

## Iyashikei 951

### Chapter 951: Healing Dream

When the phone in the living room rang, the couple stopped moving. The corridor became quiet. The players retreated. Love Cigarette was so scared that he almost fell.

“Finally, a breather.” The three players moved down the stairs.

“Where are you going?” Han Fei grabbed Love Cigarette’s shoulder. “It’s a dead-end whether you go up or down. If we want to leave, we have to go from this way.”

“This way?” Love Cigarette looked around and saw the corridor window.

“Alright. Let’s go home.” Han Fei’s tone slowly changed. His usual silence and coolness disappeared. His expression softened, and he became happier. No matter how tired he was, he would never complain to his family. He was a grown man now. He wanted to be someone his parents could be proud of.

In a few minutes, Han Fei morphed into a different person. He returned to the third floor and looked at the rusted door. The blood leaked out of the door. If the blood were allowed to spread, the blood would corrupt the entire building, and the players would have nowhere to run. However, Han Fei didn’t mind the blood and curse. His eyes only had the happiness of coming home. Han Fei knocked on the door. He remembered the scene when the middle-aged man first opened the door. The anticipation was real, and he didn’t want to disappoint him.

“Mom, Dad, I’m home.” Han Fei didn’t use Cursed Words, but he did have a voice that was kissed by the devil.

The bones scratched the ground. Even if he had become a monster, the middle-aged man still ran to open the door at first notice. He had been waiting for too long. The bulging eyes were bloodshot. The bloated face had bones piercing out of it. His organs were shattered as if he had fallen from a great height. Whenever he moved, blood would spill everywhere.

The middle-aged woman walked out of the kitchen too. Her body bent, and she held a sharp knife. Her mouth constantly moved like she was mumbling.

The room had completely mutated. Many things had rotted.

The players behind Han Fei subconsciously closed their mouths. Just the sight of the couple scared them deeply. Han Fei walked into the room like everything was normal.

Han Fei was highly alert when he first came here, but when he returned, he treated this place like his own home. Bai Xian also tried to act normally, but he couldn't do it as perfectly as Han Fei.

Han Fei was very glad to see his parents. He shared the things he met at work with the middle-aged man and then gave the woman a hug. In the past, he was not good at expressing himself. He didn't want to have any regret.

The middle-aged couple seemed to be reminded of something. They didn't attack Han Fei. The mother entered the kitchen. The father stumbled with his broken body to retrieve a plate of fruits filled with bugs.

"My colleagues have nowhere to go during the new year, so I invited them here. I hope it's fine." Han Fei accepted the plate and placed it on the coffee table. The players entered the room nervously. They sat on the couch and were tensed all over.

"It's a new year, so we shall leave the bad things in the past." Han Fei held the father's hand as he helped to serve the food. Then, he rolled up his sleeves and walked to the kitchen. He wanted to help the mother with the cooking but was rejected. The woman complained about how bad of a cook her son was and kept chasing him out. She actually wanted Han Fei to rest. Han Fei knew that. He stayed in the kitchen and shared his work stories with his parents. He wanted to spend as much time as possible with his parents because they had been waiting for a long time for him.

It was very peaceful inside the kitchen, but the living room was covered in darkness. The four remaining players stuck together and didn't dare to move. They lowered their heads and didn't dare to meet the middle-aged man's eyes. They sat on the blood-stained sofa and were served rotten food. It was not that they had no appetite. It was already amazing that they hadn't vomited.

"Is that guy crazy?" Love Cigarette glanced towards the kitchen. Han Fei appeared to flourish in the dark more than in the light. "How come it feels like he has been living here for a while already?"

Every second was a torment. Eventually, Han Fei came out of the kitchen with the last dish.

“It’s time to eat.”

The group sat around the dining table. No one moved. However, Han Fei seemed to have endless topics. He kept talking to the couple.

To the other players’ shock, the mutated couple liked to listen to Han Fei. They weren’t hostile. They listened quietly and looked at Han Fei with love. Even if they were monsters, they were still waiting for someone to come home. Their mutated faces and scary presence couldn’t change the simple fact that they really loved their child.

It was the eve of the lunar new year. The clock hand on the wall moved. It was about midnight.

Han Fei slowed down. There was a reunion, so there was also a departure. He could feel the mutation in the room weakened.

At the last moment, Han Fei picked up the glass of alcohol and asked the middle-aged couple, “Mom, Dad, I have a stupid question for you.”

The middle-aged couple looked at him. Han Fei’s gaze turned complicated. “If one day I become a ghost, will you still love me?”

Before the couple could answer, the players were stunned first. The humans asked the ghosts if they still would still love him if he became a host.

What kind of situation was this?

Time passed by. The middle-aged couple remembered something. Their faces were reflected in the metallic cutlery. Sometime later, the pair of couple nodded slightly. No matter what their child became, they would always love him.

“For me, my answer to this question is similar to yours.” Han Fei stood up and took out the article about the son’s death from under the coffee table. The wrinkled paper was stained with blood. He placed the article before the couple. “Thank you for waiting for me to come home, but it’s time for me to go. You have to take care of yourselves.”

The middle-aged man gripped the paper until his bones pierced out of his skin. The middle-aged woman held Han Fei’s hand and shook her head as if she didn’t want him to go. Their consciousness fought with nightmares. The lights flickered on and off. Lights seemed to have a special meaning in the nightmare. When the lights went out, the mutation started; When the couple wanted to regain their consciousness, the lights flickered again.

The couple was in deep pain. Their wounds deepened. The nightmare tortured their souls. Han Fei used healing persona and hugged the couple. In the end, the light in the living room came back on. The blood disappeared. The place was warm and bright. No matter where you go, there’s always a light on for you at home.

The mutation was interrupted. The couple found their anchor. The nightmare weaved from their memories started to disperse. The couple looked at the door. Their figures wavered. All their wishes became dreams and entered Han Fei’s body. The clock struck midnight, and the new year had arrived.

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Opening their eyes, Han Fei and the other four players reappeared inside the hospital. They left the nightmare at the same time. After breaking the third layer, the dream dust on Han Fei’s body was eaten by the tattoo. Other people could challenge the nightmare even if they had cleared it, but once Han Fei cleared the nightmare, it would disappear.

Han Fei felt his body changing. “This nightmare becomes my power after I’ve healed it. Mad Laughter is also trying to look for Dream’s weakness through these nightmares.”

“Boss! Thank you for your help!” Love Cigarette bowed. “I can’t repay you. Why don’t I join your guild? I do anything for you.”

“Your intention is so clear.” Hao Xue shook his head. A casual person from the first guild easily beat all of them. Their understanding of the game was not on the same level.

“Han Fei, are you interested in joining us? The merchant union is willing to pay you a lot!” Ah Qi realized that Han Fei was a treasure.

Han Fei ignored them and turned to Bai Xian. “Brother Bai, are you done resting?”

“Huh?” Before Bai Xian could react, Han Fei dragged him forward. Familiar vertigo returned. The grey mist dispersed. Darkness swallowed them, and they appeared at a construction site. Two unfinished buildings were covered in tin sheets. The ground was filled with holes. A rank sewer smell came from the holes.

“The third layer is an apartment building. The fourth layer is two buildings. The size of the nightmare is getting bigger.” Han Fei studied his surroundings. Bai Xian was still stunned. Two minutes ago, he had just left a nightmare, but now he was in another!

“Fourth layer?” Bai Xian shivered. “How urgent are you?”

“Didn’t I ask you haven’t you rested?”

“That was two minutes ago! Even primary school students had 10 minutes to pee!” Bai Xian cried.

“You two look like you have a good relationship. Are you free players?” A chilling voice said. Three players in dark clothes looked at Han Fei and Bai Xian. “The three of us are from Absolute Truth. The fourth layer is very dangerous. If possible, I hope we can stay away from each other so you wouldn’t be our burden.”

The man who spoke was tall. His name was on his clothes, Internet Addict. The meaning in his words was clear.

Absolute Truth was cleared the fourth layer before. Plus, Absolute Truth had many high-level players. Some of them had even gone through training in the cryptic world. Therefore, they came up with several tactical groups quickly.

Han Fei understood this. One was the most afraid of encountering a dead weight in a game like this.

"That's exactly what I want." Han Fei smiled. He led Bai Xian to the building on the left. The three Absolute Truth members went to the building on the right.

#### Chapter 952: Alien

"There is no light here, and the staircase has no railing. If you miss a step, you might die." Bai Xian stuck close to Han Fei. The second layer was already a lot for him, much less the fourth layer. "The scariest thing about the nightmare is you'll never know when the ghost will appear."

"Don't scare yourself. Look around. There's a reason behind everything. We just need to focus on solving it." Han Fei and Bai Xian entered the building on the left. The building was filled with construction materials. Some of the iron rods pierced through the cement. If someone tripped, they might be impaled by them. Han Fei moved around the first floor and stopped. "What is that?"

On the empty space outside the left window, Han Fei saw a broken telescope. Han Fei looked up. "The telescope fell from a high spot. But why would someone bring a telescope here? What were they looking for?"

There was a pair of old children's shoes in the mound near the telescope. The strange thing was the shoes showed different stages of wear. Han Fei kept the two things and signaled Bai Xian to follow him.

"Come. Let us go upstairs."

The building had seven floors. It had no railings, and some places were unfinished, so it was not easy to climb to the top. Han Fei came to the second floor, and the atmosphere shifted. As time passed, the nightmare became scarier.

"There are children's footprints on the ground. It seems like they were hiding on this floor." Han Fei followed the trail.

"This place is so dark. How did you find the footprints?" Bai Xian had to look for a long time before spotting them.

"You haven't studied crime scene details available to the police."

"Brother, why would an actor study something like that?" Bai Xian noticed Han Fei had a scary instinct when it came to criminal stuff.

Han Fei moved the old metal pipes to the side. Three small figures curled up in the corner.

"Don't be scared. We're not bad people." Han Fei stared at the three kids. They had their schoolbags and were quite young. They were pretty and cute.

"This place is very dangerous. Why are you here?" Bai Xian relaxed when he saw the kids.

"W-we are looking for aliens." A kid in white clothes said nervously. Then, the kid in red clothes added, "The aliens are hiding in this building. If we don't find him, he will destroy the planet."

"Alien?" Bai Xian had no idea why aliens would appear in a nightmare. He felt like the three kids were playing house.

"Have you seen the alien? What does he look like?" Different from Bai Xian, Han Fei was excited. He knelt before the kids and stared at them.

"The alien has such a big head. One side of his body is tall, and the other side is short. He walks differently from us. He can't speak normally, and his reaction speed is slow. This is because the alien has just arrived on earth. He is still learning. If we don't chase him away, he'll get strong." The kid in white said seriously.

"So, you're hiding here to capture the alien?" Han Fei could guess that they were inside one of the children's nightmares, but he couldn't tell which one yet.

"Yes. We have to find it!" The kids said in unison.

"What do you plan to do after you find it?" Han Fei narrowed his eyes. "Kill it?"

The kids and Bai Xian were silent.

"Why aren't you speaking? The alien is going to destroy the world. How do you plan to stop him?" Han Fei looked at the three kids, but his smile was scary. He took out the broken telescope. "Whose item is this?"

The kids' expressions changed when they saw the telescope. They looked scared and nervous. In the end, it was the oldest kid in red who spoke, "It's mine. It fell off the building."

"You're lying." Han Fei said without hesitation. "I'll ask again. Whose telescope is this?"

"The nightmare will worsen as time passes. We should hurry to find the alien. Even though I have no idea if an alien exists or not but this nightmare is definitely related to one." The kids didn't speak. It was Bai Xian who tried to smooth things over. "Where was the last place you saw the alien?"

"The roof on the seventh floor. The alien was calling his friends. They want to invade Earth." The kid in white was scared. Then, the building shook. "If we don't find him, we'll be teleported to another planet?"

"A timed quest?" Bai Xian was reminded of the cooking time limit at the reunion dinner. This nightmare was even crueler. If they didn't find the alien within the limited time, the buildings would collapse. The children might view death as going to another world. With the kids leading the way, Han Fei's group took around ten minutes to head to the seventh floor.

The left building had a rooftop that was about six meters wide. There were no railings on three sides. The rooftop was basically hanging in the air.

"The alien called his friends there." The kid in red pointed at the roof, but he didn't dare to go any closer.



Han Fei climbed over the trash. He stepped on the rooftop with his left foot. The floor wasn't that stable. It could barely withstand the weight of two adults. Han Fei looked around. The rooftop extended out of the building. This place was closest to the night sky, but there were no stars at all. Han Fei adjusted his body. He was about to move further when he heard a very soft footstep. He turned around and noticed the three kids had moved several steps forward.

"Are you three... planning to push me down?" Han Fei joked.

The kids shook their heads. Bai Xian moved to stand between the kids and Han Fei.

Han Fei moved along the rooftop. He noticed something on a pipe at the edge of the roof. There was a rope there that one could tie the telescope to.

"The rope is here, but the telescope was on the ground. The owner was once at this dangerous spot?" Han Fei looked down. There was no protective measure. A single push and one would fall to one's death. "The kids said the alien tried to summon his friends here. This alien is probably the owner of the telescope. I believe the alien has already been killed by the kids!" The building shook again. Han Fei was startled. He immediately ran back to safety. "Come on. Let's check out the other building."

"But we haven't finished checking this building. The alien could be hiding here." The kid in red said. His gaze was different from a normal kid's. There was no innocence in them.

"We looked around when we went up the stairs. There is no living human here other than us." Han Fei said lightly. The kids didn't know that Han Fei was a master at hide and seek.

Han Fei and Bai Xian maintained a distance from the kids. When they came to the third floor, they heard a scream from the right building. One of the members from Absolute Truth was injured.

"Don't panic. We have to maintain our composure." Han Fei said. They took another ten minutes before they returned to the entrance of the construction site. The two unfinished buildings appeared to sway in the wind. The nightmare was quite small. If the two buildings collapsed, the players would be buried alive.

They walked to the right building. Han Fei saw two players carry an injured player out. Behind them were three children.

"I heard a scream. Were you attacked?" Bai Xian still hoped that they could work together. He noticed that all three members of Absolute Truth had been injured. One had a wooden sword stuck in his arm; one had their feet pierced through by nails; the injured player fell from a high spot and broke his spine. He couldn't feel his lower body anymore.

"You two are perfectly fine?!" Internet Addict was shocked. "There are dangers everywhere inside the building. Did you even enter the building?"

"We just came down from the seventh floor." Bai Xian was confused too. He was very safe when he was around Han Fei.

"My eyes are used to the darkness. We avoided all the traps." Han Fei looked at Internet Addict's left arm. He was carrying a tattered school bag. "Why don't we exchange clues?"

"Okay." Internet Addict placed the bag on the ground and held the knife in his hand. "We met these three kids in the building. They said there was an alien hiding at the construction site. We have to find the alien before we can leave, or else the alien will destroy Earth. Then, they gave me this knife. Apparently, it can be used to kill the alien. We searched the whole building but couldn't find the alien. Therefore, I suspect the alien is at your building."

Han Fei shook his head. He picked up the schoolbag.

There was a low-quality plastic water bottle stuffed inside the muddy schoolbag. The textbooks inside were torn. They were torn in a fight. The owner of the schoolbag was young. The homework was done. The owner was a very hardworking student, but he was not gifted. They got half of the questions wrong.

Han Fei took out the bottle. "His family is quite poor. This is the cheapest plastic bottle on the market. The school bag has been patched up many times too."

Han Fei pulled open the zipper. He found two medicine bottles in the compartment. Since the packaging was torn, he couldn't tell what kind of medicine they were. However, one thing was certain. The owner

was sick and needed medication. Han Fei flipped over the textbook. He saw the name of the owner, Lee Xing.

"Which one of you is Lee Xing?" Han Fei turned to the six kids.

"He should be one of yours. I've asked the three kids on my side. None of them is called Lee Xing." Internet Addict pointed at the three kids behind Bai Xian.

"Which one of you is called Lee Xing?" Han Fei's tone was normal, but even Bai Xian shivered.

"If none of you admits to this, then it means there is a seventh kid here. His bag is covered in mud, and his books are all torn. His disappearance should be related to you." Han Fei said.

"My name is Lee Xing." The kid in red stood up. He was the oldest. When the other kids were nervous, he was the most collected.

"Really?" Han Fei took out the textbook. He asked a few random questions. The kid answered all of them correctly. The kid was very smart. However, Han Fei could tell very easily that the kid wasn't Lee Xing. "Lee Xing got half of the questions wrong, but you got everything right. If Lee Xing is as smart as you, he probably won't be bullied." Han Fei picked the kid up with one hand.

"Calm down! We need these kids to find the alien!" The player from Absolute Truth wanted to stop Han Fei. "If we don't find the alien, we'll all die."

"Do you really think there's an alien here?" Han Fei grabbed the kid's neck. "I've heard the kids describe the alien. The alien had a distorted body, with one shoulder taller than the other. He limped and was a bit silly. Doesn't that match Lee Xing perfectly? I believe Lee Xing is mentally gifted due to some illness. Therefore, the kids don't see him as a normal person. They tricked him and saw him as an alien."

Han Fei placed the shoes beside the bag. "The left shoe is more worn than the right. This proves that the owner applies more pressure on his left foot when walking. If the shoes and telescope belong to Lee Xing, then everything makes sense." His eyes turned cold. "Lee Xing was the alien who was forced to the seventh-floor rooftop. These six kids killed him because it was fun. I could imagine it. Lee Xing was bullied by them and ran into the right building. Lee Xing was chased. They forced Lee Xing to the

rooftop. They forced the alien to summon his friends. In the end, Lee Xing fell. The alien returned to his planet." Han Fei tightened his grip. "When we were in the left building, I knew something was wrong. There were many traps in the building. These kids are not innocent. They've been trying to kill us."

Bai Xian froze. He thought the building was safe. He had no idea Han Fei had disarmed all the traps.

"The evil alien for these kids is just an innocent victim. They use the most basic excuse to justify their sins." Han Fei stared at the kid in red. "Evil covers all ages."

The buildings trembled. Even the ground shook.

"Then, how can we find Lee Xing?" Internet Addict asked. "You found the kid's shoes on the mound. Could the kids have buried Lee Xing there?"

The three Absolute Truth players and Bai Xian ran to the mound. They dug quickly but only found some bloody clothes.

"The key to clearing the nightmare is to find the alien. The alien is a horrible nickname given to Lee Xing by these kids. Therefore, the alien originates from these kids. The real evil in their hearts." Han Fei picked up the knife and pierced the kid's heart.

The blade sliced open the skin, but the wound didn't bleed. The kid in red's rotten chest hid another kid's body parts.

#### Chapter 953: Dream

The three players from Absolute Truth were shocked when they saw Han Fei stab the kid without hesitation. However, when they saw the body parts inside the boy's chest, they changed their minds.

"The evil in your hearts pushed the kid to his end." Han Fei reached his hand into the kid in red's chest. He pulled out the kid's head. "You named him alien and made fun of him. Compared to him, you are more like monsters."

The rest of the kids were scared. They quickly scattered, but how could they outrun Han Fei? Han Fei chased after kids at the abandoned site like an evil boss. This scene affected the other players deeply. Internet Addict regretted raising his voice at Han Fei.

All the kids had their chests cut open in five minutes. The body parts were pieced together to form a deformed boy.

The boy had a silly smile on his face as he sat in the nightmare. He liked to look at the stars and would mumble at the night sky. It was why his parents named him Lee Xing. After the boy appeared, the two buildings stopped shaking. The boy was the core of this nightmare.

Han Fei removed his jacket and covered it over the boy's body. He sat beside him. "What did you see?"

The kids who bullied him collapsed to the ground, but Lee Xing didn't care. He kept his head up, looking at the sky. "I... am looking for the stars. Why aren't there any stars here?"

The kid was surrounded by malice, but he never wanted to take revenge. He didn't even look at the people who bullied him. He was still waiting for the stars to appear.

"In the nightmare, everyone like you is a star. You light up the night and show the way for the travelers." Han Fei touched Lee Xing's head. He wanted to use healing persona on Lee Xing but he realized there was no need to.

"I-I don't understand." Lee Xing grabbed the coat Han Fei gave him. He looked at Han Fei curiously. "Can I be your friend? I know many things about stars. My parents promised me that when I grow up, they'll give me a real telescope. Then, we can go star-gazing together."

"Of course."

"Then, we're friends now!"

"Yes."

Lee Xing made his first and last friend. The edge of the nightmare unraveled. Lee Xing's body blurred. Until the end, he didn't hurt anyone. "It's getting late. I should go."

"Goodbye, my friend."

"Goodbye... Right! I still don't know your name!"

"My name is Han Fei."

Before he could finish, Dream surged into Han Fei's body. When he opened his eyes, they were back in the hospital. Bai Xian and the three Absolute Truth players were close to him.

"We've cleared the fourth layer?!" The three players from Absolute Truth were excited. The fatality rate for Absolute Truth when they attempted the fourth layer was higher than 50 percent. This time, they cleared it without any casualties!

"We can do this due to that special player." The three players' attitudes toward Han Fei shifted. They thanked Han Fei seriously, "We were too dumb. Thank you for carrying us! Sorry... Are you two part of any guild?"

Han Fei nodded. "Happiness Neighborhood, Han Fei."

"Happiness Neighborhood, Bai Xian." Even though Brother Bai didn't really do anything, he still held his chest high.

"Happiness Neighborhood? Huang Yin's first neighborhood?!" Internet Addict widened his eyes. He wanted to slap himself.

"Is there something else? We need to keep on going." After Han Fei said that, the three players from Absolute Truth and Bai Xian's eyes twitched.

“Aren’t you going to rest?” Internet Addict finally understood his distance to the first guild. He was afraid that Han Fei was about to escape. He grabbed him and asked, “Brother, I feel like your way of thinking is different from ours. Can you tell us how you do that? For example, how did you know Lee Xing was hidden inside the six kids? I believe normal players wouldn’t think that way.”

After Internet Addict said that, he felt rather embarrassed. Why would Han Fei share his secrets with others?

“It’s actually very simple.” Han Fei didn’t hide anything. The more people who could clear the nightmare, the easier the overall nightmare would be. “Everything inside the nightmare will worsen with them. However, everything in that nightmare was normal. This can only mean that the mutation happened in some place harder for us to see, like in the hearts of those children.”

Internet Addict nodded. “Makes sense.”

“You have to understand something. No matter how absurd these nightmares are, they are twisted from existing stuff.” Han Fei said seriously. “The scarier it gets, the closer you are to the truth. I hope you can remember that, and I hope you can go further in the nightmare.”

Hearing Han Fei’s blessing, Internet Addict felt worse. Han Fei was ready to share his experience, but he treated him so badly at first.

“If there’s nothing else, we’re going to the next layer. See you again.” Han Fei held Bai Xian’s hand. He knew the three players from Absolute Truth were watching. He was too shy to run, so he forced himself to follow Han Fei. Seeing how fearless Han Fei and Bai Xian were, the three players sighed. “Even the two players from Happiness Neighborhood are already so impressive. How scary is the guild leader, Huang Yin?”

“Why aren’t the three leaving?” Bai Xian was waiting for the three to leave so he could escape, but he couldn’t when the three players were still watching. “Are they crazy?”

“Han Fei, can you walk slower? There’s no need to rush!

“I just remembered I forgot to close the door of the guild warehouse.

“Just how much stamina you have that you can drag me with just one hand?”

“I’m your senior. Isn’t it a bit impolite for you to drag me along like this? Let go and we’ll compete in speed.”

Vertigo came. The grey mist disappeared. Han Fei and Bai Xian appeared in the fifth layer.

This was a black room. There was no door or window. There were two beds in the middle of the room. One normal and the other strange.

“Shouldn’t the nightmare get bigger? How come this one is so small?” Bai Xian walked to the bed. He noticed something strange on the bed. “Han Fei, look!”

Han Fei noticed his body change when he entered the fifth layer. The ghost tattoo became clearer after it consumed two layers of nightmares. The limitation the nightmare had on Han Fei lowered too.

“The nightmare gets harder, but I’ll become stronger too...” Han Fei came to the side of the bed.

The bed on the left was normal. It was a single bed. It had a spider lily and a handwritten invitation. Han Fei opened the invitation and frowned.

“For all the people struggling in the nightmare, congratulations on clearing the first level of the dream. Now, I’ll give you a choice.

“There are two beds before you. Sleep on the bed on the left, and you’ll accept the dream. When the dream covers the whole city, you’ll return to real life safely. You don’t need to do anything. You just need to sleep.

“If you choose the bed on the right, you’ll sink further into scarier nightmares. You’ll encounter more ghosts and experience greater torture.



“Now, you can make your chance. Don’t feel pressured. You will be given a chance to pick every five layers.”

The left bed represented sweet dreams, while the bed on the right represented the nightmare. The left bed meant siding with Dream. When Dream won, these players would wake up; the players could only leave after the players destroyed the altars if they picked the nightmare.

The fifth layer looked normal and vicious. Dream’s invitation was simple, but it was filled with traps.

First, the invitation didn’t say what would happen to the player after they chose to sleep on the left bed. Was there a possibility that the player would become Dream’s puppet?

The players would have a chance to rethink their choices every five layers. If they picked the normal bed, they might not wake up again. Therefore, this choice was singular. It was only to lure the players who chose to nightmare bed.

The nightmares would only get crueler. It would make the players feel greater despair. Once that happened, people might do something irrational. However, this choice was irreversible.

The fifth layer looked like a choice, but it was actually Dream’s plan to separate the players so that they would fight against one another.

In this world, most people were kind. Before the threat of death, they would side with the winners. If players like Han Fei couldn’t give people hope, then some might embrace the hope given by Dream.

The previous nightmares didn’t give Han Fei fear, but this nightmare brought him chills. He put down the invitation. Han Fei and Bai Xian walked to the ghost bed. Weeping came from under the bed. Shadows were crawling too. The sheets were stained with blood.

“How can one not have a nightmare sleeping on a bed like this?” Bai Xian grumbled, but he still chose the ghost bed.

“Different choices mean opposite fate. After clearing the fifth layer, we need to spread this news and inform them of the severity of this situation. We need to tell them Dream’s conspiracy.” Han Fei didn’t plan to hide anything. The two made a choice. Scary images and illusions appeared in the dark room. The bed turned into the mouth of a giant beast and swallowed them.

Their minds sunk into deeper despair.

They opened their eyes and returned to the hospital. Han Fei didn’t move forward. He thought back to the things he saw in the fifth layer. “All players should pick the ghost bed, but some would be curious about the normal bed.”

“I don’t think Dream will live up to its promise. It is an entity that created so many nightmares. I don’t think we should attempt the ghost bed.” Bai Xian sighed. The fifth layer was just a choice. It wasn’t hard for someone with a firm determination like him.

“I do wish for a specific player to attempt the normal bed.” Han Fei believed it was time to contact Shen Luo. “Having a knife stabbed into the back of one’s head shouldn’t affect one’s gaming ability, right? Furthermore, Shen Luo was almost killed by Dream’s people. He should want revenge.”

“Won’t it be too dangerous for that player?” Bai Xian was worried.

“It’s alright. He’ll always survive.” Han Fei and Bai Xian retreated from the hospital. They opened the chat lobby and glanced at the data. Now, there were four top guilds who had reached the fifth layer of the nightmare, but no one pushed further. They were all thinking about the choice.

“Absolute Truth, Happiness Neighborhood, Merchant Union, Deep Space Tech, these are all top ten guilds!” Bai Xian clicked on the chat. “Should we contact them to see what they’d do next?”

“Sure.” After leaving the hospital, Han Fei received a message from the president of the Merchant Union. It felt like Ah Qi had told the president everything. “The merchants have sharp intuition.”

Merchant Union had a lot of funds and connections; Absolute Truth had knowledge of the game; Deep Space Tech was actually a combination of many different guilds. After the game was locked, they announced themselves to be technicians sent by Deep Space Tech into the game. The company

wouldn't abandon the players and would bring everyone out. This guild immediately shot up into the ranking.

"Huang Yin temporarily can't be here. I'll take his place to communicate with the other guilds." Han Fei sent an invitation to all the top 100 guilds as the vice president of Happiness Neighborhood. He shared his opinion on the nightmare and invited all the guild leaders to lead at the central pavilion at noon. He'd also explain the situation to all the players then.

Deep Space Tech was the first to respond. Their most important goal was PR, so they supported Han Fei fully.

Info and items had to flow to have value. The Merchant Union understood the importance of cooperation, so they agreed too.

The other guild leaders also agreed to Han Fei's invitation. An emergency meeting about the nightmare would happen in Perfect Life. This was also Han Fei's first time appearing before the surface world.

"Han Fei, do you need me to get some friends to bulk up the event?" Bai Xian knew that Happiness Neighborhood had more ghosts than humans.

"We have enough attendants." Han Fei shut down the lobby. He turned back to look at the hospital. "Why isn't Wu Chang out yet?"

#### Chapter 954: Dead?

Han Fei's greed persona was linked to Wu Chang. He used the persona to sense Wu Chang and instantly got a response. A harrowing scream came from the buildings shrouded by mist. Parts of the butterfly pattern branded on some of the buildings disappeared. The mist stopped spreading temporarily.

"Wu Chang is a Top Pure Hatred and Gao Cheng's most favored ghost. But even he can't immediately escape from the nightmare?" Han Fei suspected that Wu Chang entered a nightmare that was different from the players. Wu Chang was most likely transported somewhere else by Dream. Han Fei could feel Wu Chang approaching, but he was very slow. Out of consideration for his safety, Han Fei didn't urge Wu Chang.

Han Fei waited at the hospital entrance. He took out a pen and paper and jotted down everything he had seen in the nightmares. The passing players saw this and whispered among themselves.

“This morning, I saw three players from Happiness Neighborhood enter the nightmare, but now only two of them are here. Even the first guild will have casualties when exploring this place. This is too scary!”

“Even they can’t escape this unscathed. What about small fries like us?”

“I need to report this to the guild so we can reassess the nightmare’s difficulty.”

“Are you overestimating the power level of Happiness Neighborhood? I admit that Huang Yin is a godlike presence, but it doesn’t mean that every member of his guild is as impressive.”

“You’re right. Perhaps Happiness Neighborhood is not as strong as we thought. Plus, Huang Yin is not trapped here. Can the first guild be considered first when its main member is missing?”

Han Fei didn’t explain himself. At noon, Wu Chang was very close to Han Fei, but he couldn’t break through the last layer of obstacles. Wu Chang was anxious too. Han Fei comforted Wu Chang and then led Bai Xian to the central pavilion. Most guilds had received Han Fei’s mail. This emergency meeting was very important to the trapped players.

The top 100 guilds entered the pavilion. The other guilds astutely stayed at the back.

Through the contribution during the ‘tragedy’, the top 10 guilds were established. The news about the emergency meeting was spread. All the trapped players paid attention to this. Merchant Union even bought all the communication devices in the main hub to livestream this meeting. Even so, many players gathered around the central pavilion to see this event in person. It was almost noon. 99 representatives were there, but the center of the pavilion was left empty. It was reserved for the first guild. Han Fei called for this meeting, so the meeting couldn’t start if he weren’t there.

“I heard that someone from Happiness Neighborhood died in the nightmare. This is not a good sign.”

“They are players, and players will die. That’s normal.”

“It’s hard to join Happiness Neighborhood. Every member is handpicked by Huang Yin. I hear that everyone has to have level A talent. Their members would be the trump cards of any other guilds.”

Everyone was anxious since they were trapped.

“How are we going to proceed when the crowd is so dense?” Bai Xian stood at the fringe of the pavilion and looked at the crowd.

“They’ll make way for us.” Han Fei touched his ghost tattoo. A presence of misfortune gushed out of his body. Branded limbs reached out of the tattoo. Big Sin howled. The sun annoyed Big Sin. Soul Poison leaked everywhere, and its spikes extended. The crowd immediately dispersed. Han Fei and Bai Xian rode on Big Sin as they headed to the center.

“What is that? It’s scarier than the ghost in the nightmare! Why would such a thing exist in this game?”

“It can’t be identified?”

“I’m not sure. But is it possible that the monster is a pet of someone in Happiness Neighborhood?” A female player holding a rabbit shook as she looked at Big Sin. The ground trembled. Big Sin left behind a cursed trail. Even after it left, no players dared to move near the trail. Bai Xian also saw this for the first time. Thankfully, he was a professional actor so he didn’t show shock in his eyes. Han Fei finally came to the center of the pavilion.

“The top 100 guilds are all here. Shall we start the discussion on the nightmare?” The leader of the Merchant Union waved his hand. All the devices in the main hub were switched on.

“As Deep Space Tech, we’ll start.” As someone ‘official’, the leader of Deep Space Tech walked out. He became with a pointless apology and followed up with empty promises. He said that the headquarters was finding a solution. Escape was only a matter of time. He told everyone not to worry.

The players had heard similar empty promises before. They needed someone who could solve the problem. After the man from Deep Space Tech finished, most players were dissatisfied. Even people from the top 100 guilds voiced their suspicion.

This wasn't Deep Space Tech's fault. The technicians were also stumped that the game suddenly became like this. They couldn't contact the real world, so they had no idea what was happening outside. They only knew that the hackers of the three criminal organizations had been attacking the company's supercomputer. They had no idea what the problem was, so they could only give empty promises. As the complaints grew louder, the man from Deep Space Tech glanced at Han Fei. After all, he was the one who called for the meeting.

"Let me talk about something more realistic." Han Fei stepped on the stage. "I believe many players saw my friend and me enter the city this morning. Most of our guild's players are not trapped in the game, but we still insisted on coming here." When Han Fei entered the city this morning, it caused a great commotion. They were the only players who went against the grain. These simple words won Han Fei a lot of respect. The players knew that they hadn't been abandoned.

"Now, I will share with you everything I know." Han Fei placed the info on the stage. "First, I need to tell you one thing. In real life, Deep Space Tech and Xin Lu Police are trying their best to rescue us, but they're being held back by some kind of force in the game." Han Fei pointed at the altars in the city. "The Perfect Life you play is filled with uplifting emotions. You gain positive energy here, but you have left behind your negative energy when you leave. They accumulated to form a scary world that is completely opposite from this one. These altars are the malice of that world. It is a pure evil that is preventing you from leaving. It wants to drag you into despair. Now, we can't rely on others. We need to save ourselves. Only by destroying the altars can we end everything!"

Many players didn't get it. Some of the players from the top 10 guilds were confused too. "There was a rumor that the negative emotions of the players in Perfect Life are stored in the hidden maps. Those maps are extremely wicked, and they were Immortal Pharma Director's greatest creations. But following his death, all those maps have been deleted!"

"But you have to know something. The Perfect Life you know takes up only 5 percent of the whole world. The other 95 percent is 'abandoned' hidden map." Han Fei opened both sides of the black box. He didn't plan to destroy the cryptic world. The players needed to know about the cryptic world, and he even planned to use the players to heal the despair of the cryptic world.

"How can you be so sure?" The representative from Absolute Truth was sharp. "Did you come from there?"

Han Fei scanned the players from Absolute Truth with a smile.

At the same time, a giant boom came from the hospital!

The grey mist around the hospital was blown away. The northern wall of the hospital collapsed. A man in a black robe was bitten by endless dream demons as he walked out of the hospital. He was covered in wounds, but he didn't bleed. The black flame danced in his eyes. The dream demons wanted to drag the man back into the hospital, but they couldn't do it. After leaving the mist, the man started to consume the demons instead. The image was cruel and gory.

The players screamed and ran. They thought the ghost had escaped from the nightmare!

The hatred pulled back. After eating all the demons, the man walked to the middle of the pavilion silently. He walked along the cursed trail and finally stopped beside Han Fei.

The mist gathered around the hospital again, but the broken wall proved that it was not an illusion. This 'player' from Happiness Neighborhood could destroy the building covered by grey mist!

This scene was broadcasted everywhere. Many players were gathered at the pavilion, but no one dared to say anything. Even the people from the top 10 guilds cleverly shut down. They listened to Han Fei attentively.

"It's fine. If you have any questions, you can ask." Han Fei stared at the people from Absolute Truth. "I'm a reasonable person."

Chapter 955: Peace Street

Happiness Neighborhood only sent three people, but that was enough to shock everyone in the game. No one dared to interrupt Han Fei anymore. The large pavilion was silent.

"Since you have no questions, then I'll continue," Han Fei opened the documents he had and shared all the info he had on the nightmare to all the players through the comms device, "This is all the guides Happiness Neighborhood had found out based on the nightmares. We're now sharing it with all the

players! Our current progress is on the fifth layer. The solution and experiences we've seen are all here. Happiness Neighborhood will help more players to clear the nightmare!"

Once Han Fei said that, the players gathered at the pavilion were excited. The first guild shared the info they risked their lives for so easily with everyone. They really wanted to save everyone!

Seeing this, the expressions of the representatives from Absolute Truth and Merchant Union darkened. They had paid a hefty price to get to the fifth layer. From their perspective, power was the premise for the exchange of equal value. The normal players had no right to participate in this battle. Their best wish was to share the info among the top 10 guilds. If the other guilds wanted a piece of the info, they had to pay an equivalent price. Unfortunately, Han Fei had shattered the rules.

"I know what some of you are thinking." Han Fei lowered his voice. "Because you have higher funds and level, you delineate the players among yourselves. However, there is no need because, in my eyes, all the players are the same." Han Fei was already very kind. The difference between him and the normal players was not something that could be bridged by levels.

"This is just the beginning. In the future, Happiness Neighborhood will write the guides to every layer of the nightmare on the signboards at the central pavilion." Han Fei said with determination, "Our enemy is filled with malice and is far more cunning than we can imagine. The invitation in the fifth layer is to separate the players. Happiness Neighborhood has no power to make the choice for others, but I hope that everyone can trust us this once. Happiness Neighborhood will lead the players to explore deep into the nightmare. At least we die, please do not side with dream and abandon humanity's hope."

The city was sealed, and they couldn't get offline. Han Fei led Happiness Neighborhood to provide support. They cleared the fifth layer quickly and shared the info for free. Compared to the other guilds, Han Fei's actions spoke louder than words.

"We don't want to fight among ourselves when we have an enemy like the nightmare." The leader of the Merchant Guild immediately stood up to clap for Han Fei. At the same time, he added, "From now on, the Merchant Guild will also share our guides at the pavilion! We'll work together to destroy the altars to return to real life!"

Many other representatives followed suit. This inspired the players. When faced with death, everyone focused their energy on fighting for a better future. At least at that moment, no one wanted to surrender to Dream.



"Sir, we've invested too much. There's no need for us to follow Happiness Neighborhood. Since they're willing, we should let them be the sacrifice." One of the members of the Merchant Union grumbled softly.

"4000000 players are trapped in the game. This is a great chance. There is no better advertisement than this. Therefore, we have to help the players so that the image of the Merchant Union will enter people's hearts." The leader of the Merchant Union thought clearly, "We not only have to work with them, but we also need to help the players. All the investments will be repaid in the future."

Han Fei had no idea how many of these players were already Dream's puppets. He also had no idea how many of them were from the three criminal organizations. He explained his goal. He was going to keep on exploring to bring hope to the majority of the players. This meeting continued until 3 pm. The top 100 guilds made a joint statement that they would do everything to help the trapped players. They rented a building next to the central pavilion. This place was designated as the nightmare danger assessment center. Any player could share their discovery here. They would be given rewards in return for their contribution.

"Impressive!" Bai Xian gave Han Fei a thumb's up after he got down the stage. "In the past, I thought you'd be a great actor, but now I believe you can be a great mayor too."

"Stop joking." Things went more smoothly than Han Fei predicted. It was mainly because the trapped players were looking for hope, and Han Fei appeared at the right time. "Next, we need to put our focus on clearing the nightmares. We can't stop. Only by keeping on going forward can we turn the despair in people's hearts into hope."

"Do we need to rush?"

"Our opponent this time is Dream. It orchestrated the tragedy of my life. Everything I've experienced is related to it." Han Fei had to kill Dream. Dream wanted the black box in Han Fei's head. As long as Dream was still alive, it would always come for Han Fei. Han Fei didn't want to end up like Fu Sheng. The meeting ended. Han Fei's group returned to Happiness Neighborhood's base.

Han Fei closed the door and called Wu Chang to his side. He used the greed persona to communicate with him. That morning, they entered the hospital. At first, Wu Chang was sent into a normal nightmare. He used his power and made his way to the seventh layer. However, he met a strange existence in the

seventh layer. To eat that thing, Wu Chang used his black flame. At that moment, the dream demons appeared to bind him. The demons possessed the presence of the Unmentionable. As weak as they were, they stopped Wu Chang from destroying the nightmare.

"It looks like you can't use any power greater than a normal Pure Hatred inside the nightmare, or you'd be surrounded by the dream demons." Han Fei wanted to know what Wu Chang encountered in the seventh layer, but Wu Chang couldn't explain it.

"It looks like the difficulty will skyrocket after the fifth layer. We might run into something special too." Han Fei gathered all the members of Happiness Neighborhood. They discussed their plan. When the sun almost set, Han Fei and his neighbors put on the black robe and left the base. This time, their goal was to investigate the relationship between the nightmare and the altars.

The players who guarded outside Happiness Neighborhood's base saw this and were instantly rejuvenated. They saw ghosts from the cryptic world walk out one after another. Their bodies were covered under black robes. They walked between the fading sunlight and the darkness. The street temperature dropped. The players only dared to watch quietly.

Han Fei returned to the hospital. He held Wu Chang with his left hand and Weep with his right. The other members also moved into groups of three.

"No matter what, if you feel troubled or when you reach the tenth layer, you have to exit. Remember, safety first." Han Fei took a step into the grey mist. Mist enveloped the hospital, and Han Fei was alone. Weep, and Wu Chang was gone.

"Am I alone?" *freewebnovel.com*

There was no way to return. Han Fei continued to move forward. He had cleared the fifth layer. He might need to enter the sixth layer on his own.

Han Fei slowly moved forward. When he approached the corner, vertigo came, and darkness consumed him.

The smell of trash burning stung his nose. Han Fei opened his eyes and noticed he was standing in a bustling street. The lights were glowing, and the hawkers shouted for customers. People came and went.

"So many people?" The previous nightmares had very few characters. Everyone was related to the nightmare, but this layer appeared to be different. "They are all people, right?"

The stench was horrid, but the people didn't seem to smell it.

"I appear to be the only player around. Did everyone get separated?" Han Fei adjusted his emotions and melted into the crowd. "Why is there the smell of garbage burning?"

There were too many people on the street. It was hard to tell whose nightmare this was.

Han Fei moved forward. The lights faded away. At the shadowy corner, a naked madman charged out. He pointed at Han Fei and scolded him. He had a collar around his neck. He was tied to the alley like a dog.

#### Chapter 956: Princess and Knight

Peace Street was a commercial street. There were various stores on the street. Even at midnight, the place was bustling. The street got darker and dirtier as it moved to the west. Han Fei was now at the westernmost end of the street. He looked at the alley that led into the darkness and the madman that was tied to the post.

"What's your name? Where's your family? Who locked you here?"

The madman didn't seem to understand Han Fei's question. He continued to curse. As he got agitated, he jumped at Han Fei, causing the chain to rattle.

"As the street moves to the west, the dirtier it'll be. However, the strange thing is that the stench has lightened." Han Fei was confused. Trash was piled on the west end, but the source of the stench appeared to come from the east. While Han Fei was thinking, two boys ran over carrying broken bowls. They appeared to be brothers. One of them looked about twelve, and the other was about six. The younger brother was nervous as he followed his brother. His eyes darted about.

The boys appeared to have suffered a lot. They were more mature than their peers. They placed the bowls filled with leftovers before the madman. The madman lay on the ground like a dog and started to eat. He appeared to only have one meal per day. He didn't care whether the food had soured or not.

The two kids also noticed Han Fei. They were afraid at first, but when they saw Han Fei didn't harm the madman, they put their guard down. After the madman was done eating, the little brother went to collect the bowls while the older brother approached Han Fei. "You don't seem like you're from this street."

"Do you know everyone from this street?" Han Fei asked.

The older brother shook his head. "I just want to warn you to find a place to stay as soon as possible because, after midnight, the princess will burn you to death if you stay outside on the street."

"The princess?"

"She is the owner of this street. She is a crazy, vain woman. She will have anything that she sees. All the merchants hate her, but no one dares to say anything." The boy whispered.

"This street doesn't feel like it's connected to any princess."

"I'm not lying to you. My father is locked up here because he once offended the princess." The boy's eyes dimmed. "In the past, father was one of the managers of this place. After the princess arrived, she pushed him into madness. She used him as an example to warn the other merchants."

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"Big brother, we need to go. It's almost time," The little brother said. They appeared to have other things to do.

"Is it 11 already?" The older brother nodded. He turned and left. After taking a few steps, he was worried and turned around to tell Han Fei. "If you really have no place to stay, you can hide at my house. It's the wooden shed at the west end of this street. Even though it's dirty, at least you'll be safe." The brother ran away and entered one of the shops.

“The brothers look kind, but the big brother is clearly acting. He has hidden some key info from me.” Han Fei was a masterful actor. He saw through the brother’s bad acting instantly. To find the truth, Han Fei avoided the naked man and entered the shed.

The shed was very simple. The walls were cracked. The owner seemed to be a trash collector or a hoarder. As time passed, a horrible scent lingered in the shed.

“The brothers and their crazy father live here? But how come it doesn’t feel like this is their home?”

The shed only had female slippers. The old clothes were also pink and white in color. There were also many handmade toys. The family was poor, but the owner loved his children. He couldn’t afford the toys, so the owner made the toys for the girl. The owner didn’t have anything of his own, but as long as his kid was happy, he was happy.

“The things in here are for a girl. Why would the two boys say this is their home? However, based on their clothes, it does seem like they live here.”

Han Fei had two questions. First, the trash was all at the western end of the street, but the smell of trash burning came from the eastern side. Second, this wooden shed had a lot of female clothes and toys, but apparently, two boys and a madman lived there.

“Are the things on both ends of the street swapped?” Han Fei narrowed his eyes. He didn’t stay for long. He immediately left and ran to the eastern end of the street. As time moved forward, the number of pedestrians lowered. The legend about the princess seemed to be true.

Han Fei paused before the shop that the brothers entered. Han Fei casually glanced into the shop. This was the only hotel on the street. It had three floors. While the receptionist was busy, Han Fei sneaked in.

“This is not only your nightmare but also ours. Only by killing the princess could we escape.” The familiar voice came from inside the room. The madman’s two kids appeared to be inside.

“What should we do?”

“This is your first time at Peace Street. The princess doesn’t know about you. After she leaves her castle at midnight, you can sneak in to burn her favorite crystal shoes.” The older brother said softly. If not for Han Fei’s sensitive hearing, he wouldn’t even hear it.

“Princess and crystal slippers, this nightmare is like a fairytale,” A female player grumbled.

“Is the castle the tallest building on the eastern end? What do the crystal shoes look like? Where would the princess hide them?” The other player was more cautious.

“The crystal shoes will be inside the deepest room. The room also hides the princess’ dark past. She is not as pretty as she looks on the surface. She is a very ugly and vain monster.” The big brother said seriously. “Remember this. The princess’ only weakness is fire. Only fire can burn away everything she loves and kill her.”

“Will there be ghosts inside the castle?” the players were still worried.

“The whole castle is the house of the princess and her dark knight. They are always together. They will leave the castle together at midnight. At the same time, the merchants on the street will rise up against her to buy time for you!” The brother hated the princess a lot.

“Alright. We’ll move out after midnight!”

Footsteps echoed in the room. Han Fei left in a hurry. He was not discovered.

Peace Street became emptier. Many shops closed. It only took thirty minutes to go from busy to deserted. Han Fei came to the eastern end of the street and saw the princess’ castle. It was a large western-style building. The place was white. The sharp smell of trash burning came from this place!

“This looks like a luxurious place. Why would the stench be coming from here?”

Han Fei didn’t sneak into the castle. Instead, with some persuasion, he entered a deal with the boss of a convenience store. The boss said he could stay as long as he liked.

Han Fei stayed there until midnight. Han Fei saw the gate of the luxurious house open. The whole street changed at that moment. Everything became dreamy.

Several black horses dragged a giant pumpkin-shaped carriage out. A knight in pure black armor sat on the tallest horse. He was tough and impressive. He would protect the princess at all costs.

The horses stomped on the ground. Curses soaked into the ground. The princess and her knight started the patrol.

“This nightmare belongs to one kid? This is her fairytale?”

They were the only ones on the street. The princess’ laughter came from the golden pumpkin carriage. After the carriage left, Han Fei immediately sneaked into the castle. The interior was as luxurious as the exterior. There were many treasures and jewels. Han Fei ignored these things. He ran down the corridor. “The smell of trash burning thickens. The source is behind this painting!”

Han Fei entered the castle gallery. Han Fei stopped. Before he was a giant oil painting. The painting was of Cinderella wearing her crystal heels and going on her date with anticipation. Han Fei removed the painting. Behind the painting was a charred door frame.

“What is this?”

Han Fei entered the door, and his eyes changed. The room behind the painting was similar to the wooden shed where the boys and the naked madman lived. All the hoarded trash has been burned. Walking among the ruins, Han Fei found a pair of half-burnt pink female slippers.

“The bustle of Peace Street, the merchants and the pedestrians, even the princess and the castle feel unreal. However, this burnt room feels so real.” Han Fei believed everything on Peace Street was imagined by the nightmare owner. This burned room was the only real thing. Han Fei replaced the oil painting and stayed in the burnt room. He looked around and finally dug out a rusted box under the ash.

Inside the box were a ruined adopted paper and an old photo album. The yellowed pictures in the album recorded the life of a girl baby with mental difficulty.

The 'father' was a thin and short limp. He was a street cleaner, and he was responsible for cleaning up Clean Street.

He was unmarried. One day he picked up an abandoned baby. While he couldn't keep himself fed, he decided to take in this cute girl. He didn't dare to leave her alone at home, so he would carry her to work with him. When the girl was older, he would place the girl on top of his orange garbage truck. He had designed a special seat for his darling there.

They fed the black strays on the streets. The father made rings out of the rings of aluminum cans. He ground the broken bottle shards down into jewels and cut open CDs to make sparkling princess dresses.

They were once so happy. They were each other's everything.

After the din of the city faded away, the man would bring his princess into the night like a knight. When they were alone, there was no mockery and prejudice. This was their safe little world.

#### Chapter 957: Patrol

"After midnight, the knight will protect the princess as they go on patrol. The street cleaner would also go out at night after all the shops were closed." The absurd nightmare started to overlap with real life. Han Fei continued to flip through the album. The girl slowly grew up, and her mental illness became more serious. Sometimes, she couldn't control herself and did things people wouldn't understand. The merchants on the street hated her because she would disrupt their business.

The street cleaner understood that he couldn't force the others to accept his daughter. To prevent his daughter from creating trouble, he always stayed by her side and used his weak body to protect her. The girl grew up, and the cleaner became older. The pictures became clearer, but the people in the pictures became older. However, no matter how tired they were, the father and daughter would smile before the camera.

The daughter was obedient when her father was by her side. However, if she were left alone, she would become agitated and hostile. The debt notes in the box expressed this. The daughter didn't want to be kept at home. She would escape in order to find her father. She would be bullied by the merchants. Many times, they had to call the police on her.



“19th February, scared the customers at the milktea shop. Debt 300 RMB.”

“25th February. Stayed outside the boutique. Wouldn't leave after being chased. Got into a fight with the shopkeeper and scratched her face. Debt 800 RMB and returned 315 RMB.”

“16th March. Stole a customer's leftovers. Tried to escape after being caught. Affected the restaurant. Debt 300 RMB.”

“1st April. Ran on the street and shouted. Scared many people. Owe the fruit stall, the restaurant, and the milktea shop 50 RMB each.”

“29th April...”

The cleaner used all of his money to buy medicine for his daughter, so he couldn't pay the debt. He had to owe them. Even in the nightmare, the details on the debt notes were so clear. The cleaner swore that he would eventually clear all the debts.

“At first, the complaints look normal, but sooner, it looks like the merchants are just working together to chase the father and daughter away. Whenever the cleaner wasn't home, the daughter would escape. This is very abnormal. It feels like someone had purposely let her out so that they could pin all the blame on her in the end.” Han Fei reached the end of the album. The fire burned many pictures. Han Fei saw that the last picture was taken inside the wooden shed. The wooden shed was the exact same as the wooden shed at the western end of Peace Street. The elder stood beside the bed and braided his adult daughter's hair.

Han Fei paid attention to the windows and the door. “Why is there a third person in the picture?”

On the wooden windowsill, there was half a boy's face. It was the boy Han Fei had encountered earlier. However, the boy in the picture was fair and clean. The boy Han Fei saw on Peace Skill was sallow and dirty.

“Why would the boy be in this picture? What was the boy trying to sneak a look of? Was it the brothers who let the girl out of the shed whenever the cleaner wasn't around?”

“The cleaner’s daughter has mental problems. She couldn’t communicate normally with the cleaner. Is it possible that she was framed every time?”

“The brothers said that their family was once the manager of this street. Did they use this method to chase the father and daughter away? Or was this a simple prank by the brothers?” [freewebnovel.com](http://freewebnovel.com)

The merchants rented the shops at Peace Street. The limping cleaner and the girl affected their business, so they sided with the managers.

“There are many ways to chase people away. Why would it end in a fire? Was it an accident or arson?”

The despair of this nightmare was that the fire had burned away reality, and death paved the way for a new Peace Street.

Footsteps came from outside. The players entered the room.

“They’re quite fast.” Han Fei put away the album and entered the deepest part of the room. He wanted to find the princess’ crystal shoes.

Wiping away the ash on the wall, Han Fei found a small cubicle behind the headboard. It contained many girls shoes and clothes. These appeared to be handmade by the cleaner for his daughter. Some shoes had crystals, and other shoes had cute dolls sewn onto them. Each shoe contained a father’s love.

“The princess’ changing room?”

Han Fei could imagine the scene in the room. The two people who were afraid of the world hid in the simple wooden shed. The daughter lay on the bed and tried on the beautiful clothes and shoes her father had made for her. She had a simple and bright smile on her face. Two broken souls found comfort in each other.

“The princess’ crystal shoes should be here.”

There were many shoes in the cubicle, ranging from baby shoes to young woman's shoes. They were arranged neatly.

Han Fei searched for a long time before he found a pair of shoes different from the others. This pair was larger than the rest, and it was covered in cartoon stickers.

The cleaner didn't have the money to afford stickers. He normally picked the used ones. Therefore, the undamaged stickers were treasures to his daughter. However, this pair of shoes were covered in undamaged stickers.

"The cleaner wouldn't use his daughter's treasures to make a shoe. Plus, this pair is too big for her..." Han Fei picked up the shoes. "Is it possible that the daughter made this pair for her father? The crystal heels made Cinderella a princess, and being adopted by the cleaner turned the abandoned baby into the princess of Peace Street."

The abandoned baby was the princess, and the cleaner was the black knight. The golden pumpkin carriage was the garbage truck, and the big horse was the stray cat they fed.

The father who had nothing tried his best to give his daughter everything.

The girl's life was changed by the cleaner. Her crystal shoes were her father's love.

In this burnt room, the pair of shoes touched Han Fei in ways he had never felt before.

#### Chapter 958: Flames

While Han Fei was wondering which pair of shoes to pick, the smell of trash burning intensified. Smoke oozed through the gap in the door.

"Is there a fire outside?"

Han Fei grabbed the shoes the daughter made for her daughter and ran out. Fire danced in the night. Smoke gushed out of the staircase and filled up the castle. There were rapid footsteps as two male, and one female player ran through the lobby. They looked panicked.

"Did you start a fire in the castle?" Han Fei walked out of the gallery and stared at the trio.

His sudden appearance startled the players. When they saw Han Fei, they were shocked. "Han Fei?! Hasn't Happiness Neighborhood reached the sixth layer of the nightmare? Why are you at the third layer?"

"This is the sixth layer!" Han Fei frowned.

His words caused the three players to shake. The female player thought of something, and her face paled. "I heard from my friend from the Merchant Union that a nightmare will only initiate when there are five players. You were probably attempting the sixth layer alone. Since there were not enough players, the altar would select random players from the same building to fill up the group!"

"Such a rule exists?" This was clearly a rule to hinder the players. Han Fei suspected that Dream did this on purpose for those who chose to side with the nightmare a chance to harm others.

Han Fei was not used to playing with other players. "What guild are you from?"

"We're from a small casual guild. We're friends in real life, and we like puzzle-solving." The players said.

"Did you set the fire?"

"No! We needed to find the princess' crystal shoes in the castle. We haven't even found the shoes. Why would we set the fire?" The three players were stunned when they found out they were in the sixth layer.

"If it weren't you, it means there is a fifth player in the castle!" Horse braying came from outside. The princess was running.

"Run!" Han Fei led the three players to jump out of the window. They felt the ground shaking. Black curses covered the street. Peace Street was like a black river.

The black horse dragged the pumpkin carriage into the castle. The fire spread wildly. The white walls were charred. No merchant came out to help. They hid inside and laughed as the castle burned. The fire soon consumed the castle. The smell of trash burning became even stronger. A shrill scream shattered the night. The princess walked out of the carriage. Fire danced on her silver mask. The black knight charged into the sea of fire. He carried out a few burnt handmade shoes. The top of the castle collapsed.

The mad princess ordered the knight to find the arsonist. They kicked down the doors and dragged the merchants out. The merchants expressed innocence. It was like they had already planned this before.

Everything she loved was gone. The princess' gaze chilled. She walked out from behind the black knight and stood before the merchants. "Which of you burned down my house?"

The princess' voice was melodious, but she didn't seem like she could stand any pressure. Her body twisted.

The merchants shivered, but one elder appeared to have suffered enough. He looked into the princess' eyes and used his staff to point at her. "The fire has nothing to do with us. Don't blame your misfortune on us!"

"My misfortune has nothing to do with you?" The dress, made from crystals and silver threads, touched the ground. The princess removed her white gloves to reveal misshapen and black arms.

Han Fei looked at this, and he had a bad feeling, "When the cleaner's house burned down, his daughter was still at home?"

The black flame burned on the skin. The princess asked, "Didn't you do this to me?"

"I have no idea what you're talking about! You crazy woman, stop using this to try to manipulate us!" The elder stepped forward. "Peace Street is ours, and we don't welcome you. We hope..." The elder was agitated, but he might really have nothing to do with the fire. Suddenly, someone 'accidentally' pushed him from behind. The elder fell, and the black hands grabbed the elder. Black flame consumed the elder and scorched his soul. He screamed.

"The princess is killing again!" The merchants scattered. Peace Street dropped into chaos. The elder rolled on the ground in pain, but no one came to help her.

"Yes. Even if I just touch you, you'll pin the blame on me!" The princess looked at her burned hands. "In that case, I'll become the person you want to be. Haven't you been saying that I'm a killer? Then, I'll kill you all tonight!" The flame flowed down her arms and burned through the dress. The bright jewels melted into plastic, and the princess revealed her true form. She was a burnt monster.

"I'll burn all of you!"

The sound of chains came from the flame. When the princess used the black flame, it injured her too. The black knight followed the princess silently. Even if he were burned, he wouldn't back away. However, the mask covered his face. The fire spread from the castle to the spread. There were cries everywhere. The brothers came out of their hiding space. "Why can she still use her flames after her crystal shoes are destroyed? Did the outsider lie to us?" Based on the sibling's plan, after the clock shop boss' death and the crystal shoes are destroyed, the princess would be weakened. Then, everyone could work together to kill her and take back Peace Street.

"Why hasn't the flame stopped?"

The princess was like a lunatic. She started to kill everyone on Peace Street!

"Han Fei, shouldn't we stop her?" The player hesitated. He trusted Han Fei, but if they didn't stop the princess, they would be killed too. "Wouldn't it be better for us to work with the merchants?"

"If you really do that, you'll die horribly." Han Fei took out the album, "The nightmare owner is between the black knight and the princess. In the past, I thought this was the princess' nightmare. After all, this is a fairytale. But now, I believe it is the knight's nightmare."

Han Fei thought back to the princess who faced the crowd earlier. She was bright and cognizant. These didn't sound like things the real 'princess' would do. This princess was probably the daughter the cleaner made up after his real daughter died.

"His adopted daughter has mental problems. Whenever he was not home, she would be let out by the manager's sons to cause chaos. The cleaner had no idea about this, so he apologized and promised to compensate them every time. When he knew the truth, he must have felt a lot of guilt. However, simple guilt wouldn't create such powerful despair. Something else must have happened!" Han Fei saw the princess' body. He saw signs of strangulation near the wrists. A scary thought entered Han Fei's mind. He put away the album and ran to the shed on the western side of the street!

He ran past the naked madman and entered the shed. He found the rope beside the child's bed.

"Perhaps the adopted father tied his daughter to the bed whenever he went out so that she wouldn't sneak out again. Perhaps the merchants forced him to tie up his daughter. No matter the truth, the daughter was trapped at home when the shed was set on fire." Han Fei looked out the window. The princess and black knight hated the manager, but even so, they didn't lock him inside the house. Han Fei initially thought they did this to humiliate the manager, but now Han Fei understood that this was the princess' final kindness.

"Did the things they do to the manager once happen to the girl in real life?"

The man who was naked and lived as a trapped animal appeared to be symbolic.

"We've been here too. We heard from the nearby merchants that the princess used to live here. Back then, the two sons of the manager loved to trick the silly princess. They would lure her out using various tricks. One time, they got annoyed because she refused to come out. Therefore, they threw a burning cigarette butt at her..." The three players viewed Han Fei as their only hope. They stuck close to him.

"A burning cigarette butt?" All the clues were linked together. Fire danced outside the window. Screams echoed everywhere. The madman tied to the ally struggled. His face was carved by pain and fear.

"Are we going to die? The princess is covered in black flames. We can't even get close to her. Is this the difficulty of the sixth layer? In the first layer, the players could still work together to kill the murderer. In the second layer, the players could use talismans to stop the ghosts, but this princess is impossibly strong!" The players wailed. "We need to find a way to destroy those crystal shoes. That's our only chance."

"I'll repeat myself. This is not the merchant's nightmare. You'll die if you work with them. Even if you manage to kill the princess, we won't be able to leave. The merchants will become the new ghosts and turn us into part of the nightmare." Han Fei was clear-minded. "We need to deal with the nightmare owner. Perhaps we should give the crystal shoes made by the princess to her beloved black knight so that he wouldn't be consumed by hatred."

"What are you talking about?" Han Fei's version of Cinderella was crazy.

"The crystal shoes represent the adopted father's love, but they also represent the daughter's love for her father. The shoes pasted with her treasured stickers are the bond between the two broken souls." Han Fei moved his body. "How is your stamina?"

"We're average players. We're just slightly stronger than normal people." The temperature rose.

"If possible, I need your help to distract the princess. I'll help them regain their rationality."

Han Fei opened the shed door. Peace Street was a sea of fire. The merchants burned. The princess burned everything in her sight. The black smoke gathered to form a giant shadow. The curses consumed the princess and knight's souls.

Han Fei took a deep breath and ran into the night. As the three players looked on in shock, Han Fei charged into the flames.

#### Chapter 959: Never Give Up

"Is he always this crazy?" Players might have brain damage if they died in the game, so they were always careful. However, the understanding of the three players was shattered. This horror movie actor rushed into the burning flames.

"Is he immune to the fire?" The tall player was stunned. He reached his finger towards a piece of burning trash. Just a slight brush made him pull his finger back. "This fire burns harder than the one in real life!"

For the three players, they couldn't proceed even though they knew how to clear the nightmare. They would have given up when the fire went out of control. The tall player looked at Han Fei with



admiration. The black flame burned around Han Fei. Sparks flew onto his body, but Han Fei continued to run forward.

Han Fei buffed his speed with Cursed Words. He knew he only had one chance, and his body couldn't carry him for too long. The sixth layer was indeed harder than the ones before. The princess was as powerful as a Large Lingering Spirit with black flame! Han Fei had no chance of winning since he couldn't access his inventory. He could only try his luck based on his hypothesis. The princess noticed Han Fei too. She turned around, and the giant shadow behind her turned to look at Han Fei. The merchants had intense hatred on their faces as they were burned to death. Their resentment powered the princess even more. If this continued, the princess would become a crazy demon.

"This is probably how Dream cultivates dream demons. All the demons in the nightmare were once humans. They died in the dream and were sharpened into weapons."

The fire burned harder!

The pain came from his back and shoulders, but Han Fei didn't slow down. Instead, he moved even faster.

"Almost there!"

When they were about five meters away from each other, the black knight moved. He was covered in flames, but he didn't seem to feel it. The eyes under the mask looked at Han Fei silently.

"I wish to save your daughter and bring you out of the nightmare!" Han Fei said urgently, "Don't hide in the nightmare. I'll help you find the arsonist in real life!" Han Fei took out the crystal shoes he had been hiding in his chest. He made sure the fire wouldn't burn them. "These are the shoes your daughter made for you. I know you love her, but this is not the way to help her!"

After seeing the shoes, the black knight's gaze changed. But he still didn't move away.

The flame controlled by the princess burned the black knight and Han Fei. The fire danced on the skin.

"Don't promise change if you haven't experienced the pain." A chilling voice came from underneath the armor. The man had been enduring the torture of the flame. His skin had fused with the armor. He knew that he'd be tortured as long as he stayed beside the princess, but he would never leave her side. The black knight was lied to many times, so he wouldn't trust others so easily.

"So does this mean you'd rather live in an illusion than punish the real killer? She's your daughter. Aren't you going to avenge her?"

Han Fei decided to use actions to prove his words. He fought with the knight in the fire. The fire ate up their skins. Their hairs were scorched, and the heat burs their skin.

Han Fei's handsome face was ruined. Even so, his eyes shone brightly.

"I've been through greater pain. That's why I want to help you!" Through the power of the healing persona, every punch Han Fei landed on the black knight felt like he hit an iron. He pushed the hope into the black knight.

While the two were locked in a fight, the three players suddenly rushed out from behind. When they saw how determined Han Fei was, they were inspired too. Humans were complicated beings. Sometimes, they feared death so much that they'd do anything; However, other times, they'd sacrifice themselves for the greater good. The three players probably couldn't tell why they did the things they did. They were stunned by Han Fei.

"Avoid the flames! Put the crystal shoes on the princess!" Han Fei tossed the shoes to the tall player. When the black knight moved to block him, Han Fei hugged him. The fire scorched their skins and souls. Han Fei tightened his grasp. "You shouldn't live in the nightmare! No victim should need to suffer like this!"

The black knight's numb eyes started to gain human emotions. He struggled less and less. He had lost faith in others, but Han Fei used his actions to prove that he was willing to suffer to help them. The special power of the healing persona moved the black knight. Han Fei noticed this and immediately let go to charge at the princess!

The three players cooperated with him. Courage was a beautiful thing. They approached from three directions. The princess stared at the tall player with the crystal shoes. The princess moved her hand,

and a fire snake surged toward the tall player. The flame moved so fast that the tall player couldn't even evade it. His eyes were consumed by the flame. "Is it game over for me now?" He had never felt death so closely before. The flame emitted the smell of burnt flesh.

"Move!"

The tall player was knocked aside. He turned around to look. Han Fei was eaten by the giant fire snake!

Han Fei's flesh was gone. The man became a monster in the fire. He was so ugly but noble.

"Grab this chance!"

The other two players rushed to the carriage and pushed the princess down from the pumpkin carriage. The tall player ran like crazy. He put the special crystal shoes on the princess.

The cute stickers and the reflective plastic pieces. This pair of shoes were personally made by the princess. The flame on her body could burn everything in the nightmare but she couldn't touch this cheapest pair of shoes.

After the shoes were put on, the skin around the princess' ankles slowly became normal. However, her ability to control the fire weakened. The giant shadow behind the princess struggled. It ordered the princess to remove the shoes, but the princess started to calm down.

The strong fire and the luxury were not the things the girl wanted. What she wanted was the pair of shoes.

The scarred body slowly recovered. The impressive horses turned into weak stray cats. They shivered and stuck to the princess. The golden pumpkin carriage lost its appearance. It became an old orange garbage truck. A small seat was fixed on it. Whenever the princess gave up something in the nightmare, the shadow behind her would weaken. When the princess lost everything and became a normal girl, the absurd street reverted to Peace Street. The black flame extinguished. The shops were empty. Other than the players, only the princess and her knight were left.

The three players relaxed, but when they saw Han Fei, they started to worry again. The wounds on Han Fei didn't recover. He looked like he was on his dying breath.

The heavy armor fell off. The knight dropped his heavy helmet. A wrinkled and aged face was revealed.

"Yes. This is the truth..." The elder moved to the girl and picked her up. He placed her on the garbage truck and looked at her with guilt. "Unfortunately, I'm not a magician who can give her a pumpkin carriage and crystal slippers. I can't give my daughter the life of a princess. I'm a useless father."

The girl hugged the elder's arm and refused to let go.

"The nightmare is disappearing. I have no reason to trap you here anymore. In the future, you have to eat on time." The elder kept repeating the same things to the girl. He was not used to expressing his emotions. The edge of the dream collapsed. After the elder said goodbye, he knelt beside Han Fei. "I wish to use three secrets to trade you for a promise."

The elder stared into Han Fei's eyes and continued. "My daughter is still alive. Her name is Bai Guoguo. I hope you can look for her after you leave the nightmare. I won't be able to draw her into the nightmare to look after her anymore. She'll only have herself in the world in the future.

"I'll tell you more secrets so that you can survive longer." The elder said quickly. "You don't need to avenge us. The culprits are dead, and I am the killer."

Han Fei couldn't speak, but his brain worked fine. He memorized everything the elder said.

"I became how they wanted me to be. I lived in fear and nightmare until the voice brought me here." The elder reminisced. "All the nightmares here are once the experience of someone alive. The nightmare pieces of different sizes completed a full dream. The voice that brought me here existed deep inside the nightmare."

After a moment's hesitation, the elder took out the picture of his daughter from his pocket. The girl in the picture was very cute. She had a cute and innocent smile.

"The voice has been collecting our nightmares to make this." The elder shoved the picture into Han Fei's hands. Strangely enough, the moment the picture left the elder's hands, it shrunk to become a square piece the size of one's fingernail. One side was black, and the other side was white.

The back of his head pounded. The black box resonated with this. This piece appeared to be the material that was used to construct the black box.

"The voice has been looking for people that match its requirement to make this thing. It represents the focus of my life. In other words, my life is in this small piece." The elder looked at Han Fei. "I gave it to you. Hopefully, it'll be helpful to you in the future."

A person's life morphed into a nightmare, and in the end, it was condensed into a small piece. Han Fei couldn't help but wonder if the black box in his brain was made through this matter too.

Every black box owner had experienced something horrible.

Han Fei had more to say, but he was too heavily injured.

"The nightmare will get scarier the deeper you get. You have to be careful of the voice. It will appear when you least expect it. When you realize it's there, it'll be too late." The elder and the princess disappeared. Peace Street surged towards Han Fei. The ghost tattoo ate everything.

The game with Dream started on the sixth layer.

Han Fei's ghost tattoo covered all the grey mist. After consuming the sixth layer, the ghost tattoo changed tremendously. Dream's limitation on the tattoo lowered. The next time he entered the nightmare, Han Fei could try to summon the ghosts inside the ghost tattoo.

The burnt wound disappeared. Han Fei looked around. There was only him and the three players there. There was no fifth player.

"The player who chose to side with Dream didn't come out with us!" Han Fei narrowed his eyes. If not for the interference of the fifth player, the nightmare wouldn't have gotten so dangerous. "Did the player die inside the nightmare? Or Dream gave them another exit?"

Han Fei was extremely curious about this. He felt like he needed to summon Shen Luo.

"Han Fei, thank you for saving us!" The three players were excited. The tall player thought he was definitely dead, but Han Fei knocked him away and saved his life.

"There's no need for thanks. You've helped me greatly too." Han Fei smiled and nodded. His politeness and charm won over the players. In the future, they wanted to be someone like Han Fei. They would enter the nightmare to help the other players.

They were players from an unknown guild, but Han Fei had planted a seed in their hearts. Perhaps in the future, the seeds would grow to become trees that could shield others.

After some quick exchanges, Han Fei left the hospital. He immediately contacted Bai Xian and Jin Jun. He gathered his friends to lock down the hospital. He had to capture the fifth player who had turned their back on humanity!

#### Chapter 960: Only Player Can Leave

Before Perfect Life restarted, Huang Yin used Han Fei's spirit-farer talent to move all the items he had during Closed Beta into the cryptic world. Therefore, he was much ahead compared to other players.

With that advantage, Huang Yin became the first player in the game and cultivated many top players in the Happiness Neighborhood. Now, all the players were trapped in the main hub. Bai Xian and Jin Jun heard the anger in Han Fei's message. They decided to use this power in storage. The extra members of Happiness Neighborhood hurried towards the hospital. They jotted down every player who left and entered the hospital.

"I'll leave this to the normal players. I have more important things to do." Han Fei came to the central pavilion. He shared the guide for the sixth layer and wandered around the main hub, trying to trigger a mission. He circled around for a long time, but there was no mission. "Where's the problem? I can only trigger the mission in the cryptic world?!" Han Fei wandered for around an hour and finally triggered his first mission in the surface world around a cemetery. This was an extremely rare hidden mission. It was

the mission for the hidden profession, the medium. It required Han Fei to build a grave for himself at the cemetery. Han Fei couldn't explain why the mission was so strange. It appeared like the system would only give him such missions.

"There are hidden missions everywhere in the cryptic world. It sure is hard in the surface world!" Han Fei built the grave and completed the first step. The other players were watching Han Fei. They believed that this meant that Han Fei was ready to die.

Seeing the exit button that lit up, Han Fei licked his dry lips. "I can trigger the mission related to the cryptic world in the surface world. However, it's rare to find missions like that. Plus, the reward is low too." Han Fei returned to Happiness Neighborhood's base. He entered his room and locked the door. "I've gained a basic understanding of the main hub. I should leave to communicate with Deep Space Tech and Xin Lu Police."

Han Fei hit the exit button. Blood boiled. This was Han Fei's first time quitting the game from the surface world. The whole process was strange. The time it took for him to leave the game was also longer than normal.

"When I left from the cryptic world, the blood dropped down from above; When I left from the surface world, the blood surfaced from the ground." The blood took about ten times more time to cover the whole city. Han Fei also felt great danger during that moment. There was a voice looking for him!

Han Fei's consciousness faded away. His eyes scanned through the grey. He saw the eleven altars in the main hub. The grey mist connected to form a giant grey cocoon. Its size was at least ten times larger than the one underneath Ziggurat. It covered half of the main hub!

Endless souls cried inside the altars. Whenever dream fragments collided, the grey cocoon grew. Dream didn't give the players much time to escape.

"If the souls of all 4000000 players were controlled by Dream, what kind of monster would this cocoon birth? Another first-generation ghost?" In Han Fei's mind, the first-generation ghost wasn't this scary. It was only the size of a theme park. "It feels like there's something inside the cocoon looking at me."

Han Fei removed the gaming helmet. He successfully returned to real life.

"I need to be careful of Dream."

Han Fei climbed out of the gaming hub and contacted Huang Yin. As Perfect Life's first player, Huang Yin had already been invited to Deep Space Tech. Tomorrow morning, he'd be sent into the game with 99 internal players. After communicating with Huang Yin, Han Fei called Xin Lu Police. He hoped that the police could convince Deep Space Tech to give him a spot.

With the police's aid, there shouldn't be much problem. Then, Han Fei looked up Peace Street and Bai Guoguo. Two fires had occurred at Peace Street. One happened at the trash shed on the western side, and the other happened at the private club at the eastern end.

The limping cleaner and his daughter stayed at the trash shed. When the fire happened, the girl was tied at home. Her body was burned. She underwent many surgeries before she was saved, but her life was basically over.

The fire at the private club happened after midnight. The manager of Peace Street, his two sons, and the cleaner died in the fire. Both fires happened 30 years ago. Han Fei wasn't even born back then.

"Have many nightmares Dream has collected over the decades? It still can't create a new black box?"

Han Fei used many methods and finally confirmed Bai Guoguo's location. She owed a lot of hospital bills and was taken in by a charity. Han Fei took a taxi to the charity center. He was a celebrity, so he was recognized at the center immediately. Han Fei was led by the most senior worker to the most secluded corner of the center. The door opened, and a middle-aged woman with a ruined face and body lay on the bed.

"She is Bai Guoguo."

The princess in the nightmare was a crazy woman who couldn't age in real life. Her body was ruined by the fire.

"She was sent here many years ago. The director took her in out of pity. Back then, the doctor said that her brain was severely traumatized. Even if she survived the damage of the fire, her mind was gone, and she wouldn't live for long." The worker had a deep impression of Bai Guoguo. "No one expected her to



survive so long. It feels like she doesn't even know her adopted father has died in the fire. She was happy as if her adopted father hadn't left her."

"Her father has been accompanying her. In the dream, she is always her father's little princess." Han Fei entered the room. The sleeping Bai Guoguo had tears on her face, and the pillow was wet.

"This is strange. She always smiles when she's asleep. This is the first time I see her crying at night." The worker followed him into the room.

The footsteps startled Bai Guoguo. She curled up in the corner. Her eyes filled with panic.

"We've met in the nightmare. Your father told me to look after you..." Once Han Fei said that, Bai Guoguo lost her mind. She knocked her head into the wall like she wanted to escape from this life into the dream.

"Quick! Detain her!" There hadn't been any problem for the past 30 years. Bai Guoguo suddenly lost control. It was like she had lost the will to live. Her face was covered in blood.

"I'm sorry." Han Fei hugged Bai Guoguo and allowed her to attack him. He didn't resist, but his eyes dimmed with sadness. Only Han Fei knew why Bai Guoguo had suddenly gone insane. Her only family had left her permanently. Han Fei and the worker sent Bai Guoguo to the First People Hospital's psychiatrist ward.

Han Fei signed on the spot for the guardian and paid all the fees. He waited outside Bai Guoguo's room. After a whole three hours, Bai Guoguo finally calmed down. There was no smile on her face.

"Are you her guardian?" The doctor was startled when he came out of the room. "Han Fei?"

"Yes. I'm her guardian now." Han Fei said. "How is her condition?"

"Very bad. Actually, we have had more patients like her in recent years. We still haven't figured out the pathology and everyone has different symptoms. However, all the patients have mutations in their

brains." The doctor showed the x-ray of Bai Guoguo's brain. He connected the mutations in the brain. "Look. Does this not look like a butterfly?"

"Buttterfly?" Han Fei had seen similar images in the scans of other criminals.

"We call this the Butterfly Syndrome. We've been doing plenty of research on it." The doctor put the scans aside. "This sickness affects not only the patients but also society. As the intelligent city gets better, the supercomputer can detect a person's criminal potential to tag them prematurely. However, patients with Butterfly Syndrome can escape from the computer's detection. No one can ascertain their real thoughts. The mutations in their brain ensure that their hearts are hidden from the supercomputer."

"Are there more patients like this in recent years?"

"Yes." The doctor said seriously. "We have several new patients every week at this hospital. There are patients ranging from children to elders. The patients are not connected to one another, and their families have no mental history..."

Han Fei was silent after hearing that.

These patients could be Dream's targets. Their lives might turn out like that cleaner and become a small fragment.

"Perhaps I can help them in real life to prevent the tragedy from happening." Han Fei talked for a long time with the doctor. Han Fei asked the doctor and nurse to look after Bai Guoguo. He sent the info he had on Butterfly Syndrome to Li Xue's superior. He hoped that the patients' lives could be changed so that they wouldn't be consumed by despair.

The police were extremely busy. Even though Li Xue's superior trusted Han Fei, he was unwilling to send out people to look after these crazy people.

Han Fei viewed these patients seriously. He believed that once these patients were saved in real life, the nightmare would be less powerful in the game!

Han Fei contacted Du Jing. Immortal Pharma had many brain experts because they had been doing internal experiments on brain surgery and immortality. To help atone for the company's sin, Du Jing constructed 27 treatment groups. They entered various hospitals to help patients with Butterfly Syndrome. The police had to deal with the three organizations; Deep Space Tech had to deal with the hackers and help the police rescue the trapped players; Immortal Pharma became free because Gao Xing had died.

Fu Tian's children were investigated by the police. Du Jing came out to take over the situation. She weakened Dream by treating the patients. There was one thing that surprised Han Fei. Du Jing was already paving Han Fei's way to enter Immortal Pharma. The treatment group was built using Han Fei's name. The company's new goal was to heal and help everyone.

Han Fei did everything he could.

After the day darkened, Han Fei and Huang Yin came to Shen Luo's home. The police notified Deep Space Tech. Deep Space Tech gave Shen Luo a spot to enter the game too.

"Xiao Shen, do you feel better?" Han Fei placed the fruit basket beside the bed. He was filled with 'worry'.

"There's pain everywhere but thank you for saving me. I feel like you've saved me many times already. Can you give me a chance to repay you? How about I help you with the stocks?" Shen Luo said weakly. His body was wrapped in bandages. "That's fine, but I do need your help. There's a small problem with Perfect Life. We need you to log into the game to help." Han Fei was quite embarrassed, but thankfully, Shen Luo volunteered his help.

"No problem. I've been meaning to enter the game to loosen the pain in my body." Shen Luo was very happy. "I was afraid the doctor won't let me."

When Perfect Life had a problem, Shen Luo was sacrificed by Gao Xing. When the police arrived, Shen Luo lost consciousness due to blood loss.

"Think about it carefully." Huang Yin was impressed by Shen Luo's determination. He held a special gaming helmet. This helmet had a number. It was made by Deep Space Tech. One could log into the game at any time.

"Xin Lu is lucky to have heroes like you." Han Fei gave Shen Luo a thumbs up. "When you enter the game, we'll gather before Absolute Truth's base at the main hub."

"Absolute Truth?" Shen Luo remembered that Huang Yin came from another guild, but he only nodded.

"Okay. Call the doctor." Han Fei waved outside. "Shen Luo is a special case. He won't enter the game with the other players. I have a special mission for him." Han Fei was scared that Shen Luo might curse Huang Yin and the internal players of Deep Space Tech, so he kindly had Shen Luo enter the game before everyone else.

The doctor removed the bandage around Shen Luo's head. He carefully put the helmet on Shen Luo.

Seeing the pity and admiration in the doctor's eyes, Shen Luo moved his neck with difficulty. He asked Han Fei, "You said there's a small problem with the game. What is it?"

"It's not anything serious." Han Fei connected the last wire. "After you log into the game, you can't quit."

"Ah?"

The helmet was activated. Han Fei and Huang Yin couldn't hear what Shen Luo said.

"Shen Luo was first turned into a sacrifice by the three organizations and was almost decapitated by Gao Xing. Now that Perfect Life is in danger, he willingly enters the game. He might be unlucky, but he is a man of justice." Han Fei opened the fruit basket. He took out the apples for him and Huang Yin. "Fruits can't be placed for long. Don't waste them."