

Collapse 781

Chapter 781 Eat My Goo Goo

Gu Mian originally wanted to sneak up to see what Xie Bi'an was going to do, but that black-robed figure disappeared in an instant, so he had no choice but to give up.

He had no choice but to take care of business first and give the borrowed Big Data Search to 007.

But 007 was not at home.

Gu Mian knocked on the door for half a minute with no response, but the door next door opened.

It was the Fortune-teller who lived next door: "You're looking for 007? She's been out these days looking for the whereabouts of Renle Mountain, and Xiao Hong went with her."

Xiao Hong indeed often came looking for 007 to play, but she often ended up fighting with the big goose that 007 kept, and if Xiao Qiao happened to pass by, she'd likely join the fray too.

So Gu Mian often saw scenes of a person, a ghost, and a goose fighting fiercely.

It's worth mentioning that the goose, when it was first bought, had fluffy feathers and an arrogant demeanor, but now it's been plucked so much it resembles a feather duster. Its tail feathers were completely torn off by Xiao Hong during one battle, so it now wanders around with a bare rump.

"Last time I helped 007 with a divination; I saw Renle Mountain together with that Old Liu of Victory Hardware Store in a particularly dark room. I guessed it was a warehouse, so now she's searching all the nearby warehouses. By the way, Little Saint Qi Tian isn't with them either and no one knows where he is."

He's probably dead, Gu Mian thought, turned into a Strangled Ghost by Renle Mountain to make a set of three.

At this point, the Fortune-teller saw the Big Data Search in Gu Mian's hand. "A few days ago, 007 also borrowed this from Xiao Qiao to search for Renle Mountain."

"Didn't find him?" Gu Mian raised an eyebrow.

If she had found him, 007 should have already gone straight to the destination instead of searching the nearby warehouses on a whim.

"Didn't find him." The Fortune-teller nodded, with a hint of oddness on her face, "And also, this sentence popped up on the screen..."

She cleared her throat and mimicked the system voice when a phone call cannot be connected: "Due to the vast amount of data, the search range of this item is limited. It is recommended that you enter within 800 kilometers of the item's range before searching."

Gu Mian had seen this sentence before.

When he previously used Big Data Search to find a clown mask, the same message popped up.

It meant that what he was searching for was not within 800 kilometers.

This was strange.

"The day after coming out of the Match Three instance, 007 borrowed it, but it indicated that Renle Mountain was not within 800 kilometers;" The Fortune-teller showed a puzzled expression, "Could it be they traveled over 800 kilometers in one night?"

007 certainly didn't believe they could travel that far in one night, which is why she's still searching the surrounding warehouses.

"Maybe they have a teleportation-type special item that instantly travels over 800 kilometers," Gu Mian suggested, "or maybe Renle Mountain is dead, so the Big Data Search can't locate him."

But that person didn't seem like the type who would die so easily.

"There's another possibility," he touched the Big Data Search in his hand, "they're not dead, they haven't run far, they're just using something to hide their position."

"Big brother, aren't you afraid we'll be discovered hiding here so close to that doctor's place? Let's find a chance to leave this place, the further the better." Old Liu of Victory Hardware Store kept chattering to Renle Mountain in the distribution room of Lianhua Amusement Park.

"Do you think I don't want to leave?" Renle Mountain said in a bad mood, "We've just escaped, those people are definitely still looking for us everywhere. It would be easy to run into them if we go out recklessly now, especially if we run into someone from the fifth or sixth floor..."

Renle Mountain recalled the operations of players on the fifth and sixth floors in the Match Three instance.

First, they mysteriously produced a headless corpse to solve problems on the third and fourth floors, which Renle Mountain didn't understand how the fifth or sixth floor did back then.

But now he understood.

There's definitely someone on the fifth or sixth floor who killed their teammate, chopped off their head to make a headless corpse, thus helping the third and fourth floors solve their problem.

He was inspired by the fifth and sixth floors to realize that he could kill his teammates for the required corpses.

That's when he understood why every room had murder weapons, bodies drowning in tanks, strangled bodies with ropes around their necks, dismembered bodies with a bloody axe nearby...

All of these were to facilitate the players killing in the same way.

The people on the fifth and sixth floors had clearly realized this early on, genuinely terrifying minds. Renle Mountain noticed that the people on the fifth and sixth floors didn't dispose of the corpses on their floors until the end, allowing them to become Evil Ghosts.

Renle Mountain couldn't guess what that person was thinking, nor did he know their ultimate fate.

But his intuition told him that person wasn't dead. Ever since escaping from that apartment, he'd had a deep-seated unease in his heart, hiding here, afraid to show himself.

"Sigh, and who knows where Qi Tian is. Big brother, do you think he could have been one of those on the fifth or sixth floors, not managing to get rid of the corpses in time and getting killed by Evil Ghosts..." Old Liu said with a somewhat somber tone.

Renle Mountain glanced at him lightly, seeing nothing unusual on Old Liu's face before speaking, "Maybe. I've said before, there's only me from the first or second floors; since he's not on your third or fourth floors, then he's likely on the fifth or sixth floors."

Renle Mountain didn't tell Old Liu the truth, nor did he mention his various speculations about the fifth and sixth floors.

When Old Liu curiously asked Renle Mountain how he got rid of the last two strangled corpses, Renle Mountain put on an inscrutable air, as if he had some secret trump card, and Old Liu sensibly stopped pursuing the matter.

Knowing that Qi Tian was probably dead, Old Liu was silent for a while before speaking again, "Big brother, how long will we keep hiding? I want to go back to our original place. I had an agreement with Qi Tian before; whoever died first, the other would help deliver his remaining belongings to his family. Qi Tian's things are still at our original place."

Both of them had been working far away from home.

After the global game started, they walked toward home together. They didn't know if they could make it back alive, so they made this agreement with each other.

Qi Tian had few things to give to his family, just a will and an old, frayed bankbook.

In the current situation, bankbooks are not very useful.

But Qi Tian always held onto a hope that if one day the game ended, what he had painstakingly saved might be used again, so that his family wouldn't be left without food.

Old Liu knew this was unlikely, it was just something keeping Qi Tian striving to survive.

"We can't go back." Renle Mountain stared at Old Liu, "They'll definitely guess you'd want to do that and wait there for you to walk right into their trap."

If Old Liu got caught, he'd surely expose their hiding place to them.

Old Liu grew anxious, "But, but Qi Tian's belongings."

Before he could finish, he was caught by Renle Mountain's suddenly terrifying gaze, making Old Liu shiver, his voice shrinking, "I'm not saying I want to go right now, I want to wait a bit, wait a long time before going back when that person says we can leave, then I'll get Qi Tian's things..."

In the dimly lit distribution room, Renle Mountain stared at Old Liu for a long while before retracting his gaze, saying nothing more.

Old Liu felt uneasy, unsure of Renle Mountain's intent. But he decided to himself that even if Renle Mountain disagreed, he would find a chance to return for Qi Tian's will and bankbook.

"Xiao Da, nu guo ni zhe dao zhe... zhe tu cun yan..."

007 was waiting in the house where Renle Mountain had previously hidden, hoping to see if they'd return. It wasn't long before she heard Xiao Hong, who was rummaging through things in the corner, make a sound.

Xiao Hong couldn't speak, the sound came from the Mind Amplifier hanging around her neck.

Turning her head, she saw Xiao Hong had for some reason pulled out a piece of paper, with wide eyes reading the contents.

Clearly, she wasn't very literate, as the sound from the amplifier was jumbled, forming no proper sentence.

007 approached and took the paper from her hand; it was a letter—

"Xiao Tian, if you're reading this, then I must be dead..."

Reading the first line, 007 realized it was a will. She didn't continue to read its content but instead directed her gaze to the bottom of the paper, where the writer's name was.

"Qi Youcheng"

It was likely a will left by Little Saint Qi Tian.

007 folded the paper in her hand and looked around, finding a somewhat torn envelope nearby on the ground.

She stepped forward and picked up the envelope, finding inside was a bankbook with a faded cover, looking aged, and the account holder was Qi Youcheng as well.

007 put the will and bankbook back into the envelope, folding the somewhat torn opening, placing it back into a cardboard box in the corner.

Xiao Hong reached to grab the envelope again but was stopped by 007, "You can't play with this."

Xiao Hong pouted but obediently didn't touch the envelope in the box, instead picking up a baseball bat and rolling it around on the floor for fun.

Chapter 782 Eat My Triple Gugu Special

"Hello, is this Mr. Bunny Doll from Paradise World Game City?"

"You're the mister, your whole family is mister!"

"Sorry, Miss Bunny Doll, I'm a new courier from Squid Logistics. I'm calling to confirm about the Carnival Abandoned Factory, Evil Eastern Valley, Up and Down Boundary..."

"Get lost!"

"Beep, beep, beep..."

"Hung up." Keke silently looked up at Gu Mian.

Gu Mian had a task to deliver ninety-nine parcels to unlock a career instance. Some of these delivery locations had very strange names, which were clearly locations in the game world.

About a dozen delivery locations seemed like addresses from Paradise World.

Gu Mian wanted to take this opportunity to deliver those parcels, so he called on Keke to play the role of a courier and call Game City's Bunny Doll and Manager Jin to ask about these addresses.

The phone numbers of these two people were given to Gu Mian by Zhao Tiankuo from the virtual lover group. He gave Gu Mian three numbers in total, and Gu Mian only had the Fortune-teller call the recruiting office at the dock.

Gu Mian also wanted to have the Fortune-teller call the recruiting office at the dock to ask about these addresses, but lately, the Fortune-teller had been calling over there frequently for the variety show, so asking her to inquire about something irrelevant might arouse suspicion.

Gu Mian thought about trying to call Bunny Doll and Manager Jin himself, but things didn't go well from the start.

Calling the wrong gender got the call hung up.

It's not Keke's fault; just by looking at the name Bunny Doll, it's hard to tell the gender.

"If you ask me, Doctor, if you directly report your name to that Bunny Doll and then threaten her harshly, you might get more information than Miss Keke did." Fatty chimed in with his bad idea.

Gu Mian ignored Fatty and told Keke, "Call Manager Jin next."

Keke nodded and dialed the number Gu Mian gave her.

After two rings, the call was picked up.

This time Keke was smart, starting with just a "Hello."

A somewhat confused male voice came from the other end: "Hello?"

"Is this Manager Jin from Paradise World Game City?"

"Yes, who are you?"

Using "you" shows that this Mr. Jin is obviously more polite than the previous Bunny Doll.

"Hello, I'm a courier from Squid Logistics. I want to inquire about..." Keke said, glancing at the little notebook Gu Mian gave her. It was turned to a page where the upper half was filled with bug fixes and program improvement suggestions, but that wasn't important; what mattered were the dozen or so locations written on the lower half.

She read out those addresses according to the notebook and continued to inquire to Manager Jin on the other end, "Are these addresses near Game City?"

Asking whether these addresses are in Paradise World seemed suspicious, so Gu Mian told her to ask if these places are near Game City.

Mr. Jin on the other side apparently didn't recognize many of the locations either: "Inferior Sightseeing Park, Crazy Plastic Surgery is not far from Game City, but I haven't heard of the others. I'm not too familiar with this area either because people in Game City are not locals..."

It seems that, like Carnival Wharf, Game City is staffed by NPCs from other worlds.

Manager Jin's voice sounded again: "Oh, there's one place you mentioned that I recognize, Spectator 1058. There are quite a few spectators near Game City, but I haven't paid attention to the numbers. You can look around to see if any of those spectators have number 1058;

"And also, when you're delivering, make sure to avoid the City of Pleasure over there..."

The City of Pleasure?

Gu Mian remembered this place.

Lu Yi's Circus is located in the City of Pleasure.

"What's wrong with the City of Pleasure?" It's the first time Keke heard of this place, but she tried her best to ask in a casual tone as if she already knew about it.

"The City of Pleasure is locked down. The official explanation from the Upper Class People is that there was a big explosion, but I've heard that the City of Pleasure has been polluted by the world over there, and the entire city has been turned upside down."

Polluted by the world over there.

The only world that NPCs would refer to as "that world over there" is the real world.

Strange, according to Chu Changge's previous statements, Earth is already at a disadvantage in this game, yet somehow still has the energy to pollute the game world.

And what kind of pollution results in an upside-down city?

After giving his advice, Manager Jin hung up the phone.

Now, we can only confirm three locations belong to Paradise World, which are Inferior Sightseeing Park, Crazy Plastic Surgery, and Spectator 1058.

This Spectator 1058 is probably as common as bus stops are here, so many that they are distinguished by numbers.

"Let me take a look," Fatty pulled out his camera and opened the album, where he had previously photographed Gu Mian's task involving ninety-nine parcels. "The delivery for Inferior Sightseeing Park is ten 50cm×50cm picture frames. You can't carry ten of such large frames, Doctor, right?"

Indeed, it's not possible, but once inside Paradise World, they could improvise.

"Crazy Plastic Surgery requires delivering five chin implants... I wonder if this stuff is available at our supermarket. Doctor, let's check the supermarket together later;

"Spectator 1058 needs a delivery of half a bucket of leftovers. Such strange delivery items. Does this mean you'll have to create half a bucket of leftovers, Doctor, and eat your way through it? But with Doctor, Brother Chu, and Miss 007 working together, that half a bucket should be consumed quickly;

"By the way, Doctor, weren't you borrowing the Big Data Search for 007 this morning? Why is it still on our table?" Fatty noticed the Big Data Search placed on the table in the living room.

"She and Xiao Hong went out to find Renle Mountain and haven't returned yet." Gu Mian checked the time, which was already four in the afternoon.

"Maybe they won't find anything back." Fatty sighed.

One must admit, 007 is really persistent in her work.

It's been nearly ten days, and she still goes out early and returns late, expanding the search range, which Fatty admires greatly: "It's been almost a month, and Miss 007 is still searching."

During this time, Gu Mian also delivered many parcels, including but not limited to delivering toilet paper to public restrooms, deodorant to sewers, and prenatal music to bird eggs. He consciously looked for Renle Mountain while outside but never caught sight of it.

Gu Mian couldn't help but wonder if he'd really been transported eight hundred kilometers away?

Today, he didn't go to deliver parcels but instead went to the supermarket with Fatty and Chu Changge.

Fatty was searching everywhere for chin implants in the "Cosmetic Products Section," while Gu Mian was listening to two salespeople gossip behind the snack food shelf.

"Did you hear, Goose Village has flipped over too."

"Sounds familiar, wasn't the Toy Goose Food Processing Factory headquarters over there?"

"Yeah, that's why we haven't received as much stock lately; the main factory is gone."

"I've heard many places have flipped over, trapping a lot of people..."

Flipped over again.

A few days ago, when calling Game City's Manager Jin, he also mentioned that a city in Paradise World had flipped over.

It remains unclear what Earth is trying to achieve.

While Gu Mian was eavesdropping on the game secrets, Fatty, holding a beauty blender in the beauty section, suddenly let out a yell: "Doctor! Doctor, look at the game panel!"

Hearing the yell, Gu Mian immediately opened the game panel.

The homepage of the panel updated with the "events" section in the middle.

[Special Event 'Inverted City' is about to descend on Earth]

Chapter 783 Rotten Wine and Meat Behind Vermilion Gates, Frozen Corpses by the Road

Inverted City?

Looking at the activity panel, Gu Mian immediately recalled the conversation between the two salesmen earlier.

The headquarters of the Toy Goose Food Processing Factory, located in Goose Village, is upside down. A few days ago, when talking to the Game City Gold Store Manager, he mentioned something similar, that the City of Pleasure in the Paradise World is also upside down.

The name of the activity "Inverted City" feels somewhat similar to the situation mentioned by the Gold Store Manager.

Gu Mian continued to look at the activity panel on the homepage.

[Special Activity 'Inverted City' is about to descend upon Earth]

[Start Date: December 1st]

It is now November 21st, so there are only ten days left before this activity arrives.

But Gu Mian keenly noticed that this activity does not specify an end date.

This is somewhat strange; previous large-scale events all had a definite beginning and end, but this event has only a start date and no end date.

The event preview below is also quite strange.

[Preview: This is a storm-free harbor, the last sanctuary for humanity. After December 1st, the first batch of 'Inverted City' will descend upon Earth, and 'Inverted City' will exist permanently. Everyone is welcome to move in.]

Gu Mian grasped a few key points.

"The first batch," "permanent existence"

This means there will be a second batch, a third batch, and those "Inverted Cities" will remain forever and will not disappear.

"Doctor, this Inverted City event seems to resemble... resembles that situation mentioned by the Gold Store Manager during our call." Fatty hurriedly came running from the beauty section.

It indeed seems similar.

But the Gold Store Manager said it was a curse from Earth.

Gu Mian originally thought Earth was determined to fiercely curse the game world.

Unexpectedly, this curse ended up descending upon the real world.

However, looking at the event preview, this Inverted City doesn't seem like a curse; instead, it seems very appealing.

The Fatty nearby was already being drawn: "A storm-free harbor, the last sanctuary for humanity. It sounds quite nice, can't see where the danger lies."

Indeed, it sounds quite nice.

"But if the Inverted City is truly a utopia, why would Earth deploy so many inverted cities in the game world? Is it using a sugar-coated cannonball to confuse the enemy?" Fatty found it hard to understand, but he quickly decided not to challenge his limited intelligence and shifted his focus to the problem at hand.

"Doctor, do you think these are false chin implants?" Fatty showed the items in his hand, which he had arduously found in the beauty section.

Gu Mian looked at the hair pads and eye masks in Fatty's hand, and remained silent.

Fatty then went to the stationery section, though he didn't understand the connection between stationery and implants, his actions undoubtedly had a reason.

Until the three left the supermarket, Fatty didn't find the chin implants he was looking for in the stationery section.

Instead, he found a stack of unopened red envelopes.

"Last year, Doctor, your red envelopes were too plain. So this year, I specially bought a stack with patterns drawn with gold powder..." Fatty happily flaunted the envelope covers he had bought to Gu Mian.

Fatty was the only one who would spend Game Coins on such miscellaneous things; last time, Xiao Hong's simple game console was also bought by Fatty.

Now, in this big environment, other players probably struggle to eat, yet Fatty happily buys this and that.

How does that saying go?

It seems like "the smell of wine and meat at wealthy gates contrasts with the frozen bones on the streets."

There, not far from the supermarket door, was a frozen soul wandering—a soul not yet dead.

It was a man in his thirties or forties, whose beard hadn't been shaved for who knows how long, his head wrapped with several layers of what seemed to be plastic serving as a hat, his neck wrapped in a dirty scarf, his clothes not much cleaner, probably hadn't been changed for a long time.

Chu Changge also noticed this man, his gaze lingering on him for several seconds.

Since the death protection mechanism closed, the live people they saw in the real world have been decreasing.

When the game first started, quite a few lights illuminated the city at night.

As time passed, those lights went out one by one.

By now, almost only their apartment lights up in the evening.

At this moment, Fatty also noticed that side, he stopped his hand that was waving the red envelope:
"Doctor, don't you think that person looks familiar?"

Familiar?

Gu Mian seriously looked at the middle-aged man again; he wasn't Renle Mountain nor Old Liu from Victory Hardware.

But as Fatty said, he indeed felt this person looked familiar.

Gu Mian quickly found a corresponding face in his memories: "Mingliang?"

"Yes, yes," Fatty quickly said, "I've always had trouble remembering his name, but Doctor, now that you mentioned it, I remember he's supposedly called Mingliang the Non-glare man."

Additionally, he had a girlfriend nicknamed "Charming but Not Showy Woman"

The two were acquaintances from the Terror Manor instance. Gu Mian affectionately called them "Mingliang" and "Xiao Zhang"

Now Xiao Zhang was nowhere to be found, Mingliang had completely changed, Gu Mian could hardly recognize him.

Noticing someone was watching him, Mingliang cautiously turned his head towards the direction of the gaze, then saw the three figures standing at the supermarket entrance.

He was stunned for several seconds before hesitantly opening his mouth: "Are you... the three from the Terror Manor?"

He recognized Gu Mian and the other two but wasn't sure.

"Yes." Fatty stepped forward, wanting to ask why he was there but seeing Fatty approach, Mingliang immediately jumped back a few steps with heightened vigilance, and fled without responding.

Fatty was somewhat puzzled: "What happened, am I so frightening?"

Moreover, he remembered Mingliang wasn't like this before; in the Terror Manor instance, Mingliang was flamboyant and liked to show off, you could guess his personality from his nickname.

Now, however, he had completely changed, akin to a startled bird.

Beside him, Chu Changge slowly spoke: "People change."

After a pause, he continued: "He became more suited to this world."

Being cautious and vigilant is the basic rule for survival in today's world.

Fatty seemed to understand somewhat, silently watching the direction Mingliang fled.

It was about to rain; the gloomy weather weighed down on his chest.

"Doctor, let's hurry back." Fatty headed to the apartment, clutching the bought items, saying little along the way.

Gu Mian noticed that Fatty had been rather sentimental these days.

From time to time, he hovered around Gu Mian asking, "Doctor, do you think this Global game will ever end?" "If the game world disappeared, where would Brother Chu and the others go?"

When not asking questions, he mostly sat frowning in the yard downstairs, unsure what he was pondering, even when the big goose seized the moment to defecate on his clothes without any reaction.

This period, busy for a month, 007 seemed to accept reality and finally stopped searching for Renle Mountain.

The mood of 007, who gave up the search for Renle Mountain, was low, and he also would zone out in the yard from time to time.

Thus, Gu Mian often saw two somber-faced people sitting side by side below, feeling that if this continued, the place would turn into a depression shelter.

He discussed with Chu Changge about doing something to stop these two from being so depressed, Chu Changge thought at length, ultimately digging out the Black Cat Sheriff DVD from the bottom of the box and inviting the two to watch.

Gu Mian looked at Chu Changge, expressionless, playing the DVD, feeling somewhat depressed himself.

December 1st soon arrived, the day the "Inverted City" event descended upon Earth.

The homepage event page also showed new changes.

[Special Activity 'Inverted City' is now open]

[Introduction: Still anxious about food shortages? Still worried about the upcoming cold winter? The first batch of Inverted City has been randomly deployed in the real world. Move into the Inverted City, and you'll no longer have to struggle for a livelihood or be sleepless from the cold. A happy life awaits in the Inverted City!]

Wait a minute.

Who wrote this copy? Why does it read like a real estate advertisement?

"It really does seem like a refuge harbor." From the side came Fatty's voice, Gu Mian turned to look at him, he was absorbed by the event, temporarily forgetting to be depressed.

"There's no mention of danger, just like in the preview," Fatty carefully examined the event page, "Could this really be the save haven Earth created for humanity?"

The first batch of Inverted City is randomly deployed into the real world.

Gu Mian went to the window to take a look outside.

The surroundings hadn't changed; no trace of an Inverted City.

It seems this thing hasn't been deployed to their area yet.

Although the event description praises the Inverted City extensively, Gu Mian's instinct tells him there won't be such good things.

A melon seller at least knows to boast, how much of this self-promotion is in the description, Gu Mian isn't sure.

He turned to look at Chu Changge.

Chu Changge also looked at Gu Mian: "If there's a chance, we could visit the upside-down city in the Paradise World."

Chapter 784: Your Friend Gu Mian Is Still Riding Over

Mr. Green has been muttering something in the corner lately. When Gu Mian passes by him, he occasionally hears phrases like "Thank the Evil God" and "Praise the Evil God," as if he's about to become a devout believer of the Evil God.

He looks like he's ready to directly worship the Evil God.

When he's not praising the Evil God, he always wears that green hat and hovers around Gu Mian, frequently asking "Is the variety show starting soon?" "When can we go in?" "You haven't forgotten me, have you?"

According to Gu Mian's count, Mr. Green has asked him these "offhand" questions twenty-eight times in one day.

After some time of dealing with this, Gu Mian started to take a detour whenever he saw that green hat. Unable to stop Gu Mian, Mr. Green then went to "accidentally" bump into Chu Changge and 007.

Fortunately, those days of being harassed by Mr. Green didn't last long. One day, Old Xu from Carnival Wharf brought them some good news—the stage is already set up, and the variety show will start in about a week.

"It's time to enter Paradise World," Gu Mian said as he pulled Xiao Hong, who was clinging tightly to his neck, off his back.

Xiao Hong had received a strawberry necklace from Gu Mian, and she was extremely happy, showing her joy by tightly clinging to Gu Mian's neck these days.

After pulling for a while without success, Gu Mian decided to leave her be and turned to Chu Changge: "The transmission location to Paradise is uncertain. Considering luck, I might be sent far from the variety show's location and need some time to catch up."

He didn't want to reenact some classic plot—the show ends, Lu Yi is being executed, while Gu Mian is still on horseback rushing over.

"We'll enter Paradise tomorrow. Find an empty space when we go," so as not to involve unrelated people, although this city hardly has any living people left.

"You're going to Paradise!" Just as Gu Mian finished speaking, a green figure burst out from the wardrobe in the bedroom.

It was Mr. Green.

Gu Mian: "..."

Mr. Green realized Gu Mian was deliberately avoiding him, so he was afraid Gu Mian would sneak into Paradise World without him. Therefore, he had been secretly lurking within a five hundred meter range of Gu Mian.

A few nights ago, Gu Mian was sleeping soundly when he was suddenly awakened by a cry for help.

Upon opening his eyes, he saw a green hat drifting back and forth under the window sill. Just as Gu Mian wondered if this was a sign of the future, a few more cries for help sounded from outside the window.

He approached the window and found Mr. Green, grasping the window sill with both hands and struggling with his short legs, shouting for help.

No idea what he was doing there in the middle of the night.

Finally, it was Gu Mian who rescued him.

After being saved, Mr. Green, under Gu Mian's questioning, confessed the truth—he was afraid Gu Mian would enter Paradise World without him, so he wanted to climb outside the window to monitor him.

Unable to resist, he slipped and had to embarrassingly cry for help to be rescued.

Under Gu Mian's threat of force, Mr. Green promised not to do such sordid things in the future.

But apparently, Mr. Green's promise was just hot air, as today he rushed out from Gu Mian's wardrobe again, having no idea how long he'd been lurking in there.

Looking at the wide-open wardrobe door, Fatty suddenly realized: "Yesterday I helped the doctor put away clothes and saw something green at the bottom, and the doctor doesn't have clothes in that color. I thought nothing of it, just put the clothes away and left. Didn't expect Mr. Green was at the bottom."

Having had enough, Gu Mian kicked Mr. Green out the door, slamming it shut with a "bang."

Mr. Green's voice echoed in the hallway: "Don't forget to take me tomorrow!"

Early the next morning, when Gu Mian opened the door, he saw something green lying at the doorstep. Upon closer inspection, it was Mr. Green.

Mr. Green then jumped up with his high-top hat in hand, excitedly asking: "Are we setting off?"

Indeed, it was time to depart.

Poor Mr. Green, after wandering Earth for nearly a year, was finally able to return to the embrace of the game world.

However, he was headed to Paradise World, and with Mr. Green's looks, it was clear he'd be a lower-class person there.

Mr. Green didn't seem to care about this, so Gu Mian didn't ask further.

They arrived outside the gate of Lianhua Amusement Park at a marked spot.

This was a mark they had prepared earlier, with an open area within five hundred meters visible at a glance if anyone was around.

Except for some obstruction near the amusement park gate, Gu Mian made sure to circle the gate twice to confirm no one was around before returning to the marked spot.

Chu Changge, 007, and Mr. Green were already prepared, and the ritual mustache was stuck to Gu Mian's forehead.

"I'm going to start now."

Seeing Chu Changge and 007 nod in agreement, Gu Mian took out the Evil God's 108th key, paused for a moment, and then began reciting his lines: "Excellent, you've successfully incited my anger... The next era belongs to me!"

Embarrassment made Gu Mian speak quickly, making it almost impossible for others to hear his mumbling.

As soon as the humiliating lines ended, the surroundings began to distort.

Gu Mian watched the ground beneath him twist into a massive spiral, with several small spirals attached to it—those were the streetlights and benches along the road.

Chu Changge and 007's faces also twisted, turning into a blur as they spun and danced further away in the scene until they became two tiny dots.

Looking up at the sky, it too began to warp and morph, with the sun and clouds churning and swirling into abstract vortices, resembling Van Gogh's *Starry Night*.

Quickly, this abstract scene darkened, and the whole picture turned black. Then like a spring pressed to its limit, it suddenly rebounded, splashing out the compressed image.

A narrow, cramped alley filled with a stench appeared before Gu Mian.

This was Paradise World.

Tall structures piled up on both sides, leaving a narrow pathway in the middle.

Standing on the ground and looking up, only a sliver of blue sky was visible, with sunlight struggling to pass through the congested cracks overhead, shining onto Gu Mian.

Gu Mian didn't immediately inspect the surroundings as his attention was drawn to a massive city hanging upside down in the distant sky.

It was a sprawling, inverted Sky City.

The city was layered with dilapidated, cramped buildings, like a heap of soil chaotically excavated by ants at a cave entrance. The heap blocked and melded everywhere, almost covering the entire city, resembling a blot in the clear sky.

Yet the people inside were oblivious.

They moved through the crowded buildings with down-to-earth steps, all with genuine smiles on their faces. Some sat on missing parts of their home's doorstep, peeling beans while nodding their heads as if humming a tune, as though no one was happier than they were at that moment.

Chapter 785: Doctor, Say Something!

They're all lower-class people; Sky City is full of lower-class inhabitants.

The buildings overhead are too tightly packed; Gu Mian can't catch a glimpse of the whole of Sky City through the pitifully narrow gap, but within his view, there isn't a single upper-class person in sight.

No pale faces with flamboyant expressions, everyone in the city is lower-class.

The city above should be the City of Pleasure mentioned by Manager Jin. Seeing it in person is even more spectacular than imagined. The city looks like a massive flying saucer; if Gu Mian didn't already know the situation here, he might have thought aliens were attacking Paradise World.

Lu Yi's Circus is also in the City of Pleasure, and upper-class people reside within this city as well. But in the visible range, it's all lower-class people. Could it be that when this city flipped upside down, there was a population filtration? Did they filter out all the upper-class people?

If so, how considerate of the lower-class people.

[Fatty]: Doctor Brother Chu Miss 007, I observed with binoculars that you disappeared; you should've entered Paradise World by now, right? Did anyone get transmitted together?

[Fatty]: Why is no one speaking? Doctor, say something quickly!

Fatty started howling in the ten-person group chat.

Gu Mian had forbidden him from entering Paradise World. During the transmission, Fatty had to stay two miles away with binoculars to observe the situation while stalling Xiao Hong, who wanted to stick to Gu Mian.

The key given by the Evil God was a shoddy product. Although the introduction claimed it would only bring creatures within 500 meters into Paradise World, there was a possibility of malfunction pulling people from within two miles.

To be safe, Gu Mian had Fatty bid them farewell from two miles away.

Seeing Fatty's message in the group chat, Gu Mian realized he hadn't surveyed his surroundings yet.

He turned to look on both sides.

Just two steps away to his left was the entrance of a household.

This was evidently a lower-class residential area. The house on the left looked like it was built with mud, some places already cracked, with straw stuffed and glued with mud into the cracks. The mud-coated walls visibly slanted, even the door frame tilted into a parallelogram.

In this situation, the door couldn't possibly close; it was half-open with a crack, the wind pushing it against the frame, but the fragile door panel just creaked and flapped feebly outside the frame.

A sticker on the parallelogram doorframe caught Gu Mian's attention.

Gu Mian speculated that it had been there for quite some time. The paper's original yellow color had almost entirely faded, and dozens of tiny slits crisscrossed it, indicating it had faced countless windy and rainy days.

It didn't take long for him to understand what this paper was — a wanted poster, his own.

At the very top of the wanted poster was, first, a photo of him.

The background was a mine, seemingly taken in the restricted zone. In the photo, he was baring his teeth and climbing over the tip of a mine cart, next to a chubby arm that must have belonged to Fatty.

At this moment, [Fatty] was still performing his summoning ritual in the ten-person group chat, but nobody paid him any attention.

Gu Mian looked at the photo on the wanted poster, quickly retrieving the corresponding memory from the image.

It was in the Slaughter Game instance. At the time, he and Fatty were in a mine cart, with Chu Changge driving at the front, pursued by the Order Guard sent by the upper-class people behind them.

There was a bomb set to explode in the cart. To evade it urgently, Gu Mian and Fatty were desperately climbing onto the cart top, the photo taken by the No.9 follow camera tracking them during that scene.

Gu Mian silently stared at his photo.

His expression wasn't flattering at all, evident that the upper-class people had a deep-seated bias against him. Clearly, they could have chosen a better-looking photo, yet they insisted on this ugly one. What a decline in societal standards and morals!

Gu Mian averted his eyes from the photo, moving them to the text area below.

[Wanted Person: No.9 Sinner of the Restricted Zone, Former Circus Fugitive]

The people of Paradise didn't know his name and had to use another title instead. As for why they called him No.9 Sinner, it was probably because the camera following him in the restricted zone was No.9.

The next few lines highlighted Gu Mian's illustrious 'achievements.'

[Crime: Blowing up the Order Guard in the Restricted Zone, damaging Kuangcheng City Mines, blowing up the original Circus grounds, damaging follow cameras, kidnapping, blackmail (according to clues provided by the victim Mr. Slaughter to the insurance company, the wanted person conspired with the traitor Lu Yi to kidnap and extort his 144 Gold Coins)]

Seeing the last charge, Gu Mian fell silent.

When did he ever rob Mr. Slaughter of his money? Could this guy be committing insurance fraud?

Continuing downward, the last section was the reward.

[Bounty: 20 kilograms of coarse flour]

Alright, so it's that cheap, huh?

His wanted bounty outside was already up to 100,000 Game Coins. He didn't expect that in Paradise World, he was worth only 20 kilograms of coarse flour.

But it was understandable; this wanted poster was plastered in a lower-class living area, evidently aimed at lower-class people.

For the lower-class, 20 kilograms of coarse flour was already a fortune.

Luckily, he had attached the Holy Disguise Item "Eight Characters" Moustache before entering; otherwise, he would've been caught and exchanged for flour by the lower-class people. Gu Mian touched the "Eight Characters" Moustache affixed to his forehead's hairline.

The photo on the wanted poster was too ugly, damaging his image. Gu Mian reached out to take it down, but the interface popped up the moment his hand touched the wanted poster.

It turned out to be a special item.

[The Wanted Poster of the Ugly Mr. Gu]

[Creator: Doggie Doll (Green Limited Edition)]

[Description: The creator painstakingly managed to capture Gu's ugliest photo in frame-by-frame images, a photo that fully expresses the author's homesickness]

[Function: "Can such an ugly person exist in this world!" When being chased, showing it to the pursuer will scare them off for three seconds]

[Supplement: "It's just a photo; I won't be scared again" This item is effective only once per individual]

As Gu Mian silently read the words "Can such an ugly person exist in this world!" in front of him, there was finally some activity in the ten-person group chat.

It was 007.

[007]: I was transported to the Crazy Game City, not far from Carnival Wharf

007 was lucky. Mr. Jin had mentioned that Crazy Game City was filled with NPCs from other worlds, with no upper-class people around; her situation was relatively safe.

A few seconds later, Chu Changge also sent a message.

[Chu Changge]: I'm at Rathead Alley, a lower-class residential area.

The street name itself suggested it was a lower-class neighborhood.

Gu Mian still didn't know where he was.

He walked down the narrow alley, moving forward, also a lower-class residential area, where several homeless lower-class people lay on the ground. They lay on sacks filled with who-knows-what, covered with dirty tarps.

A half-piece of moldy hard bread peeked out from under the pillow of one of the lower-class people.

Perhaps it couldn't be called a pillow, just something propped under his head, a headless doll.

A dirty hand sneakily reached for the bread, it was a child. Clearly, he was well-practiced in petty theft, rapidly escaping once successful, while the unsuspecting bread owner snored away.

Several lower-class individuals, with matted hair, sat by the street, eyeing Gu Mian viciously.

Compared to them, Gu Mian was too clean, and the large pack on his back made it hard not to suspect he was carrying something valuable.

Chapter 786: Look, It's the Third Update!

"Pretty boy, new around here?" The two lower-class people with mop heads stood up, swaying as they came over to Gu Mian, blocking his path.

They kept sizing up Gu Mian from head to toe, wearing an unsettling expression. It seemed they've determined the person in front of them wasn't much of a threat. The slightly taller one reached out a hand to Gu Mian, "Give us something."

The meaning was obvious—they wanted to rob him.

And they spoke with an uncompromising tone, their pitch-black eyes fixated on Gu Mian, as if threatening, "If you don't give, you're dead meat."

At this time, a sparse crowd began to gather around.

Just moments ago, there wasn't a soul in this alley.

Perhaps thinking they found an easy prey, or maybe seeing someone else make the first move, people eager to grab a share emerged from the darkness, silently observing Gu Mian from the shadows cast by the buildings.

Behind doors, by the corners, beside the garbage heaps, there were people peeping out.

Even the kid who had just snatched his hard bread appeared from the dark, standing not far away, staring intently at Gu Mian, still having crumbs on his mouth, eager to select the next prey.

Gu Mian looked down at the hand reaching out to him. This hand was calloused, with two scars crossing the palm leaving deep marks, and black grime covered it all, as if engraved in the lines.

The person in front was waiting for Gu Mian to offer something.

The people behind him were waiting too.

Everyone here was waiting.

Like an antelope strayed into a pack of wolves, if it showed any fear and a piece of flesh was torn away, the fresh blood would instantly trigger the other wolves into a frenzy, leaving nothing but a broken skeleton.

But Gu Mian was no antelope, and these people might not be a pack of wolves either.

Gu Mian lifted his head, smiling kindly at the man in front, then raised his hand to grasp the outstretched hand and twisted it upward.

Before the man could react, there was a "crack" sound.

Then he felt that the hand he extended was no longer under his control, he looked down in confusion, only to see the hand drooping at an odd angle, as the piercing pain finally hit his brain.

Before he could cry out in pain, he saw the smiling man in front of him reaching for his other hand, and before he could withdraw it, there was another "crack."

The other hand drooped down too.

The doubled pain made his scream extraordinarily loud.

Gu Mian was quite pleased to see the alley once again returned to its previous emptiness, as the lower-class people who witnessed all of it hurriedly left, fearing they would be the next to suffer.

The man with both hands broken quickly stumbled away after a few screams, without even leaving an arrogant threat like "you'll regret this."

There were no laws here, the weak were bullied, those crippled were at the bottom of the food chain; once injured, it was difficult to win in the struggle for food, eventually just stepping toward death.

No one wanted to get hurt, and no one wanted to offend someone who could harm them.

The alley became even more deserted, the people who were laying on the ground with blankets also disappeared along with their covers, apparently not forgetting to take their belongings as they fled.

Gu Mian originally thought that the Upper Class people here were quite insane, didn't expect the lower-class people to be just as much, they really weren't a family that didn't belong together.

He lifted his foot and continued walking forward.

The first two times he entered Paradise World, once for a Slaughter game and once for the Circus, he was directly dropped at the point of destination; this was the first time he saw where the lower-class people lived.

The ground here was extremely filthy, the lower-class residential area had no drainage system, sewage and waste were everywhere, you stepped on them with every few steps.

The buildings on both sides also matched the vibe of this place, houses piled of substandard materials, with no proper building materials available, anything on hand was used for construction, often leading to different floors of the same building being made from different materials.

For example, the one beside Gu Mian, the bottom layer was generally built with bricks, seemed like they ran out halfway, so the other half was built with stones; looking up further, even stones ran out, and they used mud wrapped with sand; the third layer was thatch, the fourth was a few scattered planks.

Oh, the fourth layer wasn't even completed yet.

Most houses here were tall, almost none below the fourth floor.

The array of construction materials made it look like a junk yard, Gu Mian was trying hard to find something like a street sign in this dumpster, to determine his position.

But soon he gave up.

The lower-class residential area likely wouldn't have unnecessary things like street signs.

But Chu Changge was also sent to the lower-class residential area, how did he determine his location to be Rathead Alley?

Gu Mian soon found out.

This alley wasn't long; after walking for a few minutes, he reached the end.

At the end was a house made of sand and earth, with the words "Mantis Tail Street" painted in blue on its wall.

Could it be all the lower-class residential areas were named after vermin?

Gu Mian saw below the word "Mantis" were two of his own wanted posters, he stepped forward and tore them down, but no special item panel appeared after removing these two posters, it seemed only the first wanted poster collected could be used as a special item.

Gu Mian discarded the two wanted posters with his ugly pictures, about to speak in the group when he noticed a row of two-story villas in the distance.

He had reached the end of Mantis Tail Street, beyond that was a vast open space.

Such a large area, yet the lower-class people who loved to build impromptu structures didn't set up their houses here, truly curious.

Looking past the open land, opposite was that row of two-story villas.

Gu Mian could vaguely see a few pale folks walking under the villas, clearly this side was where the Upper Class people lived.

A low wall separated the villas from this side.

Gu Mian estimated, the low wall only reached waist-high, could easily be scaled.

The lower-class people here could easily get over if they wanted to.

Gu Mian observed around again, there were no snipers or anything of the sort, no need to fear being shot if sneaking over.

Yet none of the lower-class people approached that side; it'd be great if they channelled their energy from attempting to rob him, and used it to rob the Upper Class people instead.

Gu Mian didn't plan to infiltrate the Upper Class area immediately; if caught sneaking in, he'd likely be hunted with submachine guns, he might heroically sacrifice himself before even rescuing Lu Yi.

Better to gather everyone first.

Gu Mian opened the group chat.

007 and Chu Changge had been chatting for a while in there, he briefly skimmed through the previous chat record.

Essentially, 007 had a city map in her Game City, she found Chu Changge's position at Rathead Alley on the map, saying that Rathead Alley was just north of Game City, not far from her.

Their chat included some nonsensical remarks from Fatty as well, still looking around asking "why isn't the doctor speaking."

Gu Mian started to speak in the group.

[Gu Mian]: I'm at Mantis Tail Street. 007, can you check on the city map roughly where I might be and how far I am from you guys?

There definitely isn't any map in the lower-class area for him to check, he could only rely on 007 to help establish his location.

He thought for a moment and added two more sentences.

[Gu Mian]: By the way, if you two see my wanted poster, tear one off, it's a special item; and can you see an inverted city in the sky from where you are?

Chapter 787: Doctor, How Can We Live Without You!

In the brightly lit Game City, 007 held a [Warrant for the Ugly Mr. Gu]

On it was a picture of Gu Mian baring his teeth and claws, which, well, really looked quite different from usual.

She was planning to diplomatically inform Gu Mian about the warrant, only to find he already knew.

But he surely didn't know what the creator of the warrant looked like...

007 thought as she looked at the plush toy next to her gnashing its teeth, handing out warrants to passersby.

Indeed, the creator, the Doggie Doll, was a plush toy, a live one.

It was about the size of a Chihuahua, green all over except for its belly, with the word "Limited" embroidered in gold thread on its forehead, as expected from a green limited edition.

The little dog's mouth held a stack of warrants, distributing them everywhere. Every time it handed out a drool-covered warrant, the Doggie Doll would gnash its teeth and repeat, "He's a big bad guy, this person is a big baaadd guy."

It looked like it had a vendetta against Gu Mian for some heinous crime.

The dog's final repeated word wasn't an attempt to be cute; 007 had observed that this Doggie Doll sometimes spoke with repetition—probably its factory setting.

The Game City was a circular mall, with the middle of the circle hollowed out, allowing views of the lower floors from the high floor railings.

The ceiling on the topmost floor was entirely made of glass—or maybe it was glass.

It had a peculiar shape, like a giant glass bowl turned upside-down atop the building, so 007 could see the sky when she looked up.

She looked up at the sky, which was a clear, bright blue.

[007]: I can't see any sort of Inverted City from here

As she replied, she thought of the game event called "Inverted City." Keke had mentioned that an upside-down city had appeared in this world—had Gu Mian been transported to the vicinity of that city?

What was the name of that upside-down city Keke mentioned?

Oh, right, the City of Pleasure.

007 pulled her gaze from the ceiling and turned to look at the city map in front of her.

"Gu Mian is on Mantis Tail Street, probably near the City of Pleasure." 007 quickly searched for Mantis Tail Street and Rathead Alley on the map.

She soon found their locations.

[007]: Rathead Alley is directly north of the Game City, very close, really close. Chu Changge's position and mine are almost touching on the map

[007]: But Gu Mian is a bit far, in the northwest direction of the Game City, about... forty kilometers away in a straight line

"Forty kilometers," Gu Mian looked at the message sent by 007.

If there was transportation, forty kilometers was no big deal, but without thinking, you'd know this world surely lacked transportation for lower-class people.

That left only his own feet. If he didn't want to walk, he'd have to break into the Upper Class People's area, steal a vehicle, and then be chased, screaming, by a group with guns. Heroically sacrificing himself even before the game show started.

In the end, Fatty would build a tomb for him, mourning with Chu Changge at the gravestone with Xiao Hong's teeth marks.

"Doctor, how will we live without you!"

Gu Mian shook his head, pushing out Fatty's wailing from his mind.

There were six days until the game show began, killing and stealing a vehicle couldn't be done yet—Gu Mian didn't want to be hunted by Upper Class People for six days.

Better to settle Chu Changge and 007 first.

[Gu Mian]: 007, is the Game City dangerous?

Seeing Gu Mian's message in the group, 007 instinctively shook her head and began typing: "Not dang..."

The third character hadn't even been typed when a tall person with a huge platter on their neck passed by, the gigantic fried egg on the platter slid off, hitting 007 on the head.

"Ah, sorry, sorry!" the platter exclaimed anxiously, hurriedly removing the egg from 007's head, leaving, blushing with embarrassment.

Watching the platter person's back as they left, 007 wiped the oil from her head, silently deleted the two characters she'd typed and rewrote her message.

[007]: There are some bizarre people, but it's not too dangerous

Since the Game City isn't dangerous, Chu Changge and 007 can stay there for six days and then go to the game show together.

Gu Mian immediately instructed Chu Changge to head to the Crazy Game City—he wasn't far, so 007 didn't need to pick him up.

If only he'd taken 007's wobbly car for himself.

Of course, Gu Mian was just thinking—he had no inventory, so he couldn't carry the wobbly car everywhere on his shoulders.

A few minutes later, Chu Changge finally replied with an "Okay" in the group. He seemed busy with something and couldn't respond right away.

Gu Mian wasn't concerned about his safety, having given him the Brother's Disk before entering the instance.

He turned back to the group chat, asking 007 to look for "Jump Jump Stadium."

The Fortune-teller had asked Old Xu at the Carnival Wharf about the game show's location and was told it would be at Jump Jump Stadium near the Game City.

However, the stadium was abandoned for years and was demolished to serve as the game show venue this time.

Soon, 007 sent a message.

[007]Found it, not far, in the northwest from here

If that's the case, he could head directly toward the Game City, meet up with Chu Changge and 007, and then go to the game show together.

Speaking of which, the game show must have a name—he still didn't know what this game show about judging Lu Yi was called.

He previously asked the Fortune-teller to inquire Old Xu, but he said he didn't know, not being interested in Upper Class People's activities.

Anyway, there are still six days—more than enough for him to figure out the situation with this game show.

Gu Mian thought as he asked 007 to describe the map verbally to help him plan a route from here to the Game City, preferably avoiding the Upper Class residential area.

Under 007's sketchy description, Gu Mian crudely drew a city map in his booklet.

He was located on Mantis Tail Street, which was directly connected to Mantis Belly Street and Mantis Head Street to the north.

A complete mantis, indeed.

A bit north of the Mantis Streets was the original City of Pleasure, but now the city had ascended.

007 mentioned that the Upper Class People had sealed off the area around the City of Pleasure, barring entry.

Exiting the Mantis Area heading south would lead them to the Fruit Fly Area.

The Fruit Fly Area had four streets: Eye, Head, Wing, and Foot.

Further south lay another sealed area, heavily restricted, rumored to have monsters roaming.

Gu Mian guessed these were monsters he'd released from the Forbidden Zone—Jin Hu had hoped these monsters would destroy the world, which now seemed an unfounded hope.

To the east of the Fruit Fly Area was the "NPC Small Store Street."

According to 007, this NPC Street didn't belong to Upper Class or lower-class people but was a commercial street built by outsiders, somewhat similar to the Game City.

Passing through this NPC Street and another Spider Area led near to the Crazy Game City.

A tortuous journey indeed, Gu Mian thought, looking down at the booklet in his hand.

He had to pass through three lower-class areas and an NPC area.

The NPC Area ought to have numerous NPCs, which offered Gu Mian some psychological comfort.

Maybe when passing through there, some friendly NPC would give him a vehicle.

Gu Mian pondered and resignedly set out on his journey.

Before setting out, he smeared some wall ash on his face to look dirtier, avoiding repeated episodes of lower-class robbing followed by boasting face-slapping in each new district.

Such scenes were, of course, to be saved for the game show. When he took the stage and confronted Lu Yi, he'd rip off the "Eight Characters" Moustache from his hairline. Gu Mian could almost visualize the Upper Class People's expressions as if they'd eaten dirt upon seeing him again.

Chapter 788 Gift Me a Vehicle, I'll Send You a Banner When I'm Back

"Creak" "Creak"

Gu Mian was quite resourceful. After a day and night of hard traveling, he finally arrived at "NPC Street," riding a bicycle that was about to fall apart.

As for how he got the bicycle...

In the eyes of the Upper Class People, the lower-class were no different from garbage, and the areas near the lower-class residences in the city became dumping grounds for the Upper Class People.

The lower-class people living in the area usually survived on bits of food scavenged from the garbage heaps.

Anything with even slight value would be reclaimed by the Upper Class People and would not be thrown into the dumpsters near the lower-class people.

But there are exceptions to everything.

Yesterday, a group of Upper Class People found an almost scrapped bicycle while rummaging through the garbage mountain. They were delighted. The lower-class people didn't even know what it was, having only seen people riding these things from afar in the Upper Class People's district.

"We can try the things of Upper Class People too!" — Gu Mian guessed that this must be what they were thinking at the time.

But the lower-class residential area was not a harmonious and loving family. Very soon, two groups of lower-class people were fiercely fighting over the broken bicycle. The number of people joining the bicycle battle kept increasing, and the scene was extremely chaotic.

Gu Mian happened to pass by, seized the opportunity to hop on the cracked bike seat, and pedaled hard to ride away with the bicycle.

By the time people realized the bicycle was gone, even the shadow of Gu Mian was long gone.

Riding a bike is faster than walking on two legs. Gu Mian pedaled day and night, finally reaching NPC Street by dusk the next day.

The poor bike, after a day and night of intensive work, finally fell apart and could no longer be ridden.

Gu Mian stood on the street, looking at the bicycle's shattered remains, mourning for it in silence for three seconds.

After a perfunctory three seconds, Gu Mian began to look up and take in the novelty of NPC Street.

007 said her Game City was like a commercial plaza.

Gu Mian assumed that NPC Street would be similar to the commercial streets on Earth.

But reality was not like that.

The architecture here was bizarre, with irregular heights. The abstract buildings clustered together almost looked like two rows of teeth in desperate need of braces at first glance.

The ground underfoot was strange too.

It seemed like every store had its own idea for the pavement in front. Every few meters, the ground style changed. Looking down the road, all kinds of colors could be seen, reminding Gu Mian of the rainbow rubber band candy he had seen in supermarkets as a child.

This rubber band candy—no, this colorful street wasn't long; only about twenty to thirty shopfronts.

Gu Mian was standing on a green grass sward pavement, with a layer of turf and some yellow and white small flowers, matching perfectly with the shop next door bearing a "Green Plant Module Garden Shop" sign.

This shop was shaped like a giant flower pot, with a crooked stick inserted at the top, and a leaf-shaped signboard hanging at the end. It really looked like a giant potted plant.

He looked for quite a while before finding the shop's door—a 20-centimeter high arched opening at the bottom of the flower pot, not much different from a dog hole.

This dog hole was the garden shop's door. Do you have to crawl through this hole to buy something?

Gu Mian bent over to see through the dog hole.

Bending down, he found that the shop was closed and locked, unable to see inside.

Upon closer inspection, a thin layer of dust had settled on the lock. He reasonably guessed that the shop had gone bankrupt and closed for some time due to poor management.

After all, customers who love to crawl through dog holes were rare.

A couple more steps forward and the ground turned into uneven glass. Under the glass, the land was chiseled into an irregular oval, with a few unhappy-looking fish drifting around inside.

Naturally, the shop next door sold fish.

A giant fish head was facing Gu Mian, its mouth wide open.

If not for the two-page door in the fish's mouth, Gu Mian would almost have thought this was a real fish head.

The fish shop was also locked, possibly closed along with the adjacent shop.

Surveying the surroundings, Gu Mian found all the shops in sight were locked, no wonder there wasn't a soul on the street.

What happened?

Has the whole street gone bankrupt?

Now what? Where could he find a sympathetic NPC to borrow a means of transport?

Gu Mian, still hopeful, continued forward.

After passing a few strange shops like "Red and Purple Instance Ribbon-Cutting Chain Store," "Teleportation Array," "Chased with Hope Awkwardly Strive Translation," Gu Mian finally saw a store with an open door.

Theoretically, it wasn't even a store, but more like a street stall—a sparsely-haired person sitting on a shabby little stool, holding a flagpole, much like the banner a fortune-teller in TV dramas would carry around.

The flag bore a very modern script.

3—2—Divination.

"Three... dash, two one divination," Gu Mian read the script on the flag.

"It's 'Three Long and Two Short Divination'! Hmm... Who are you?" The person on the stool instinctively corrected Gu Mian's mistake, only realizing afterward that there was someone beside him.

He scrutinized Gu Mian up and down, hesitantly saying: "A person from another world?"

The "Eight Characters" Moustache the Evil God gave was really effective, it could even fool an NPC. Gu Mian suspected the moustache helped block his game panel, otherwise, how would the person in front not recognize him as a player?

Gu Mian started smoothly fabricating an identity.

"Hello, I'm an employee of Squid Express. My vehicle broke down, could I borrow a car? I'll give you ten pennants when I finish my deliveries and come back."

"Ah, Squid Express?" The person on the stool pointed into the distance, "There is a delivery point over there, the packages piled up for half a month without being delivered, and the boss lady ran off yesterday because she couldn't pay the rent."

Couldn't afford the rent and ran off... It seems everyone here might have run off because they couldn't afford rent, except for the street vendor in front of me who doesn't need to pay rent, so didn't run.

Gu Mian followed his finger to look.

He saw a tent set up in that direction, with packages stacked like a small mountain underneath it. A wooden sign hung at the top of the tent, with crooked writing that read "Bird Bandit Express."

Seems like there's an extra point, but that's not important.

Gu Mian noticed a delivery truck parked next to the tent with the keys still in the ignition.

Beside the truck was a package sorting robot, or rather a machine dog.

This contraption was about the size of a dog, with a camera topping the place where its head should be. It was busily using its two front mechanical arms to load packages onto the delivery truck.

However, it seemed to have some malfunction, asking each package, "Are you happy?" each time it picked one up.

The packages felt bitter inside, but had no mouth to answer.

Not receiving any answer, the machine dog would wait for a while before tossing the package onto the truck, then pick up the next one to continue the questioning.

Seeing Gu Mian watching the machine dog load packages, "Oh, that's a happiness survey robot the boss lady pilfered from another place and repurposed into a package loader."

"So irresponsible," Gu Mian declared righteously, quickly striding towards the delivery truck, "Let me deliver all these packages!"

While speaking, he picked up the machine dog still asking, "Are you happy?" from the ground and threw it into the truck without a door.

Then he plopped onto the front seat, twisted the throttle, and drove towards Crazy Game City.

The fortune teller shouted from behind, "You're going the wrong way! You're supposed to head south and west; those packages are for there!"

Gu Mian responded with a "yeah, yeah," firmly twisting the throttle to keep heading east.

The man behind ate a mouthful of dust, looking at the silhouette of the delivery truck muttering, "Uh-oh, he seems a bit deaf."

As expected from a Bird Bandit Express truck, it sped along rapidly. Gu Mian felt that at this speed, he could reach Crazy Game City in just an hour.

At this moment, the machine dog in the truck jumped to the side of Gu Mian's seat, raising its camera to keep asking, "Are you happy?"

Gu Mian ignored it and focused on the small map placed on the dashboard.

The previous courier probably wasn't familiar with the terrain, so they specially put a map on the dashboard to help find locations anytime; next to the map was a compass.

Gu Mian kept driving while glancing at the map.

"I am currently at NPC Street, and if I keep heading east through the lower-class Spider Area, I can reach Crazy Game City. Right, the manager mentioned that Inferior Sightseeing Park and Crazy Plastic Surgery are near Game City, let me find them..."

Soon, Gu Mian found these locations on the map, indeed not far from Game City. When he got there, he could conveniently complete the delivery tasks for these two places.

"Let me search the map further to see where else can match my ninety-nine delivery tasks."

Thinking this, Gu Mian quickly browsed the map.

He promptly spotted a familiar name—"Carnival Abandoned Factory."

This was also one of the ninety-nine delivery addresses.

Upon seeing the position of Carnival Abandoned Factory, Gu Mian paused then suddenly slammed on the brakes.

"People's physical fitness is declining, going deaf at such a young age, but driving recklessly ..." In NPC Street, the man sitting on the little stool was lamenting when he heard a "boom" from afar.

Someone seemed to be driving towards him.

He curiously raised his head, seeing the young man driving the delivery truck back.

Due to the excessive speed, deliveries scattered along the way from the truck.

But the young man didn't mind, accelerating with roaring thunder until sharply braking at his stand, and the man swallowed another mouthful of dust.

"Hey, do you know the area's layout?" Gu Mian waved the map in his hand at him.

"What... what 'hey,' am I that old? You should call me..." The man considered for quite some time without finding a suitable title.

Looking at the man's slightly balding head, Gu Mian thought to himself he didn't want him to call him "brother," right?

"Hey," at this moment, the machine dog beside Gu Mian suddenly turned its camera toward the man, "Are you happy?"

What's going on? This machine dog was rather polite before, why did it suddenly start calling people "hey"?

"Forget it, forget it," the man seemed to give up on the title, "I'm very familiar with the surrounding terrain; which area's route are you not sure about? Let me tell you."

"I want to ask," Gu Mian looked at the map in his hand, "Carnival Abandoned Factory, Evil Eastern Valley, Up-and-Down Boundary, Prisoner Cave, and Secret Forest are to the southwest, right?"

These five locations are among the ninety-nine delivery task addresses.

Gu Mian circled these five locations on the map, finding they were all in the southwest, relatively close together, almost adjacent.

Moreover, the goods needed to be delivered were quite simple, items like "stones" and "twigs," common things.

Not delivering them was simply unjustifiable.

However, there's a bit of a tricky point.

The man scratched his somewhat balding head, "All those places you mentioned are within the blocked area."

Chapter 789 Bolting Awake with a Gurgle, Another Short and Powerless Update

Quarantine zone...

It is indeed so. This area on the southwest side of the map is a misty gray, with notes explaining that this is the quarantine zone.

The man spoke to himself, "Back when the Slaughter Game was still held, that Gu Mian got matched into it—the Upper Class People certainly didn't know his name, the wanted notice still listed him as the fugitive No.9 from the forbidden zone;

"I digress, after Gu Mian got matched into it, who knows what he did, the forbidden zone collapsed, and the monsters inside were released. The Upper Class People in this world had to spend quite a bit of effort to lock those monsters in an area. Look, it's the dark area on the map, near where the forbidden zone used to be."

Indeed, Gu Mian found the address "Kuangcheng City" in the quarantine zone, which is the city that was in the forbidden zone originally.

At this point, the man suddenly sighed.

Gu Mian looked up at him, expecting the man to start telling a story.

It's like an NPC in an online game with a question mark above its head, you click on it, and it starts giving you a quest.

Sure enough, two seconds after the sigh, the man began to explain—

"Originally, our street was not here, it was in the place you mentioned, Evil Eastern Valley, but that damn Gu Mian destroyed the forbidden zone, and the wandering monsters there fled to our place. We had to move the whole street here in a hurry, leaving a lot of property behind." The man spoke with a pained expression.

No wonder he has a street stall here, turns out he can't afford to rent a house.

"Everyone on this street is like me, didn't bring much with them, now they can't even pay the rent and are looking for work at Crazy Game City." The man said and pointed towards a toy shop, "That shop has over ten employees, they had to go to Game City to hand out flyers because they couldn't pay the rent."

Gu Mian looked over and saw that the toy shop was called "Twelve Twelve Happy Playmates"

He awkwardly turned his head away, embarrassedly chuckling twice to express sympathy.

"The five locations I mentioned aren't far from here, right?" After feeling embarrassed for two seconds, Gu Mian asked about business matters.

On the map, it didn't seem far, but considering that it's a quarantine zone, going there might encounter some obstacles.

Unexpected obstacles might delay him six days, and while dear Lu Yi croaks, he's still on the way delivering packages.

Oh, correction, now there are only five days left.

"Very close, if you drive that car, you can go back and forth from here to there a dozen times in one day. It's easy to get in too; reportedly, the Upper Class People used several pieced-together statues to block those monsters, there are no walls or anything, you can just walk right in, or even run."

Piecemeal statues.

It should be the shattered and glued back together Evil God statue, last time Lu Yi mentioned it in the Circus instance, the Upper Class People found countless identical Evil God statue fragments and a complete one in a cave in the forest.

The world leaders even deduced from these fragments that this world had undergone countless reboots.

Last time in a rush, Lu Yi didn't mention the location of that complete Evil God statue.

"Oh, right, the Secret Forest you asked about, reportedly has a complete, undamaged statue. When the monsters invaded, the Upper Class People tried to remove the statue but somehow failed. Monsters in the quarantine zone dare not approach the vicinity of the Secret Forest, possibly fearing that statue." The man seemed like a diligent plot pusher, starting to advance the plot.

Gu Mian paused, staring at the man in front of him for a while.

The man became a bit guilty under Gu Mian's gaze, retreating a few steps while touching his chin: "What are you doing... suddenly with that expression..."

"Hey""Hey""Hey" The machine dog nearby kept issuing an impolite "hey" sound at the man.

Gu Mian stuffed the puppy back into the car shed, looking at the man again, "Nothing, just felt like you are really hoping I'd go to the quarantine zone."

"What absurdity, not speaking further with you, I'm closing the stall." The man grabbed a nearby flag with three long and two short stripes and hurriedly ran away, turning his head to look at Gu Mian with a gaze that was akin to looking at a mental patient.

By now, the sun had set, Gu Mian looked at the map and planned for a bit.

If everything goes smoothly, he can reach the quarantine zone in half an hour, the five package addresses are very close together, at most half an hour upon arrival to deliver all five packages.

But now, the most important thing is not the packages.

The man earlier said there's a complete Evil God statue in the Secret Forest, Gu Mian is most concerned about that.

The complete Evil God statue...

It's not like the fake ones he's seen before, it can resist the world's reboot, as the whole world goes back, that statue steadfastly moves towards the future.

Currently, the Seventh World is teetering, unsure when Xingyun might perish.

When the Seventh World completely collapses, the Earth's curse will spread from there, reaching all worlds.

By then, Chu Changge, Xiao Qiao, Xiao Hong, Liu Ruyan would collectively perish.

Gu Mian began to imagine Fatty weeping and wailing at a grave, though this time in front of a row of gravestones.

If the Evil God statue can ignore the world's reboots, maybe it can also prevent the Earth's curse from spreading—though the likelihood isn't high.

If the statue is really that useful, Xingyun would snatch it to Paradise.

Whatever the case, such an impressive statue must have some use.

Gu Mian decided to explore the Secret Forest, maybe there'd be surprises.

Time is of the essence, Gu Mian picked up a compass, glanced at it, then drove towards the southwest, where the quarantine zone is.

There are certainly plenty of monsters in the quarantine zone, fortunately, he brought his chainsaw along this time.

The machine dog previously stuffed back into the car shed struggled, poking its head out again, starting a questionnaire survey.

At dusk, amidst repeated "Are you happy?" Gu Mian sped up, racing towards the deserted area.

[Fatty]: Brother Chu and 007 meet, the doctor hasn't spoken for a day and a night, could he be in danger!

The ten-person group chat was filled with Fatty's annoying chatter.

Having met at Game City, Chu Changge and 007 ignored Fatty's chatter, focusing on studying flyers.

Chu Changge looked while saying, "I got this flyer from the Upper Class People's residential area."

"You went into the Upper Class People's residential area?" 007 was a bit surprised.

"With this." Chu Changge pointed to his chest, a badge was pinned there.

This badge changed Chu Changge's player nickname to "Meiren Chu," it could also alter the user's appearance, but only once per day, each change lasting thirty minutes.

Chu Changge transformed into an Upper Class man and wandered around in the Upper Class People's residential area, obtaining this flyer.

It's about that game show.

007 looked at the large title at the top of the flyer—

"'Judgement and Crown' Season One is Coming Soon"

Chapter 790 Starting With a Photo, I Can Mock the Evil God for 200 Years

["Judgement and Crown" is about to arrive with a shock]

[Crown of Ignorance! Crown of Cowardice! Crown of Greed!]

[The ignorants will single-handedly ignite the world, the cowards will cover their ears and wander aimlessly, the greedy ones will gaze into the abyss with desire]

[Those who willingly sink into the abyss will face the world's judgment]

[Convict: Upper-class Traitor Louis (Former Circus of Love and Justice leader)]

[Judge: Selection will be conducted in clean and hygienic lower-class farming zones]

[Executioner: Winner from the lower-class judging group]

007 looked at the flyer: "Seems like it's letting the lower classes judge the upper classes."

Only clean and hygienic contained lower-class people qualify for selection. She guessed that the lower classes raised by Louis during the last circus instance were the "contained lower classes", while those living in the lower-class residential areas on the map were merely "freely roaming lower classes."

Last time, during the circus instance, she and Gu Mian had come to this world, knowing well of the insurmountable gulf between the upper and lower classes here. Although all were humanoid animals, their treatment was remarkably different, as if they were not of the same species.

Who would have thought that the upper class could devise such a scheme, having lower-class people judge the upper-class Louis.

007 couldn't imagine what that scene would be like.

"It's letting lower-class people judge lower-class people." Chu Changge's voice came from the side.

True, Louis had been removed by the upper classes. Strictly speaking, he no longer counted as an upper-class person.

But the physical traits of the upper class were innate, 007 thought of those upper-class people with their pale skin.

When Louis, who possesses upper-class traits, accepts judgment from lower-class people on stage, wouldn't the upper-class audience feel disgraced?

007 thought that the upper classes might want to destroy Louis's "upper-class traits."

But how could that ghastly pale skin be destroyed?

She began to recall unpleasant memories, feeling a pain in her arm.

007 took a deep breath, letting go of her thoughts, and continued reading.

[This event will be held in three stages]

[Stage One - Pre-selection: Several voting stations will be set up in the upper-class areas, and healthy, clean lower-class people will be sent to these voting stations. At these points, the lower-class people will make pre-selection speeches, and the upper-class people can vote for their favorite candidates. The top fifty in votes will qualify as 'Judge candidates' for Stage Two]

"Is this street campaigning?" 007 recalled seeing such a segment in a variety show, never expecting to see it recreated by this global game.

[Stage Two - Elimination: The fifty candidates from Stage One will move to the elimination phase, where they will compete on stage, with the top ten becoming 'Judges' for the next phase]

Looking at the introduction for the second stage, 007 remembered the stage performances from the last circus instance.

She wondered whether this stage competition would be similar to the circus instance's performances.

If Gu Mian wanted to rescue Louis, he would have to participate in the candidate selection, right?

He hadn't said anything in the group chat for a day and a night, and it was unclear where he was now.

[Stage Three - Coronation: The convict will appear, and the ten judges will personally create the Crown of Honor, stay tuned]

Stage Three hasn't been fully disclosed, seeming to aim for a surprise for the audience at the end.

Ten judges personally creating the Crown of Honor...

Could it be that ten people surround Louis on stage to create a crown for him? That would truly be a harmonious scene.

007 looked at the final "stay tuned" and felt certain that things wouldn't be as warm as she imagined.

After reading the flyer, she turned her gaze to Chu Changge beside her: "We don't know where Louis is being held now. Only by advancing to the finals on stage can we have a chance to see him."

When the coronation stage arrives in the variety show, the convict Louis will appear.

Chu Changge tapped on the rail before him: "That's right, and it's best if the three of us participate in this show together."

007 nodded.

This show would be extremely dangerous for "lower-class people" like them; it'd be best not to go.

But if she and Chu Changge didn't attend, Gu Mian would have to rescue Louis on stage amidst countless upper-class spectators, then flee the grounds while chased by upper-class individuals, only to meet up with them, pull out the 108-key and recite the spell to teleport back to the real world.

If they went, rescuing Louis would be much easier. At that time, all three could be on stage, enter the finals, and once Louis appeared, as long as he was within 500 meters, Gu Mian could directly pull out the 108-key for teleportation.

Omitting the step of rescuing Louis in front of a crowd and being chased by the upper-class people.

"Once we meet up with Gu Mian, we need to figure out a way to mix into the first stage's voting stations." 007 began considering the feasibility of this plan.

"Sir, let me show you the big bad!" At this time, a voice emerged from below.

007 looked down, spotting the doggie doll struggling to jump up and push a wanted notice into Chu Changge's hand. This time, it wasn't stuttering.

Chu Changge reached out, accepted it, and fell into silence while looking at the wanted poster featuring the fierce Gu Mian.

After a long silence, he finally spoke: "Gu Mian hasn't messaged us for a day and a night, right?"

007 looked up at the already dark sky: "I asked him in the group earlier, but there's been no reply."

Gu Mian was racing nonstop towards the forbidden zone.

Sadly, he didn't have an online map to update his position in real-time, so he had to confirm whether he was heading in the correct direction after running for a while.

Along the way, he passed through several residential areas, some of upper-class people and some of lower-class people.

Several lower-class people chased after him with gleaming eyes as if they wanted to grab express delivery, but Gu Mian quickly left them behind.

The further southwest he moved, the fewer people there were. Initially, he could spot a few scattered lower-class people on the road, but nearing the forbidden zone, there wasn't a trace of anyone.

The area was eerily quiet, with only the machine dog beside the seat occasionally asking, "Are you happy?"

Before long, a statue appeared in Gu Mian's view.

The sun had already set in the west, but some afterglow remained on the horizon.

Driving westward, Gu Mian saw the beam of afterglow stretching expansively in the dim and indistinct world, seemingly tearing open a gash in the chaotic sky, as light poured out towards the earth.

A massive human figure stood between heaven and earth against that gleam, the gash appearing to bisect it along with the heavens, yet in its face there was no sorrow, only a gaze directed at the Human World.

Arrived.

Gu Mian parked by the statue, looked up at it.

The statue's features weren't clear, just that it wore a divine robe with arms stretched downwards, resembling a Madonna statue Gu Mian had seen before, very divine.

Gu Mian scrutinized the statue, stepped back a few paces, and started recalling the image of Evil God making this gesture—an annoying Xu Xingcheng wearing SpongeBob shorts, grinning widely waving his hands "Let's hug, buddy"

Hmm, certainly felt completely different from the statue before him; wonder if he was embarrassed when designing this statue.

No, this gesture mightn't have been designed by him.

Gu Mian stepped closer for a look, the sky too dark, statue too tall, the only light coming from the delivery truck's headlights, making it difficult to observe the statue thoroughly, he only saw detailed cracks on Evil God's trousers.

Gu Mian touched the surface, feeling it rough.

The statue was likely a reprocessed upper-class work made from cave statue fragments, the maternal posture probably chosen by them too.

This starkly contrasted the genuine Evil God's demeanor—in person, he might leap mad in fury at this gentle, motherly statue.

It was a pity Gu Mian didn't bring a camera along, or he'd surely photograph this statue and mock Evil God for a century.