

Iyashikei 961

Chapter 961: Exorcism

Huang Yin took a bite of the apple and realized Han Fei planned to have Shen Luo stay in the game for a long time.

“This is the first time I’ve eaten from the fruit basket I brought to the hospital.”

“Shen Luo wouldn’t mind. I didn’t say anything when he drank the coffee someone brought for me.” Han Fei thought back to the things that had happened in the plastic surgery hospital. “So many things have changed since then.”

After ensuring the wires were fine, Han Fei left the hospital. He hurried home and logged into the game. He walked out from the Happiness Neighborhood base. With all the players watching, Han Fei came to the base of Absolute Truth. The players were confused. Why would the vice president of Happiness Neighborhood come to Absolute Truth’s base? Was there something between the two guilds?

“Han Fei!” The inconspicuous Shen Luo stood at the door. He ran over when he saw Han Fei. “Why come I quit the game anymore? The atmosphere in the game feels so different than before. Everyone is so nervous and looks at me with this scary gaze.”

“You’re very gifted. No matter how hard you try to hide, eventually, you’ll be held up to the pedestal.” Han Fei shared a general update about the game with Shen Luo as he led him to the altar further from the base of Happiness Neighborhood. “I need you to do something dangerous, but only you can do this.”

Shen Luo was nervous. “What is it?”

“Whenever you clear the fourth layer of the nightmare, the fifth layer will give you a choice. There are two beds, one normal and the other haunted.” Han Fei raised two fingers.

“Don’t worry. I will choose the ghost bed.” Shen Luo promised.

“No. I need you to choose the normal bed. You only need to lie on the bed. After you make a choice, tell me everything you see and hear.” Han Fei shared his thoughts.

“Are you sure?” Shen Luo scratched his head. “Is that a good thing? I also want to help.”

“The thing you’ll do will be more valuable than the rest of the players. I hope you remember that you are special. You are the best present fate has given Dream.” Han Fei led Shen Luo to a grey building. This was a mall.

“You’re making me embarrassed.” Shen Luo shook his head. “It’s rare for people to praise me. Many people think I’m unlucky and don’t like to play with me.”

“But this time, you’ll be the hero.” Han Fei was telling the truth. He opened the door for Shen Luo. “I’ve already added you as friends in the game. When you leave the altar, you can contact me directly.”

“Okay. I will not let you down.” Shen Luo walked into the mist. Han Fei was about to leave when a hand reached out to grab Han Fei’s shoulder. Han Fei was about to attack when he saw that it was Shen Luo. “Why did you come out again?”

“You said that the choice will be available at the fifth layer. What if I can’t survive the first four layers?” Half of Shen Luo’s body was in the mist. He hadn’t cleared any layer, but the butterfly tattoo was already showing on his body.

“Trust yourself. You can do this.” Han Fei put away Rest in Peace, pushed Shen Luo back, and closed the door.

Han Fei returned to the hospital. He communicated with the spare members of Happiness Neighborhood. They handed Han Fei a list that included all the players that left the hospital altar. The list was long.

“Thank you for the hard work. Go back first. Leave the rest to me.” As more players explored the nightmare, more players would side with Dream. This was inevitable. However, Shen Luo’s appearance relaxed Han Fei slightly. Soon, he’d know what kind of power Dream would give these people who worked for him.

Han Fei's neighbors were still in the nightmare. He didn't want to lag behind, so Han Fei entered the hospital alone. When Han Fei was almost through the hospital lobby, vertigo came.

"30? This nightmare requires that many players?!"

Han Fei opened his eyes and heard the discussions around him. He looked around and saw thirty players gathered in a garden.

"Doesn't a normal nightmare require only five players?"

"Is this a high-difficulty nightmare? What is your max level clearance? Damn it. Have I been dragged into the nightmare of a high-level player?"

"Everyone, calm down! The three of us are from Absolute Truth. We've just cleared the fifth layer so this should be the sixth layer!" The players from Absolute Truth said. Even if they might be scolded, the players had to stick together. Honestly, they were scared too. They hadn't been in a nightmare where 30 players were needed. "Don't panic! We need to explain our level and talent as soon as possible so we can cooperate with each other!" The three players from Absolute Truth did so.

The fatty was called Red Meat. He was Level 36. His talent was tank-related. His profession was Big Eater. He was Absolute Truth's elite player. The female player next to him was called Xia Bing. At level 39, she was the player with the highest level there. Her talent was Living Dead. She said she was a nurse and didn't elaborate further. The bespectacled male player next to Red Meat was called Donated to Tragedy. He was sunny. Even though he was only level 30, he had a rare supernatural talent, Ghost Words.

Absolute Truth was a top 10 guild. Their team had one player with supernatural talent and two top players.

The other players started to introduce themselves too. Eventually, everyone's eyes focused on Han Fei. Everyone had recognized him.

"Look! Happiness Neighborhood's Han Fei is here too!"

“Yes! I’ve seen him on the video!”

Han Fei couldn’t hide anymore. He walked out. “I have one good news and one bad news.”

“Tell us. We’re ready.”

“The bad news is we’re in the seventh layer of the nightmare. This place is very dangerous. If you’re careless, you might stay here forever. Therefore, I hope you’ll listen to orders and don’t do anything suspicious.” Han Fei smiled.

“S-seventh layer? I just cleared the second layer. Why am I here?”

“I’m done for! My profession is a fisherman. I was just curious! There’s no river here. If I’m trapped here, I’d rather die!”

“Shush!” Xia Bing said and stared at Han Fei. “What is the good news?”

“The good news is that you’ve run into me. You should have seen my video at the pavilion. Everyone who has joined me in the nightmare has survived... other than those who have chosen to side with Dream.” Han Fei said so to calm the people. Actually, he knew the difficulty of the seventh layer. Earlier, Wu Chang was forced to use his black flame on this layer and was discovered by the altar. Even though Wu Chang powered through the level, it meant that the ghosts on this layer were as strong as Pure Hatreds. The players had no chance if they challenged them head-on.

“Bang!”

The players didn’t have much time as a loud sound came from a building at the end of the garden. A middle-aged man appeared at the door. He wore a fake branded suit and red threads knotted around his wrists. A jade pendant with a Buddha hung around his chest.

“So many people came?! Have you all seen the SOS message I sent online?” The man took out a thick envelope from his pocket. “The situation is as I’ve said on the internet. It appears like my son is cursed. There’s a ghost trying to harm him! If any of you can exorcise the ghost, this money is yours.”

“Exorcism?” Most players didn’t have this experience.

“This area is haunted. I can tell you for certain that there’s a ghost around here. I can’t kill them. I hope you can chase them away so they wouldn’t harm my kid anymore.” The middle-aged man said helplessly. It showed that he loved his kid dearly. “This is my card. If you have any progress, you can contact me.” The man then entered the crowd and passed out his cards. His name was Yao Qiang. He graduated from a popular university but hadn’t had a great life. Even though he was close to 40, he was just a small fry at a big company.

“You said that your child is cursed. Can you bring me to take a look at your son?” Han Fei had a feeling that this nightmare wasn’t that simple.

“Of course, but my child is afraid of strangers. Can you send only a few representatives with me?” Yao Qiang hadn’t finished, but the phone in his pocket vibrated. Yao Qiang glanced at the caller ID and accepted the call with a frown. “I’m not in the mood to argue with you. We’ll talk about this later!”

Han Fei narrowed his eyes when the man picked up his phone. The name of the caller on this phone was Qian.

After a brief discussion, the players chose five people to follow Yao Qiang. Han Fei was one of them. They walked past the garden and stopped before the three-story building. Yao Qiang took out a copper basin. He only allowed the players to enter the house after they washed their hands in the basin. The building looked luxurious from the outside, but the interior was aged and dusty.

“I rented this villa last year. In the past, my family lived in the city, but due to the issue with the kid, we ran to the countryside, but we still couldn’t avoid the ghosts!” Yao Qiang looked tired.

“Normally, the livelier the place, the lesser the chance of ghost appearances. Why would you come to the countryside to run away from the ghosts?” Han Fei questioned.

“No. Ghosts like the cities the most! It’s cleaner in the countryside.” Yao Qiang rebutted. He seemed to have his own system of understanding.

Han Fei didn't say anything else. They followed Yao Qiang up the stairs.

The first floor was the most normal. The second floor was damp and dark. The third floor didn't look like it was meant for humans. Various talismans covered the door frames. Yellow dirt and salt scattered the ground. Red threads hung on the door, and copper bells were tied to them.

Yao Qiang pushed open the door, and the bells jingled. The talismans fluttered to the ground. Yao Qiang didn't allow the players to enter the room. He only stood at the door and pointed.

The room was oppressive. The windows were sealed up and covered in talismans. Various trophies decorated the wall on the left, and a lot of homework stood in the corner of the room. There was nothing related to entertainment in the room. There was only a study table and a bed.

"He has to study even though he's possessed?!" All the players were confused.

Hearing the sound, the bed moved, and a pale face poked out.

"Son, don't be scared. Dad has found some exorcists for you. Soon, you'll return to normal!" Yao Qiang tried to console his son, but his son didn't seem to understand him. His expression was dull, like his soul was lost. "In the past, my son, Yao Yuan, is such a good student. He is only like this because of the ghosts! You have to help me chase the ghosts away!"

Yao Qiang didn't have a perfect life, so he placed his hope on his son. Han Fei could understand that, but Han Fei felt that the man had gone too extreme.

"Can we enter the room?" Before Yao Qiang could reject him, Han Fei had already entered the room.

Yao Yuan immediately hid under the bed. He didn't want to see anyone.

Han Fei immediately felt a chill when he lifted the sheet. He tried to extend his hand to the child. "Don't worry. We're here to help you." Han Fei had encountered all kinds of ghosts, but he still needed to communicate with Yao Yuan to know what kind of ghost was at work.

“You’re scaring him!” Yao Qiang grabbed Han Fei’s shoulders, but he couldn’t move him. “Get out!”

“Dirty things like to hide under the bed. If he keeps hiding under the bed, he’ll only attract more ghosts.” Han Fei held the frame and lifted the bed. The light shone under the bed. The boy crawled to the corner and curled up. His face was pale, and he kept mumbling that someone would die.

“Look. He was so weak earlier, but now, he could crawl so fast.” Han Fei patted Yao Qiang’s shoulders and smiled. “Don’t worry. I’ll catch that ghost for you. No matter where he’s hiding, I’ll destroy him.”

Chapter 962: Ghost Stories

The kids refused to communicate, and the father was hiding something. This case was not simple.

“I’ll bring you to familiarize yourself with the surroundings first. I’ve marked out all the places where ghosts have been seen.” Yao Qiang chased Han Fei out of the third floor and closed the door. “It’s now 10.30 pm. My son will be possessed at midnight. You better find the ghost before midnight.”

“The mission time is one and a half hours.” Han Fei nodded. “That’s good enough time.”

“I’ll bring you to take a look around first. The ghost has once appeared in the nearby few areas!” Yao Qiang moved to the second floor and knocked on the closed door. “Honey, the exorcists and I will go out for a moment. If you need anything, call me.”

A shrill voice came out of the bedroom. “I know. Be careful.”

They returned to the first floor. Yao Qiang pointed at the television in the living room. The television looked old, and it was covered in talismans.

“The ghost first appeared on television. It hid among harmless cartoons, luring my son to get close to it! It wanted to steal my son’s soul!” Yao Qiang said nervously as if the television was something extremely scary. Then, Yao Qiang searched under the couch and pulled out a sealed wooden box. He chanted something and carefully pulled back the talismans. He placed the box before the players. “This is where the ghost likes to stay!”

The inner walls of the box were slathered with the dog's blood. Inside the box was a broken phone.

"My son used to attend school in the city. The teacher would use the phone to give homework, so I bought one for my son. But the ghost was hiding inside it! I saw the ghost inside the phone with my eyes. It wanted to drag my son into the phone!"

The player was surprised to see a broken phone inside the box. They believed that ghosts could attack people through electronic devices. Yao Qiang closed the lid and chanted some spells. He pasted the talismans back and finally stood up.

"Come. I'll lead you outside! There are ghosts around here too!" Yao Qiang led the players out of the villa. They left the garden and came to the village outside. Compared to Peace Street, this nightmare was bigger and stranger.

"The ghosts are very good at playing with people's emotions. The exorcists I hired in the past have fallen for their tricks. You need to be careful." Yao Qiang was certain that ghosts were real.

"Be careful of the building on the left." Yao Qiang looked at his left neighbor. "A strange old lady stays in the old house. She likes to keep cats, but her cats are all abnormal. They will turn into something else at night?"

"What can cats turn into?" Some of the players were curious. The player called Donated to Tragedy asked, "Will they turn into catwoman?"

"I have no idea what you're talking about, but if you see what I saw, you wouldn't be joking." Yao Qiang continued to walk forward. There was a bookstore and a supermarket at the end of the street. They looked normal. However, Yao Qiang acted like he was at war. "You have to pay attention to these two buildings. They are built on top of graves! One time, when I was shopping at the bookstore for my son, I noticed the bookshelves bleeding! It's true! Broken arms and laughing heads reach out of the books!"

A rubber ball fell from a high slope. It stopped before Yao Qiang. His face paled even more. "Did I say too much? Why would the ghost children appear earlier than normal?"

"What are ghost children?"

“They are a group of zombies. They are controlled by some kind of power. Once you’re captured, you’ll be dragged into graves!” The village was filled with danger, according to Yao Qiang.

“You have to be careful of the abandoned field outside the village too. I hear that there are human-faced wolves there. They will carry the kids into the well and feed them to the monsters inside the well.

“The streetlight on the northern side of the village is broken. There’s ghost fire there. The elders there have rigor mortis spots, and they emit this horrible smell.

“Also, the pond on the western side. You can’t see the bottom of the murky pond, but you’ll see human shadows underwater at night.”

Yao Qiang told many scary stories. It scared the players, but Han Fei was curious. Yao Qiang sounded like he was telling warning stories to scare children. Parents would say there were monsters in the mountain because there were monsters there. Most of the players didn’t consider this. They were too scared. They stuck together and started to form little groups.

Yao Qiang didn’t look like he was purposely trying to scare the players. He sincerely wanted to complete the exorcism to help his son. Perhaps the man had some secrets, but it was certain that he cared about his son.

The seventh layer was huge. Yao Qiang led the players halfway through the village when his phone rang. He walked to the corner to answer the phone in private.

“The person who called him should be called Qian. They probably have a complicated relationship.” A female player about 50, walked to Han Fei’s side. “My name is Shi Hua. I’m a retired high school teacher. I’m Level 21, and my talent is called Invigilator. I can see things people would miss.”

“Thank you, Teacher Shi.” Han Fei was always cautious regarding sudden kindness. “You look so young. How have you retired already?”

“I couldn’t teach after I lost my daughter. I didn’t know how to face the kids. After that, I was ‘asked’ to retire.” Shi Hua had a presence that was regal but not off-putting.

“I’m sorry.”

“It’s fine. That was a long time ago.” Shi Hua didn’t mind. “I once placed all my hope in my daughter, so I have a special feeling once I entered this nightmare.” She hesitated and then added, “Perhaps the ghost is not outside the house but inside the house.”

Shi Hua had more to say, but the three from Absolute Truth came over and interrupted her. “Han Fei, how shall we split up the group? Yao Qiang said that his son would be possessed at midnight. We have about one hour left. This nightmare is rather large. We need to split up.”

“Ghosts might not be ghosts, and humans might not be humans. All the ghost stories we heard came from Yao Qiang, but what if the ghost was Yao Qiang?” Han Fei looked at the separated groups. “My suggestion is for the three of you to stay behind with the other players to keep an eye on Yao Qiang. Leave the outside exploration to me.”

“How can you handle all the ghosts on your own?” Red Meat didn’t mean anything bad. He was just careful.

“Alright. I’ll be direct.” Han Fei looked at the three players. “You are too weak. Before Yao Yuan acts up, the villa is safe. I just want to protect you.”

“We’re all players, and your level is just slightly higher than ours. Can you really take on thirty enemies on your own?” Red Meat believed Han Fei was over-exaggerating. Absolute Truth and Happiness Neighborhood were both Top 10 guilds. There would be a difference, but it wouldn’t be huge.

“Thirty enemies? You underestimate me.” Han Fei didn’t argue. He turned to Shi Hua. “Teacher Shi, I agree with you. I’ll need your help to stay at the villa. If possible, try to get close to Yao Yuan’s mother. I think there’s some issue with her too.”

“Okay.” Shi Hua didn’t stay in the village. She immediately moved back to the villa. Han Fei moved away from the players and operated on his own. He moved to Yao Qiang’s neighbour's house. The wooden door wasn’t locked. Han Fei knocked on the door. The door slowly swung back, and a white cat popped its head out.

“You’re cute.” Han Fei picked up the white cat. The cat didn’t struggle. It was very kind of humans. “I hear you’ll turn into something else?”

Han Fei entered the house and noticed there were many vegetables planted in the garden. There were cats fighting among the patch.

“Is someone there?”

Coughs came out from inside the house. The fighting cats immediately ran towards the house and knelt obediently outside the door. It was like they were waiting for Han Fei to enter the house.

“This place feels like a cat-themed homestay. It’s much warmer than Yao Qiang’s house.”

He opened the door, and silver cat fur flew in the air. Instantly, Han Fei sensed something was wrong. A rotten smell lingered in the room. The coughing became more consistent, but it didn’t sound like humans, but something was mimicking humans.

“There are so many furs in this house. Are they keeping cats or puppets?”

Han Fei opened the doors as he ventured deeper into the house. The smell of rot increased. When he pushed open the last door, the coughing turned into shrill cat hissing. A wrinkled face covered in cat fur appeared before Han Fei. Seeing the pair of aged eyes that mirrored a cat’s, Han Fei didn’t do anything. A slightly uneven scale appeared in his left eye.

“Sorry for disturbing you.”

A lanky arm reached out from underneath the loose smock. The nails were unusually sharp as she scratched Han Fei’s neck. Han Fei moved to the side, and five deep gouges appeared on the door behind Han Fei.

If Han Fei didn’t move away, his neck would have been snapped already.

Han Fei shielded his body with his arms. He focused and realized that his attacker was an old lady. Cat fur grew out of her body. Strange patterns appeared on her face and body. She looked scary. However, she looked like she was dying. She'd cough whenever she moved.

"How did you become like this?" Han Fei thought that Yao Qiang was lying, so he didn't expect there to be a real ghost in the house.

The old lady got down on all fours. It felt like her soul had turned into a cat. She was extremely hostile. As a new fight was about to occur, a soft cat meow came out. The dresser opened, and a white cat in dead people's clothes walked out. It jumped between Han Fei and the old lady. The mutated old lady also calmed down when she saw the white cat. She used her head to nudge the white cat. The scene appeared to be in reverse. The old lady was the cat, and the cat was the old lady.

"Have you two switched your souls?" Han Fei encountered this for the first time. He raised his hands in surrender.

The white cat nodded. Its eyes were sharp and clear. They were human eyes!

"Is that true?" Han Fei sat beside the white cat. "You were about to die, but your cats didn't want you to leave, so they exchanged souls with you? They entered your body to die on your behalf, and you stayed behind to accompany the rest of the cats?"

The white cat nodded again. Her eyes were very gentle, like every creature in this world was her kid. Even if she were a ghost, she would never harm anyone.

After communicating with the cat, Han Fei got the gist.

"Yao Qiang didn't lie. There's a supernatural event at his neighbor's place, but he hid important info again. His neighbor's ghost never wanted to harm his child.

"The other places might be haunted too, but those ghosts aren't the reason why his son is like how he is."

Chapter 963: Burning Greed

Han Fei wanted to ask the white cat more questions, but a sudden scream came from the street. He quickly ran out. "What happened?"

A pool of blood was left on the street. Red Meat held his hand and said nervously, "The little ghosts captured Tragedy!"

"The player with the ghost words talent?" Han Fei inspected Red Meat's wounds. "Where did they go?"

"I don't know. We were about to head back to the garden, but we didn't realize the rubber ball had been following us. When a player realized that, both Tragedy and the rubber ball were gone!" Red Meat's face twisted from pain. "We chased after them, but the ghost children started to block us."

"There are so many players. Why did the ghost children take him?" Han Fei looked around and discovered Tragedy's footprints. "Take care of the others. I'll go look." Han Fei followed the trail out of the village.

It was a dead zone outside the window. Strange trees twined together. Bushes were filled with thorns. There were several graves.

"It's not easy for Yao Qiang to find a place like this to move to." Han Fei followed in their footsteps until they disappeared. He just pushed away the bush when he heard the ball bouncing. He turned around and saw several kids in tattered clothes around him. They walked with no sound. A normal person would be shocked, but Han Fei was unfazed. If anything, he could see that the kids were honest people. He touched the head of the kid closest to him. The kid was stunned too. The kid sucked on his snot and raised his dirty face to study Han Fei.

"Do you want me to play with you? I know many games." Han Fei's piped piper talent triggered. The kids didn't dare to answer. They shook their heads hesitantly.

"If you don't want to play with me... Does that mean you want to kill me?" Han Fei ruffled the boy's head gently. The words he said scared the kids, and they shook their heads even faster.

“You don’t want to kill me or play with me. Then, why did you find me?” The kid holding the rubber ball waved at Han Fei. He led Han Fei through the bush. Han Fei found Tragedy fainted on top of an old grave.

“You didn’t kill him? What a considerate group of kids.” After Han Fei praised the kids, he moved to the players. “How could a player with supernatural talents be scared unconscious by ghosts?” Han Fei tapped the man’s face. “Wake up. It’s time to meet Catwoman.”

Tragedy opened his eyes blurrily. Then, he immediately hid behind Han Fei. “Be careful of those children. They’re very strange!”

“I know.” Han Fei carried Tragedy and continued to follow the kids. They eventually stopped before an old well. The mouth was sealed off by wooden boards, and a large rock was placed on top of the wooden boards. The boy gestured beside the well as if hoping Han Fei could move the boards to save the people inside the well.

“The well is sealed for a reason. Don’t be fooled by these ghosts! They want to make use of us. Yao Qiang didn’t lie to us. This village is very haunted!” Tragedy grabbed Han Fei’s arm tightly. He knew that they had to rely on Han Fei to clear the nightmare. “If you really want to open the well, let me do it.”

“Have you considered one question? Yao Qiang cares about his son that much. Why would he move them to a place filled with ghosts?” Han Fei asked, “Yao Qiang said that the city had even more ghosts. He came here to avoid them, but then ghosts started to appear in the village too.”

“What are you trying to say?”

“Simple. The ghosts in the village came because of Yao Qiang and his son. They mutated this village.” Han Fei moved the rock and yanked off the talismans. “These talismans are similar to the ones at Yao Yuan’s home. I believe it was Yao Qiang who sealed off this well.”

Once the mouth opened, a light resentment floated out of the well. Han Fei could hear children crying from inside the well. The other children crowded over nervously and worriedly.

“The well is so dark. Should we go back for a torch?” Tragedy asked.

“Too troublesome.” Han Fei climbed onto the well’s edge. “I’m going down.”

“Don’t!” Tragedy hugged Han Fei. “Are you crazy? What kind of people will jump down a well to check whether it’s haunted or not? Do you want to die?”

“If we wait to go back to get a light, it’ll be too late.” Han Fei pushed Tragedy back and jumped down. Tragedy was befuddled. With his hands on the walls, Han Fei shimmied down. The crying became clearer. Han Fei landed on his feet. He searched in the dark. His fingers touched a robot toy brought over from the city, and then they touched a cold face. “Don’t be scared. I’ll bring you out.”

The crying died down, and then a boy asked weakly. “Why are you telling me that? Shouldn’t you be scared?”

“Who threw you down the well? Yao Qiang said there were human-faced wolves outside the village. Did they do this to you?” Han Fei didn’t feel any fear. The boy was very weak.

“There’s no human-faced wolf. It was Yao Qiang who threw me down here! He said the village children are ghosts, but we didn’t even do anything!” The boy argued, and his resentment grew.

“I also think Yao Qiang is not a good person.” Han Fei finally found a ghost he could communicate with. “Can you tell me how you know him? Why did he seal you here?”

“They moved over from the city. My friends and I saw how lonely his son was, so we decided to ask him to play with us. His son was very introverted. At first, he wouldn’t even say a word. But eventually, he got close to us. We looked after him, and no one bullied him.” The boy grumbled. “Yao Qiang was so mad when he saw his son playing with us. He scolded. Yao Yuan is very scared of his father. He said nothing and left.”

“But why would he throw you into the well?” Han Fei felt there was something else.

“The village is only so big. Whenever we played, Yao Yuan would look at us from his window. He is a sad person. He is like a prisoner. Whenever his father discovered this, he would chase us away and shout at us. Eventually, we also started to hate Yao Yuan. We were scolded because of him.” The resentment

gathered in the boy. "Soon after, Yao Qiang sealed up the windows of Yao Yuan's room. Apparently, it was to make sure that Yao Yuan could focus as he was attending some competition. Yao Qiang even made up rumors that we were children carrying diseases."

"So you weren't ghosts, but because of Yao Qiang's rumors, you became actual ghosts?" Han Fei guessed.

"I don't know about the others because my situation is different." The boy's voice tinged with hatred. "I pitied Yao Yuan, so I would sneak fun stuff for him like rare clovers, hairballs made by kittens, new manga from the bookstore... But one time, I accidentally heard Yao Qiang arguing with someone on the phone. He was scared that someone might hear him at home, so he left and went out of the village."

"You followed him?!"

"I was curious. I heard that Yao Qiang was planning to find a new mother for Yao Yuan. The woman's name was something Qian." At this point, the resentment of the boy reached its climax. "I was discovered by Yao Qiang, and he tossed me into this well."

"It sounds like Yao Qiang is the scariest ghost." Han Fei picked up the boy. "Come. I'll carry you out."

"Wait. All the young men in the village have left the village. Who are you?" The boy was confused. Even though he felt that Han Fei was a good man, his parents did tell him to be careful of strangers.

"Yao Qiang hired me to exorcise ghosts, but now, I feel like he has the biggest problem!" Han Fei tapped the boy's hands. "Hug my neck. I'm going to climb now!"

The small arms grabbed onto Han Fei's shoulders. He didn't know why he trusted this man so much. Han Fei climbed out of the well, and he was surrounded by all the kids. He was really popular.

"Thank you for saving me." The boy was very polite. He slid down Han Fei's back and said. "I don't know whether I'm a ghost or a human now, but if you need any help, you can come to find me."

Han Fei nodded and was about to leave when something loosened in his mind. The greed persona was triggered, and at that moment, greed almost ate the boy up.

"It's not so hard to eat ghosts in the nightmare."

Han Fei quickly carried Tragedy and ran to the bookstore so that he wouldn't scare the kids.

"Brother Han, what's your profession? The ghosts are so kind to you!" Tragedy had supernatural talent, but he felt like he was so much weaker compared to Han Fei.

"I didn't use any power. I merely empathized with them." Han Fei didn't tell the truth. After the greed persona was activated, blood vessels popped inside his eyes. His ambition wanted to consume everything. The boy's words cause the fire to burn in Han Fei's deep abyss. "I can take out three ghosts from each altar world. Can this nightmare be considered a mini altar world?"

Chapter 964: The Ritual

A strange customer arrived at the bookstore in the middle of the village. His eyes were bloodshot like a beast was trapped in his body.

"Han Fei, don't you... need to rest?" Tragedy was dragged by Han Fei to the bookstore. As a player with supernatural talents, he had noticed the problem. When he was close to Han Fei, he could hear the wails of endless ghosts. Han Fei appeared to have killed more people than he had met!

At first, he thought he was mistaken, but as the greed intensified in Han Fei's eyes, he felt like he was staring into the abyss whenever he looked at Han Fei. The scariest thing was his soul felt like it was going to be eaten by Han Fei.

"Rest? Why? I'm perfectly fine." Han Fei came to the shelves where the 'frivolous' books were. In Yao Qiang's eyes, everything unrelated to studying was frivolous. These books were dark and creepy like they hid something dangerous.

"Arms would reach out of the books to drag the readers into the story books. I suspect Yao Qiang said that so that his son would focus on textbooks." Tragedy picked up a random detective novel. Fresh blood splattered his face as a rusted knife fell out of the book. "Damn!"

"Calm down. This is a normal detective novel. You can't say that it's violent because the victim was killed by a knife, right? Plus, isn't blood supposed to be red?" Han Fei took over the book and read through it. "Do you think a child would become a killer in real life after reading a crime novel?"

Tragedy shook his head. "I don't think so..."

"Then, do you think a child's mind would be distorted after seeing his father having an affair?" Han Fei placed the bloody book back on the shelf.

"An unfortunate childhood would indeed affect one's growth." Tragedy seemed to be reminded of his past.

"Some people are too arrogant to notice their mistakes and blame the horrible results on others." Han Fei looked at the books on the shelves. They became ghost stories in Yao Qiang's eyes. "When a person fails to find the reason on oneself, one would blame others. These novels would influence a child, but if he turned out to be a killer, we shouldn't check what he has read but the life he has experienced." Han Fei was like a demon out of the abyss. The shelf trembled, and the books fell. Arms reached out of the books to tear at Han Fei's soul. They wanted to pull him into the book, but they couldn't move Han Fei at all.

"The seventh layer is very special. At this place, desires will turn into ghosts and murder weapons. When the time is up, the real ghosts will consume everyone." Han Fei allowed the hands to pull him. He turned away. "There's a vicious setting in this nightmare. Thirty players entered the nightmare. When the countdown is close to over, people will turn on each other to survive. Survival becomes the biggest nightmare and the scariest ghost."

Tragedy shivered. "The more we want to survive, the scarier the ghost? Then, how much time do we have left?"

"The truth is hidden around the village. If we want to expose Yao Qiang's lies, we need to explore the supernatural events around the village. We mustn't fight them because once we do, we'll align with Yao Qiang's script and prove that these ghosts are dangerous." Han Fei explained the situation. Without him, the players wouldn't clear this village.

"I get it now. That's why you carried the boy out of the well! The boy was Yao Yuan's friend. If we didn't fight the boy, he would help us convince Yao Yuan that his father has been lying to him!" Tragedy said, "I'm shocked to know that this is the way to go around the exorcism."

However, knowing and doing were different. A normal player couldn't do what Han Fei did.

"Leave the exploration of the village to me. Head back to the villa and share my hypothesis with the other players. Tell everyone not to panic." Han Fei was scratched by the hands that clawed out of the books, but he still chatted with Tragedy calmly.

"Don't you need my help?"

"No." Han Fei grabbed one of the hands. "Even God can't shake my conviction." Han Fei used the power of greed. The hand failed to grab Han Fei but was pulled out by Han Fei! "They want to lure me, so I will eat them. That is fair."

Han Fei ignored the stunned Tragedy and headed to the next building. Yao Qiang only showed the players around a small part of the village. There were many places in the village that were unexplored.

Tragedy calmed down after a long time. He hurried back to the villa. As it neared midnight, the atmosphere in the villa darkened. When Tragedy returned, he saw some players wandering in the yard.

"Don't go anywhere else. The real ghost is inside the house." Tragedy whispered to the others so they wouldn't leave the villa to create trouble for Han Fei. The players were shocked to see the player captured by the ghosts return. However, some wondered if Tragedy was disguised by ghosts.

Trust was very important in the nightmare. The players would face many challenges. In the end, the players chose to trust Han Fei and Tragedy and stayed in the village. A small window in the loft was open. The eyes of the person behind the window darkened when they saw the players didn't enter the village to exorcise the ghosts.

"Do not fight the ghosts in the village. Once you do that, they won't help us capture the real ghost." Tragedy entered the villa and found his two teammates. He silently shared everything he had experienced with Han Fei. Hearing the story, even Xia Bing was shocked.

Once the normal players knew the exorcism mission, they started to explore the village. Then, they would encounter the ghosts. However, who could analyze the situation as calmly as Han Fei did?

The seventh layer was Yao Qiang's plan to have the exorcists remove the ghosts from the village for him. However, Han Fei's arrival changed everything.

Yao Qiang returned home at 11.50 pm. When he saw the players in the yard, he was furious. "Did I pay you to clean my yard? Did you not listen to me? The ghosts will possess my kid at midnight! Why are you still here?"

"If you care about your kid that much, why did you leave to answer phone calls when your son needs you the most?" Red Meat said honestly.

"Bunch of charlatans! You're not getting a single cent from me!" Yao Qiang put away his phone. He walked past the players. When he removed his shoes, the temperature suddenly dropped. The chill crawled up the players' spines. The dim lights of the villa flickered. Dark substances leaked out of the corners. They looked like blood.

Yao Qiang's leather shoes creaked on the old wooden floor. When he was on the second floor, Shi Hwa came out of the room. At that moment, the man's face was scary. "What were you doing in my wife's room?"

"I was worried about your wife. After all, wouldn't a mother be worried if their son was haunted?" Shi Hwa ignored Yao Qiang and planned to go down. Yao Qiang suddenly grabbed Shi Hwa. "Don't think you know everything! You have no idea how much I've paid!"

"Let go!" Xia Bing's voice appeared behind Yao Qiang. The other players gathered as well. As the situation was about to go out of control, a strange sound came out from Yao Yuan's room on the third floor. They rushed upstairs. When they pushed open the door, they were stunned.

Blood leaked out of Yao Yuan's face. His body was covered in talismans. With his toes on the ground, he was held up by some invisible power. The bells on the door chimed. The talismans started to bleed. The wind rammed around the wooden boards. The lights flickered. Whenever the house sunk into darkness, a new change would appear.

"Yao Yuan?" Yao Qiang shouted at the door. As he stepped into the room, blood trails appeared on Yao Yuan. Strange patterns ran underneath his skin. Yao Yuan's eyes filled with fear.

"When Yao Qiang entered the room with Han Fei earlier, Yao Yuan was scared of his father and not Han Fei?" Shi Hwa and Xia Bing saw everything. In Yao Yuan's eyes, his father was more horrifying than any ghosts.

"Don't be scared. Dad will save you! You are possessed!" Yao Qiang tried to hug his son, but Yao Yuan struggled madly. He was in extreme pain.

When it was five minutes to midnight, the gate opened. Han Fei walked out of the shadows. Behind him was a whole village of ghosts. Yin energy covered everything. They surrounded the old villa.

"The ritual is starting..."

Chapter 965: Love

"Han Fei? What is he trying to do?!" The players knew that Han Fei had gone to explore the village and knew that he was very strong, but none of them expected him to come back with the whole village of ghosts. The mission was to exorcise ghosts, but Han Fei somehow became the boss of ghosts.

"Move." Han Fei stopped before the villa. "Be it for Yao Qiang or Yao Yuan, this villa is a cage, trapping their lives and souls here. We need to destroy this place to start the ritual."

The bells around the corners of the villa rang non-stop. The mirror on the front door cracked. Yin energy approached the villa from all sides.

Ghost children carried rubber balls and laughed as if they were talking about some games. They ran into the garden and called Yao Yuan's name, asking him to join them.

The neighbor's cats jumped on the garden walls. The white cat in the dead man's clothes looked up at the third floor with worry.

A wet sister walked out of the pond. Her black hair was stuck to her body. She was carrying a cake soaked rotten in the water.

The elders shuffled to the door. They were weak, but they scolded Yao Qiang as they knocked on the door.

More ghosts appeared. Everyone called upon Yao Yuan, wishing to take him away from this house.

If one didn't know the truth, this scene would be very scary. The ghosts were trying to take the kid away.

Yao Yuan, who was trapped on the third floor, heard the voices. His body shook harder. Her eyes rolled upwards. As the voices called for him, Yao Yuan started to answer. He struggled to shake his father loose. He rammed his head against the wall. He didn't stop even if his head was bleeding. This was a typical possession scene. Yao Qiang screamed for help. The players hesitated.

Han Fei was like the antagonist in the horror film, and all the ghosts were his minions; However, Han Fei was also the vice president of Happiness Neighborhood. He wouldn't betray the players. Time ticked by. The nightmare cracked. With Han Fei leading the way, the ghosts tried to enter the old villa. The objects in the house cracked with the accumulation of Yin energy, but the strongest hatred didn't come from outside the house.

"Stop them! These are all ghosts! Can't you see? They want to take away my son and destroy my son!" Yao Qiang shouted.

Shadow spread in the building. Footsteps became more consistent. The ghosts walked on the stairs, and Yao Yuan's reaction became strongest. Before midnight arrived, Yao Yuan finally struggled loose from his father. He wanted to escape from this home and his father!

The small room and the endless studying were Yao Yuan's everything. He ran as fast as he could as the ghosts called for him. However, as his hand touched the door on the third floor, the clock chimed as midnight had arrived. At that moment, Yao Yuan appeared to lose control of his body. His bones cracked, and thin threads pierced through him. He turned from a human into a puppet!

“Why are you leaving? The person who loves you the most is me! Only I treat you with sincerity! Why would you run away from me to the ghosts?” Horrifying voices came from Yao Qiang’s lips. His gaze darkened. His normal body started to change. With each of his steps, a black, sticky substance fell from his body. “Am I harming you by asking you to study? I don’t want you to follow my path. I help you block all the distractions. Am I not a good father? Why can’t you understand me? This is for your own good!”

A black trail followed Yao Qiang. Black patterns grew on his skin. The patterns originated from the thing inside his pocket. All the ugliness came from his pocket. His mutated love for his son was amplified by the thing. “Don’t leave! Only I really love you in this world!”

Yao Qiang reached forward. He was several meters away from Yao Yuan, but whenever he spoke, the threads would pull Yao Yuan closer to him. Under Yao Qiang’s ‘education’, Yao Yuan became a puppet. He didn’t know how to think for himself. His consciousness was silenced by Yao Qiang in the name of love!

Han Fei and the ghosts kicked down the door.

“Yao Qiang, stop dreaming. Even now, you want to lie to your son?” Han Fei resisted the strong presence of Yao Qiang and shouted, “Why is your son cursed? Why did he go crazy? Do you really not know the reason?”

Han Fei looked at Yao Qiang’s pocket. The source of the nightmare came from Yao Qiang’s phone!

“The children who played outside your house, your neighbor, the novels in the bookstores, the kind elders inside the village, they are not the main reason why Yao Yuan is affected! You’re the reason why Yao Yuan is in such pain!”

The door of the bedroom on the second floor opened. A middle-aged woman with a dull face was brought out by Shi Hwa. She was like a puppet who only knew how to repeat the same sentence. The scariest thing was, once the woman left her room, rigor mortis started to set in. It was as if the woman had already died in Yao Yuan’s eyes.

“You’re spouting nonsense! Yao Yuan, don’t listen to him!” Yao Qiang was anxious. “I’m your family! I gave birth to you, so you have to listen to me!”

“Is that why you can take over his life?” Han Fei entered the house. There was still one question that boggled him. What was evil in Yao Yuan’s eyes?

For Yao Qiang, evil was the thing that would affect Yao Yuan’s studies; evil was the kid who found out his secret. If this was his nightmare, then one only had to deal with all the ghosts in the village; but if this was Yao Yuan’s nightmare, what was his evil? Yao Qiang? His mother? Or something else completely?

Han Fei didn’t dare to get too close without Rest in Peace. He stared at Yao Qiang’s pocket and used Cursed Words to help Yao Yuan find himself again.

The other ghosts also tried to summon Yao Yuan. The kid stood between Han Fei and Yao Qiang. His body was pierced by endless blood threads. At that moment, someone’s appearance immediately changed the situation.

Yao Yuan’s mother came to the third floor. She looked extremely scary. However, she smiled after she saw Yao Yuan. She appeared more like a child than Yao Yuan.

“Get out! Get out now!” Yao Qiang shouted at his wife. Shi Hwa walked to the dead woman and supported her. “I found some pictures and clues in the second-floor bedroom. Their family met a car accident when Yao Yuan was still very young. Yao Yuan’s mother hurt her head and went into a coma. When she woke up, she was crazy.” Shi Hwa handed the pictures to Han Fei. “At first, Yao Qiang wasn’t this obsessed. However, when the third party appeared, Yao Qiang planned to abandon Yao Yuan’s mother. I suspect Yao Yuan saw Yao Qiang’s phone and decided to give up on his studies after knowing Yao Qiang was about to abandon his mother.”

“Your guess is too kind.” Han Fei glanced at the picture and looked at Yao Yuan’s mother. “Yao Qiang probably worked together with others to kill Yao Yuan’s mother. Something was discovered by Yao Yuan, and it triggered his madness.”

The discussion between the players entered Yao Qiang and Yao Yuan’s ears. They reacted differently. Yao Yuan started to struggle again. His eyes teared up. Yao Qiang’s face started to twist. The black patterns from his pocket crawled all over his skin.

“I didn’t kill anyone! She was crazy! She fell from the third floor on her own!” Yao Qiang got crazy. He pulled out a rusted knife that he had hidden among the talismans. “All of you are ghosts too! Yes!”

His shirt burst open. The patterns covered his body. The vibrating phone from his pocket fell out. A female voice floated out. The general meaning was that she wouldn't be with Yao Qiang until he lightened the 'burden' he had. She didn't want to take care of a small deadweight and a madwoman.

Hearing the woman's voice, Yao Yuan went fully insane. He started to bleed. Some kind of power tried to tear him apart. He wanted to escape, but in this nightmare, his world was limited to his room.

"Shut up! Shut up!" Fear gathered on Yao Qiang. All the black stuff turned him into a Pure Hatred! The players didn't kill the ghosts in the village, so Yao Qiang only absorbed half of the power in the nightmare. Even so, he was tough to deal with. "Why are all of you against me? I'm doing this for you! I'm doing this for everyone! Why are you forcing me?" Yao Qiang was mad. He swung the blade at Han Fei.

Han Fei stood in front of all the players. If he moved, the players behind him would be injured. Shi Hwa and Yao Yuan's mother would be killed.

"The person forcing you is not others but yourself." Han Fei stood there, and the blood tattoo glowed. He shouted. "Big Sin!" A giant roar echoed. Four appendages reached out from behind Han Fei. The roof was lifted off. Big Sin rammed into Yao Qiang. The house trembled. Yao Qiang lost his humanity, but he still couldn't take down Big Sin.

The phone was cracked. A small black flame glowed in Yao Qiang's heart. If he could use the nightmare as fuel, then he could become a Pure Hatred. Unfortunately, other than him, all the ghosts sided with Han Fei. They even helped Han Fei attack Yao Qiang.

Yao Qiang was forced back by Big Sin. The knife was knocked off. His body was bitten by Big Sin. As his power weakened, Yao Yuan started to find his rationality. The boy was coming back to normal.

The two ghosts fought. The players hid behind Han Fei. No one dared to do anything. Yao Qiang was crazy. Even if he were seriously injured, he wouldn't give up. He wanted to drag everyone down with him. He planned to give up Big Sin and turned to attack the players. But at that moment, a rusted knife pierced into his heart from behind!

With disbelief, Yao Qiang turned around. Yao Yuan grabbed the knife with both hands and mumbled under his breath.

“You killed me?!” Yao Qiang looked at his son. As his life disappeared, so did something else.

The clock stopped moving. Yao Qiang finally reacted. He reached behind him, but he couldn’t reach his son anymore. “You are so much like your mother...”

Big Sin snapped Yao Qiang’s neck. Resentment spread, and the edge of the nightmare started to collapse. Once Yao Qiang died, the mother lost her life and turned into a doll.

The third floor only had Yao Yuan left. He held the cursed blade and looked at the talismans in his room.

Shi Hwa picked up the doll, walked to Yao Yuan’s side, and hugged him.

“When he was small, your father was very poor. He was poor, sensitive, and had low self-esteem. He studied very hard and graduated from a good university, but hard work couldn’t change everything. After many failures, he became unhinged. When he got a son in his old age, he named him Yao Yuan so that he would go the distance. But he would never expect that... the biggest distance became the one between him and his son.”

Yao Yuan looked up at Shi Hwa. He thought she looked familiar, but the nightmare was over. Everything rushed towards Han Fei. Yao Yuan hugged the doll and said nothing.

Han Fei summoned Big Sin back. At the last moment, he walked to Shi Hwa and Yao Yuan. “Do you two know each other?”

“My full name is Yao Shi Hwa. My elder brother’s name is Yao Qiang. He only wanted the best for his son, but his son later killed him. His son even joined some killer’s chat group and became a fugitive.”

Butterfly tattoos covered Yao Yuan’s body, and then the boy disappeared with the nightmare.

Chapter 966: Comedy Actor

Yao Shi Hwa appeared to be Yao Yuan's aunt in real life. She knew that in real life, Yao Yuan killed his father and ended up joining the killer's chatgroup. Perhaps most of the nightmares were experiences of the members of the three organizations. They were white paper dyed red by blood and turned black by despair. They were materials for Dream. Dream had never treated them as humans.

Yao Yuan's nightmare collapsed. His life eventually turned into a black-and-white piece. This piece was slightly larger than the cleaner's because it contained deeper despair. Han Fei picked it up. The piece contained all the traces of the nightmare. Darkness covered everything. Han Fei successfully led all the players to clear the seventh layer. The figures around him disappeared, but a few seconds later, Han Fei noticed something was wrong!

Previously, when the nightmare disappeared, he would return to the hospital. However, this time, Han Fei was still covered by darkness!

He saw a crazy world. Various nightmares were squeezed together like bubbles. Moments later, the bubbles popped. Crazy dream demons crawled out to attack Han Fei.

"Is it because I've triggered the ghost tattoo in the nightmare, or I've used power beyond the one allowed by the nightmare?" The nightmare didn't kick Han Fei out but instead planned to drag him someplace else. Butterfly tattoos tried to attach themselves to Han Fei's skin, but Mad Laughter's tattoo was too strong. The darkness around Han Fei was chased away. The familiar grey mist returned. Han Fei, covered in ghost tattoos, looked like he was drenched in blood. He stood in the hospital, and the surrounding players were stunned. They wanted to come over to thank him, but no one expected the grey mist would suddenly appear to grab Han Fei.

"The dream demons are just the first step..." The opponent was very fast that Han Fei didn't have the chance to react. The power pulled him into the staircase on the left. The twisted world appeared before Han Fei again. More bubbles burst. The dream demons swallowed Han Fei like a flood.

"The staircases meant different nightmares? The dream demons are eating my memories! They want me to forget something!" The pain spread through his body. Han Fei's consciousness blurred, and he entered the eighth layer.

...

“My name is Zhang Beiyi. I graduated from Xin Lu Film University. These two are my roommates. We’ll be showing everyone a self-directed comedy called the Reason to Live. This creation is based on...”

“Alright. Get moving!”

Three young people stood on the simple stage. They wore simple clothes and looked nervous. Several adults sat in the audience. They were fashionably dressed and looked very impatient. There were no lighting, audio, or props. The three youngsters started a funny performance.

Zhang Beiyi played a young man who tried to commit suicide. The older youth played the landlord, who tried to stop him. The youngest youth played the parrot kept by Zhang Beiyi.

If Zhang Beiyi died, the room would be haunted, and the landlord wouldn’t get his rent, so the landlord tried to have Zhang Beiyi kill himself somewhere else. However, this sounded like asking someone to go to die. The cowardly landlord and Zhang Beiyi met many funny incidents as Zhang Beiyi looked for ways to die.

The theme was death, but the three youngsters used a funny method to present it. In the end, Zhang Beiyi also found a reason to live. The three youths had a strong foundation, but they still needed experience. However, among their peers, they were already very good. When the performance was over, the three were drenched in sweat. They looked at the adults under the stage with anticipation.

“Not bad. The story is rather complete, but there’s still room for improvement. You have the talent, but you lack something.” The few teachers communicated among themselves and said, “Go back to wait for the call.”

“Teacher, we’ve tried many times. Can you give us a chance?” Zhang Beiyi begged. “There are a total of 28 competitions. We don’t need much. Just a chance to show our faces.”

“Do you know how much money it costs the tv station to set up this program?” The teacher smiled. “Go back and wait for the call. You have the potential.”

“But...”

“Go back. Don’t make me repeat myself.” The teacher’s face changed. “Next.”

The side door opened. A new set of actors walked in and squeezed Zhang Beiyi’s group out.

“I’m sorry, teacher.” Zhang Beiyi bowed at them, but no one answered him. The three were escorted out by the workers.

Zhang Beiyi gripped his fists in unwillingly. “We lack something? That is clearly money. If we have money, do they think we still need to beg them?”

“We’ve been going around begging people for a whole year. We’ve been performing comedies everywhere, but our lives are a joke.” The eldest wiped away the ugly makeup. “Are you two still going to find the part-time job?”

“Of course.” Zhang Beiyi took out his phone to check his account. “The night security job last time was not bad. Even though the work hours are quite long, there’s no one to mind us at night, and we can use that time to practice our acting. Old Three, what do you think?”

“We’re actors. Did we go to university to become security guards? If I had known, why would I spend my parent’s money to come to Xin Lu to attend this lousy university?” Boss’ emotions frayed. His voice was loud.

“Boss... Did something happen to you? You were not in the zone during the performance. You got one line of the script wrong.” Zhang Beiyi was sharp. He placed his hand on Boss’ shoulders.

“Other than being extras and doing part-time jobs, we only had five official performances this time. Two of them, we begged a small theatre to give us a chance. The reaction was just okay; the three had us join some kind of reality tv. We were ordered around like monkeys and weren’t even given any credit. What kind of life is this?” Boss turned to Zhang Beiyi. “Are you sure you want to continue like this?”

“Opportunities are given to those who are prepared. Since we’re chasing our dreams, we have to be ready to sacrifice a lot.” Zhang Beiyi didn’t plan to give up.

Boss shrugged and took out his phone. It contained a few audio messages and pictures his family sent him. His father from the countryside broke his back. When he was sent to the hospital, they found out that he had many other illnesses. No one could manage the farm. "I can't continue this joke with you two anymore."

"Boss, how can you call our hard work a joke? You know how much we've suffered during this year. Are they a joke in your eyes?" Zhang Beiyi grabbed Boss' shoulders.

"I don't want to argue with you." Boss avoided Zhang Beiyi's eyes. "I have surrendered. Poor people do not deserve to be in the money-burning industry."

"Are you quitting being an actor?"

"Yes. I'm going to focus on earning real money. Honestly, it's not that I love money, but I don't want my children in the future to have to give up their dreams because they didn't have money." Boss gave the rental room key to Old Three. "Perhaps this past year isn't a joke for you two, but it is for me."

"Do you have to go today?"

"Consider that performance my swan song. At least we had a stage and some audience." Boss walked very fast, as if he was afraid of having second thoughts. Zhang Beiyi and Old Three looked at Boss silently. No one stopped Boss. They knew that he was right.

"The messages on Boss' phone came two days ago. He still insisted on helping us complete this performance. He also wanted to give this one last try." After leaving university, Zhang Beiyi learned many things, like hard work didn't mean everything. "Anyway, it's time to get to work!" Zhang Beiyi patted Old Three. He was always optimistic. "For us, having a last performance is more meaningful than anything."

The two left the audition and rode bicycles to a large convention center. After contacting the middleman, they were asked to change into security guard uniforms. Due to their good looks, they were assigned to guard the front door.

"I always think my face is one of my few advantages." Zhang Beiyi adjusted his uniform. He was always serious, no matter what. "Old Three, don't worry. We'll succeed in the future. If all else fails, we'll find a female producer. We'll play rock scissors paper, and the losing one will present himself to her as a present. Don't look at me like that! I was just joking!"

In his carelessness, Zhang Beiyi turned around and accidentally bumped into someone. He knocked the man's sunglasses slightly askew.

"I'm sorry." Zhang Beiyi quickly apologized.

"Forget it. Look at how poor you are. Your monthly allowance won't be enough to fix my glasses." The man was unhappy, but he didn't want to get mad in a public place. He grumbled and left.

Zhang Beiyi loosened his tightened fists. The smile returned to his face. "We slept and ate at the set last month. We spent around 170 RMB. That sunglasses cost at most 100 RMB. Why is he acting so proud? When I'm rich, I'll buy two expensive pairs of sunglasses. I'll wear one in the day and the other at night."

The work of a guard was boring, but Zhang Beiyi and Old Three treated it seriously. A black car stood, and a middle-aged man came out. When they saw the man, Zhang Beiyi and Old Three immediately moved their gazes away.

"Zhang Beiyi?" The man's eyes were sharp. He recognized them immediately. "I haven't heard from you two since graduation. What are you doing here?"

"Hi, Professor Jiang..." Zhang Beiyi had thick skin, but even then, he wanted to find a hole to crawl into. Old Three and he were Professor Jiang's best students. He didn't expect them to meet like this after graduation. Due to pride, Zhang Beiyi said after some hesitation, "We've accepted a role as security guards, so we're here to experience it."

"Do you think an actor can lie to a director?" Professor Jiang was disappointed. "Both of you have my number. You can call me at any time, okay?"

"Yes." Zhang Beiyi spat out his tongue, trying to use that to end this interaction.

After Professor Jiang left, Zhang Beiyi relaxed. He was handsome and good at his studies. He was arrogant in the past, but now, 'I'm sorry' became the thing he said the most.

"Old Three... how about we commit a crime to get into jail? We'll have a place to stay and food to eat. If we run into someone familiar in there, there's no need to feel inferior." Zhang Beiyi touched the work tag around his neck. It felt like a dog tag.

The convention ended, and they got off work early. To prevent seeing Professor Jiang again, Zhang Beiyi led Old Three somewhere else. They got their daily payment, bought some beers and instant noodles, and started drinking.

"Cheers for Boss! Cheers for ourselves! We must have looked handsome when we were working! Cheers..."

"Stop drinking. We have a small performance tomorrow. Even though the pay is small, we need to treat every performance seriously."

The city was busy. The two young men carried a dream that seemed unlikely.

A few hours later, Zhang Beiyi who was already at home was woken up by his alarm. He jumped up immediately. "Old Three! Stop sleeping! Now that Boss is not here, we're missing an actor. One of us has to play his role!"

"I'll do it. I've memorized all his lines."

The two prepared everything and rode to a small theatre. They didn't have any time to rest. They put on the makeup and tested the lines. Old Three needed to play both the parrot and the landlord, so the whole thing was ridiculous.

"This is our only choice, but we'll have to rewrite our old scripts. This is a chance for us to revamp ourselves." Writing comedy was hard. The timing was crucial. It tested the actor's skills.

"While we have time, we should practice more."

The clock moved, but Zhang Beiyi still didn't receive any notice. He looked out the window. Some of the audience members had left.

"Did the show end early?" Zhang Beiyi left the dressing room and found a worker. "Hi. Why are so many people leaving? We still haven't performed!"

"Tonight is the specialty performance for Xi Xiao Troupe. Your performance is merely there to make the schedule look better." The worker said directly.

"Even so, we'll take the stage!" Zhang Beiyi said firmly.

"The problem is Xi Xiao Troupe's audience is too passionate. They insisted on an encore. Adding an impromptu Q&A session meant that they had taken over your time slot." The worker shrugged. "You can find the boss but don't push your troubles on me."

"Are you kidding? Haven't we already discussed this?" Zhang Beiyi shouted. At that moment, a door opened, and the theater boss walked over. After a cough, the boss took out two money-filled envelopes. "You know that football teams have supplement members, right? You are those members. You are necessary."

"But it should be our turn to perform. We've already put on the makeup!" Zhang Beiyi didn't take the envelope. "I'll be clear. The audience is here for Xi Xiao Troupe. No one is interested in you." The boss shoved the two envelopes to Zhang Beiyi. "The payment is lower than normal since you haven't performed. Take the money and go."

"We've worked so hard on our new script..."

"So what? No one is willing to watch it." The boss was annoyed. "If there's someone outside who requests to see your performance, then you can take the stage. If not, you need to leave!"

The awkwardness continued until another worker ran over. "Boss, there is a person in the audience who asked me whether there's an actor called Zhang Beiyi. They're waiting for him to take the stage."

Hearing that, Zhang Beiyi burst with joy. He shoved the envelopes back. "Do you hear that? I, Zhang Beiyi, still have a fanbase!"

"Hell must have frozen over. Someone came purposely for your performance?" The boss took back the envelopes and signaled the workers to decorate the stage.

Zhang Beiyi happily ran back to the dressing room. "Old Three, prepare to take the stage!" Zhang Beiyi was excited, knowing that his fans purposely came to see him. Even his gait was confident. He and Old Three walked onto the stage!

Everything was ready. They took their position. The curtain slowly rose. The spotlight shone on the two actors.

Zhang Beiyi was ready to start his lines, but after he opened his mouth, he noticed he couldn't speak.

There were only two members in the audience. Comedies were mostly popular among youngsters, but the two members were elders. They wore simple clothes but purchased the most expensive stageside tickets because it was closest to the stage.

"Mom, dad?"

They were Zhang Beiyi's parents, and they were the only audience.

Zhang Beiyi, who was not defeated by anything, felt his nose sour. Then, his tears started to fall. Zhang Beiyi couldn't continue his lines. He worked so hard, so why was life so unfair?

When Boss left, he didn't cry. When his pride was trampled on, he didn't care. When his teacher saw him in a sad state, he didn't cry. But his emotions exploded in their moment.

"Xiao Bei, what's wrong? Mom and Dad are here for you. My son is such a good actor!" Zhang Beiyi's parents walked to the stage and hugged their son. "It's alright. Come home to rest if you're tired. You're so amazing. You'll succeed eventually."

Zhang Beiyi's parents led him down the stage. The couple consoled Zhang Beiyi as they walked out of the theatre.

The spotlight shone in the middle of the stage. The large theatre only had Old Three left.

He experienced everything with Boss and Zhang Beiyi, but he had nothing to show for it. He had nothing and no one.

He waited for a long time, but Zhang Beiyi didn't return. Old Three walked to the center of the stage. The spotlight shone on him, and he slowly opened his lips.

"My name is Han Fei. I graduated from Xin Lu Film University. I'll present everyone with a light comedy, the Reason to Live. This writing is based on my life."

Chapter 967: Only Audience

Han Fei was all the actors and audience. The suicidal young man, the landlord, and the parrot, the three characters, were played by one person, but it didn't feel weird. The reason to live was Han Fei's life. One side was hope, and the other was despair. They kept arguing. Han Fei had memorized the lines of all three characters. He switched between them easily.

"I want to live, but I can't find the reason to live."

"I am not willing to die just like that, but when I realized it, I was already at the edge of the roof."

"I am poor, but the biggest poverty is not lacking the money for instant noodles but having not even experienced love before. At least they have people to love, at least they have people to provide them shelter, at least they have the warmth of home... but I have nothing.

"Parrot, parrot, tell me, what is the reason to live?"

"Parrot, parrot, stop mimicking other people's happiness. After all, it is not your life.

“Perhaps, I am just a prop that will never become the main character.

“I am a lonely person. I die alone.”

Negative emotions entered his mind. Han Fei had reached the first turning point of his life. He had experienced all the defeats with his roommates, but after his partners left, he was still hanging on. Compared to others, he didn't even need to pretend to be tough. He had no family. He was born to be accompanied by despair. His voice lowered. There was nothing in the world that was reason enough for him to stay. He tried to make others laugh, but the people didn't even have the wish to glance at him. The shackles of fate turned heavier. He couldn't breathe due to the panic in his heart.

The show was approaching its end. The young man who attempted his 11th suicide picked up the prop knife. Even though it was just a prop, the blade was still sharp enough to pierce his neck. The world in his eyes turned into fog and blinded his eyes and ears. Han Fei raised the prop knife and aimed it at his throat.

The landlord's makeup was blurred by sweat. The parrot stopped talking. The three roles slowly overlapped to become Han Fei. The despair of the whole city pressed down on Han Fei. He held the knife. The play was portraying his life. The young man was Han Fei. He had once held the knife in the same position. The blade moved down. No one knew about Han Fei's past, and no one cared.

Actually, Han Fei also didn't know the true meaning of despair. Despair meant that he could slash his throat without any hesitation. The blade fell when laughter and applause came from the empty theatre. These were the things Han Fei rarely heard. His hands trembled, and he turned to the audience.

There was a single member sitting in the audience. He hugged his stomach and laughed heartily. It was like he was watching the best show in the world!

This man looked just like Han Fei. The difference was one was pushed on stage, and the other was sunken into madness. When he saw that man, the mist that clouded Han Fei's eyes and ears disappeared. Mutated monsters rushed out of his brain. The slower monsters disappeared in the laughter. The past was like a shattered mirror. The prop knife fell to the ground. He looked at the laughing monster under the stage. His ruined makeup turned into ghastly tattoos. The despair around him was consumed.

“Thank you. Without you, I’ll always be alone.”

Han Fei shared the same thought as Mad Laughter. Han Fei on stage and Mad Laughter under the stage walked towards each other. Han Fei waved at Mad Laughter. The two souls with healing personas held each other. All the memories rushed back like waves. The grey city started to crumble. The eighth layer told the story of a comedy actor. That was Han Fei’s past.

Dream used stolen memories to weave the nightmare, but he had severely underestimated Han Fei and Mad Laughter. The city morphed into pieces. Everyone Han Fei had seen turned into dream demons and charged at him, but Han Fei and Mad Laughter didn’t avoid them.

Mad Laughter melted into Han Fei’s body. A giant axe made up of resentment cut through the dream demons.

Actually, this nightmare should be very long because Han Fei’s past was endless despair. However, Mad Laughter appeared to cut the performance short. The screaming dream demons and crumbling city were absorbed by the ghost tattoo. After consuming two nightmares consecutively, the ghost tattoo changed categorically. Unfortunately, Dream had this nightmare of targeting Han Fei, so Han Fei didn’t get any black-and-white fragments after clearing it. Once again, Han Fei used a power beyond the limit of the nightmare, but strangely, Dream didn’t come after Han Fei. Dream appeared to be laying some kind of trap for Han Fei.

“Dream’s real body shouldn’t be in the surface world. The eleven altars were built by Dream’s disciples. As long as Dream doesn’t arrive, I shouldn’t be in too much danger.”

Han Fei had control of the paths leading to the surface world and the real world. Dream could influence the two worlds with his power, but if it wanted to descend into real life, it would cause a big commotion.

Han Fei led his neighbors through the tunnel to the surface world. Along the way, they were bound by the limits of the surface world. Wu Chang lost his power, and Executioner was forced into the ghost tattoo. If they didn’t go through the tunnel, they would have to pay a greater price!

The stronger the ghost, the harder it would be for them to leave the cryptic world. This was why Dream didn't send Gao Xing back to the cryptic world after his altar was attacked. It would take years to send an Unmentionable back to the cryptic world.

"The eleven altars could be Dream's trap. At the same time, it's our way to lessen its power."

Dream wanted to turn the 400000 players into his puppets to spread the seeds of evil. However, Han Fei had his own plan too. He planned to take on Dream in the surface world to hold it back. The grey mist dispersed, and Han Fei opened his eyes. He was inside the hospital again. He was now inside the stairwell. He was closer to the altar on the roof.

"Dream can draw from the player's memory to create a nightmare targeted at them. I have to share this info with the other players." Han Fei left the hospital.

The eighth layer wasn't that hard for Han Fei, but in reality, he had spent a long time in it. When he pushed open the hospital door, it was already dawn.

Han Fei hurried to the central pavilion and shared his experience. Once the guide for the seventh and eighth layers was out, it attracted many players. All the guilds were stuck at the eighth layer, and Han Fei was the first player to clear it.

Then, Han Fei entered the nightmare mission lobby. He offered the highest price to purchase the black-and-white fragment. Most players were stuck in layers below the fifth. There were not that many fragments. Only by clearing the nightmare perfectly that one would get the fragment. Therefore, even though Han Fei offered a very high price, no one was willing to sell the fragments. "I need to talk to the guild leaders. The fragments are useless to them, but they can help my black box..."

Han Fei was planning how to convince the other guilds when the players around him rushed to the door. Everyone looked spirited.

"What's going on?" Han Fei grabbed a random person to ask.

"Don't you know? Look at the chat! Huang Yin is online! The first player is here to save us!"

More players ran to the main city gate. They were under a lot of stress after being trapped in the game. There was no end to the layers of the nightmare. Huang Yin's appearance carried a special meaning for all the players. Huang Yin was a living legend. He had created one after another miracle. There was nothing Huang Yin couldn't do!

The main gate of Perfect Life opened, and a ray of sun shone through. The players who waited at the gate held their breath.

The sun paved a golden path through the city. A man walked through the gate and entered the city. Some said he was a bloodthirsty doctor, some said he was a mysterious cheater, some said he was a wealthy merchant, and some said he was the best fighter.

"Huang Yin!"

The city exploded. This was the power and influence of the first player. A rescue team of about 100 people followed Huang Yin. They knew that they would be trapped here, but no one retreated.

The city gate closed. Huang Yin spoke. "We're just the first batch of the rescue team. Every day, we'll have more rescue teams entering the main hub." He opened his menu and unhid his name on the ranking.

Perfect Life had 21 rankings. Soon, all the players realized that for eighteen of the rankings, Huang Yin was number one!

"I'll do my best to bring everyone out of here! Don't worry. I won't leave as long as there's one person still in the city! I promise everyone that I'll be the last player to leave Perfect Life!"

Chapter 968: Resistance is Futile

As Perfect Life's first gamer, Huang Yin was the codename for miracles. His appearance cleared the pressure in the main hub. Many players were willing to believe in him. The sun rose. Huang Yin brought the first ray of light to the players.

The internal players from Deep Space Tech sighed too. They also didn't expect Huang Yin to have such influence.

The players trapped inside the game were very simple. They couldn't return to real life, so their identities and wealth in real life meant nothing. They worked towards the same goal. Humans were strange and curious. They would harm others for the sake of happiness but would sacrifice themselves to save others in despair.

Without external factors, Perfect Life became a pure 'game'. They risked their lives to save the nightmare. Huang Yin was the first rescue team to enter the game. There would be more in the future.

With the crowd cheering, Huang Yin and Deep Space Tech's team reached the central pavilion. They got updated and then revealed Deep Space Tech's rescue plan. The internal members of Deep Space Tech would enter the nightmare to research it. They would restore communication with the outside world. That was the first step. Deep Space Tech's real plan was to activate the backdoors they had left in the game. When the channels were stable, they would attempt to send the players out of the game. Deep Space Tech didn't hide anything that had happened in real life.

The info war between the three criminal organizations and Deep Space Tech had reached an end. A lot of hackers were exposed and arrested. The scale was tipping.

Han Fei had no idea whether they were lying or not, but it did bring morale to the players. He looked at Huang Yin on stage and scratched his chin. "brother Huang's acting has improved greatly. I wonder who he learned it from. He might become the next Best Actor before Brother Bai."

At that moment, Han Fei suddenly received a message from his friend. He wanted to ignore it, but when he saw that it was from Shen Luo, he changed his mind.

"I've cleared the fifth layer and chose the normal bed. However, it seems like my game is different."

Han Fei met up with Shen Luo at an old house. Shen Luo appeared to have aged a lot in the past few hours. He cried and blubbered.

"You've cleared the fifth layer so soon?" Shen Luo's speed impressed Han Fei.

“You might not believe it, but this nightmare is targeting me!” Shen Luo shared his sad story. When he entered the first layer, the butterfly tattoo on his body was triggered. When he woke up, he was tied to an electric chair. He was covered in blood, and his head was strapped into an old device. Only his eyes were shown. Then, Shen Luo saw five players appear before him. Shen Luo started to struggle, hoping the players would save him. But the five players ran instantly. One of them even accidentally triggered the button and activated the electric chair.

Shen Luo was electrocuted, but he didn't die. The chair was deactivated. Shen Luo tried to escape with his weakened body. Actually, Shen Luo didn't know why he was escaping. Since the other players were running, then there had to be a danger. He wanted to reunite with the other players, but when they saw him, they started to scream. When Shen Luo tried to chase after them, they turned around to beat up Shen Luo. They almost killed him.

The five players only left after they made sure Shen Luo was incapacitated.

Han Fei's expression was strange after hearing Shen Luo's description. “Normally, the first layer would be a chase with one murderer going after five players. The players need to find the key while hiding from the murderer within the time limit.”

“Then, why are there six players in my nightmare?” Shen Luo pouted.

“Your identity appears to be the murderer. The nightmare has decided you're one of them.” Han Fei inspected Shen Luo's body. The butterfly tattoo was hidden under his skin, and it would only appear in the grey mist.

“But didn't you say the choice would come when I reach the fifth layer?” Shen Luo was confused. He didn't think he was different from the other players.

“How can I put this? Every road leads to Rome, but some are born in Rome.” Han Fei hadn't encountered something like this before. “What happened next?”

“The second layer was even stranger. I was inside a haunted house with five other players. We needed to figure out why the place was haunted. I joined them to search for clues. Then, we found out I was the ghost. The girls standing next to me instantly screamed!”

“And then?”

“I was beaten up. The players wanted to kill me, and they had the number advantage. What could I do?”

Shen Luo sighed. “Starting from the third layer, things were different. Special patterns would appear on my skin. Using these patterns I could control things within the nightmare. I could even cooperate with the ghosts and demons, but I didn’t want to do that! The demons are all killers. If they lost their mind, they would kill me. So both the players and the nightmare want to kill me.”

Han Fei thought that Shen Luo would gain aid from the nightmare, but who would have thought that even the nightmare wanted to bully Shen Luo?

“I barely survived the fourth layer. Plus, my fifth layer is different from what you told me.” Shen Luo said with confusion. “My fifth layer was a room with no window. It looked very normal.”

“That sounds about right.”

“But my room had no beds. There was only an altar.”

“An altar?” Shen Luo’s words shocked Han Fei.

Shen Luo nodded. “There was nothing unusual about the altar, but it was very familiar, like I had seen it in a dream before...”

“What do you mean?”

“Have you had these experiences where you felt like you’ve been through this before even though you were sure that you hadn’t? That was how I felt when I saw that altar.” Shen Luo was lost. “The altar was like a dream. A dream where everyone is involved.”

“And then? How did you clear that layer?” Han Fei was curious. A normal player needed to choose between humanity and dream. But since Shen Luo had part of Dream’s consciousness, he was treated as part of the nightmare.

“I wanted to open the door to see what was inside. But as I opened one gap, a blue butterfly flew out.” Shen Luo touched his right hand. “The butterfly crawled into my palm and then I was kicked out of the nightmare.”

“Is it possible that Dream really wants to cultivate you as the next butterfly?” Han Fei pondered it.

“What do you mean? I don’t want that!”

“After the blue butterfly entered your body, did you feel different?” Han Fei stared at Shen Luo like a scientist studying a new species. “After a normal player chose to side with Dream, they would enter Dream’s world. You should be their leader, so you should have more power.”

“I don’t feel anything...” Shen Luo then snapped his fingers. “On the way here, I passed by the door of Absolute Truth. Part of the butterfly surfaced on my right palm. I quickly covered it with my sleeves. I was so scared. Thinking back, I think I felt something. Yes! There was a player next to me. He might have surrendered to Dream! I was familiar with his presence!”

“The butterfly in your right hand can detect the traitors among humans?” This was a great discovery. “Come. We’ll go to Absolute Truth now!”

To verify Shen Luo’s power, Han Fei led him to Absolute Truth.

Huang Yin and the rescue team just entered the city that morning. Absolute Truth had sent most members to discuss the plan with Huang Yin. There were not that many players left in the guild. Han Fei used an excuse to enter the guild. When Huang Yin wasn’t here, the players didn’t dare to mess with Happiness Neighborhood. Now that Huang Yin was there, they were even more polite.

“Han Fei, do you need anything from us?” The base manager was Xia Chong. He was Xia Bing’s elder brother. He knew from his sister how powerful Han Fei was.

“You knew that Huang Yin came this morning. To tell you the truth, he brought more than the supplies. There are certain things that he can’t explain to the public.” Han Fei gave all the credit to Huang Yin.

“Understood.” Xia Chong moved forward. “There are only us in this room. Don’t worry. I’ll relay your message to the guild leader.”

“After the players enter the fifth layer, they can choose to side with Dream. We have one method that can verify a player’s identity.” Han Fei didn’t expose Shen Luo. “I need you to find players who have returned to this base between 7 to 7.30 am. Especially those who have cleared the fifth layer.”

Xia Chong didn’t dare to delay. He immediately gave the order. About ten minutes later, nine players appeared in the lobby. They were all over level 35.

“These are everyone.” Xia Chong whispered to Han Fei. “They are all seniors. They won’t betray us.”

“We’ll find out soon enough.”

Shen Luo and Han Fei walked past the nine players. When they passed by the ninth player, Shen Luo’s eyes widened. “Found him!”

The colorful butterfly pattern appeared on Shen Luo and the player. The player didn’t expect this to happen.

“Lee Teng, don’t move!”

“Open your menu and show us your stats!”

“No wonder all of his teammates would die whenever they went to explore the nightmare.”

Lee Teng stopped hiding. His panic disappeared, and he revealed a creepy smile. Without warning, he took out a cursed blade and stabbed the player beside him.

“Still haven’t given up?”

Lee Teng was fast, but there was something faster. Han Fei launched a kick, and the sound of bone crunching echoed through the hall. Lee Teng’s spine almost snapped.

Han Fei inspected Lee Teng’s stats. “His level is different from what you told me. Two days ago, he was level 36, but now he’s level 40.”

Lee Teng wouldn’t stop laughing. He desired murder. “You have no chance of escaping! Stop lying to yourself! Nightmare has covered everything! Haven’t you realized! Everyone is already inside the nightmare!”

Even at the last moment of his life, Lee Teng still wanted to kill. He was encouraged by Dream. Murder could bring him happiness.

“Resistance is futile! Too many people have chosen Dream. Humanity is the weakest thing in the world!” Butterfly patterns crawled all over his body. As he laughed, Lee Teng’s consciousness popped like a bubble. His body slumped. His mind and soul melted into the butterfly pattern. This was the final ending for those who served Dream. Han Fei had more questions, but Dream made sure to leave no prisoners.

After Lee Teng died, his inventory popped open. A lot of stuff from other players poured out. When the main hub was sealed, Lee Teng had already killed many people. His fast increase in level probably had to do with that.

“Dream is encouraging the players to kill each other! As long as it’s disruptive, the player will be rewarded for it!”

Perfect Life was a warm healing game, but Dream wanted to turn it into a deadly prison.

Chapter 969: Traitor

The situation at the main hub was stabilizing on the surface, but the danger was approaching from the undercurrents.

“It feels like he has turned into a different person...”

The members of Absolute Truth looked at the dead Lee Teng. They had no idea why he would choose to side with Dream. Their former friend had been plotting to kill them. It was a bad feeling.

"I didn't expect that there'd be a traitor among our elite members." Xia Chong had the members seal up the lobby. This would affect the guild's reputation, so it was better to handle it in private.

"There should be quite a number of players who chose to side with Dream. Perhaps, some of them were its disciples already." Han Fei knelt beside Lee Teng. He looked through his inventory. "Do any of you know him in real life?"

"We've never asked about his real life. We know that he came from quite a rich background but was quite stingy. He wasn't the brightest player." The players at Absolute Truth didn't know more.

"Don't promote this incident. Happiness Neighborhood will rat out the traitors." Han Fei led Shen Luo away.

"You don't look too good. Did that player remind you of something bad?" Shen Luo saw the frown on Han Fei's face, and he asked.

"If Lee Teng were a crazed murderer in real life, then everything would be fine. But if he were just a normal player..." Han Fei took out two bags from his inventory. "I found these among Lee Teng's inventory."

"They are just two bags."

"Can't you see the hair and blood?" Han Fei went to a secluded place and opened the bags. They contained bloody scalps and organs. "Lee Teng not only attacked the players, but he also tortured them! If he were a normal player, then his personality changed overnight after he joined Dream!"

"Dream can change a person completely within a day?" Shen Luo was shocked. "But what about me? I didn't feel any changes."

“You’re the exception.” Han Fei destroyed the bags. “Killing other players can raise their levels and attributes. The rules at the main