The other patrols ran into some trouble. I’ll go check up on them.” The doctor was kind and polite.

“Doctor, you’re so hardworking to work at night.” The neighbor’s door opened. A girl walked out shyly, holding an oil lamp. She handed the lamp to the doctor.

“Thank you, Xiao Mei. I’ll have to trouble you every time.” The doctor had a pair of eyes that glowed in the dark. He hugged the patient, but his eyes were on the girl. The oil lamp gave off a weak light. It contained Xiao Mei’s power. It wouldn’t extinguish. The doctor carried it toward the buffer zone. He and the patient walked past the sealed-up buildings.

There were many such buildings in the buffer zone. Each building was a singular experiment where some ghosts were trapped.

Humans were good at using tools to control others. Hope City’s admin feared ghosts but wanted to gain their power. In this conflict, they started to design tools to target ghosts like the black band used by the center. The band was imbued with special material so ghosts couldn’t hack them. Only the core members knew how to make them. The doctor looked at the experiment list posted on the building. He placed the lamp at the entrance and knocked seven times. “The big shot at the core center brought bad news. Buddies, we have work to do.” The rusted door slowly opened. A horrible stench drifted out. The building meant for ghost experiments had the dead bodies of several survivors.

“The judge went to find you?” Coarse voices came from the dark. The figures walked out. They seemed to be partying.

“What a dirty party.” The doctor used the patient’s hand to cover his nose. “Chou Nan and his people disappeared in Zone A. This appears to be related to the center. You better clean up the collection and keep a low profile for this period.”

“This is our heaven, and God is on our side. We can’t keep a low profile even if we want to.” The man who sat on the dead body took out a dining plate. He was making an internal organ specimen. “The ghost that the Judge told us to find has been found by Rat. He’s hiding in the inner city, trying to sneak into the core zone.”

“Didn’t you kill him?” The doctor was impatient as the man kept his focus on the specimen. “Ah Fu, I’m talking to you.”

“He’s possessing an important person. That person is a key to the change of fate. We don’t dare to go after him.” Another criminal walked out of the room, covered in blood. He looked satisfied. Some killed for protection, and others killed for beliefs. However, these people killed for pleasure.

“How can you believe in something like fate?” the doctor was about to say something when he felt light coming from a distance. He turned and saw a center’s car running down the streets of the buffer zone. The group looked at each other, and they got excited.

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“We should be in Hope City’s territory. I heard that they built the buffer zone to protect the city. We might need to walk the rest of the way.” Han Fei had been driving for the whole night, and he was tired. He saw a young girl standing in the middle of the road. He stepped on the brake. “Who dares to stop my car?”

The girl in the red shirt still stood there. Han Fei turned around and realized there was only him in the car.

“The ghost territory?” He pinched himself and felt pain.

“Can I play with you?” Before Han Fei recovered, the girl had already appeared at the window.

“Of course. I love children the most.” Han Fei opened the door and looked at the girl’s face. “What do you want to play? Hide-and-seek, Bloody mary, Mr. Wolf, what time is it? I’m familiar with my games.”

The girl was stunned for a moment. She didn’t expect Han Fei to react like this.

“Don’t you have other friends? Such a pity.” Han Fei touched the girl’s head and looked around. He was thinking, ‘Who lost this ghost? If no one is here to fetch her, I’ll take her with me.’

Han Fei started to play with the girl. They played one game after another. The girl got tired before Han Fei did.

“I’m tired. Can I go to your home to play with you?” The girl’s voice carried no emotions. She kept her head lowered. Once Han Fei said yes, she would follow Han Fei forever.

“I’ve never heard such a strange request before.” Han Fei knelt before the girl and held her hand. “How about I show you the way to my home first? There are many interesting people there. There’s a pretty nurse, a respected headmaster, and a little sister who likes to take a bath. You’ll like it there.”

The girl lifted her head. Han Fei’s passion alerted her. “Okay...”

Han Fei held the girl’s hand, and he revealed a smile a hundred times more sincere than the doctor. The greed abyss billowed out from him. The mist tore through the mirage, and the ghosts climbed out of the abyss.

“Welcome to my home.”

Han Fei held the girl’s hands, but his eyes were on the building not far away. The Executioner and Wu Chang were already heading there.