

Collapse 801

Chapter 801 Xu Xingcheng's 108 Love Games

Slaughter's body swayed a few times, almost losing its footing on the stairs.

He seemed like a frail pretty boy, but here there was no wind, only boundless darkness.

He staggered several times before steadying himself, clearly shaken by Gu Mian's direct words.

"Yes... that's right. When I saw that statue and realized the world kept looping back, I understood. He never exited halfway; I think he succeeded countless times only to be destroyed again, no matter how hard he tried, the world could instantly obliterate everything he did..."

The Evil God's memories shouldn't disappear with each reset, otherwise he'd still be a hero clinging to happy delusions, doing naive, futile work, trying to overthrow Upper Class People and create a beautiful Paradise.

The memories preserved through repeated resets are like a sharp blade, constantly hanging over his head. He worries and fears that his efforts may turn into foam at any moment.

It's almost like a dating game without a save function, when the player finally raises the target's affection to ninety-nine, just one more effort away from a sweet ending, the game malfunctions and starts over.

Enough to drive one mad.

And the "game malfunction" the Evil God experienced happened more than once, possibly over a hundred times.

In these hundred cycles, he was constantly anxious, afraid the world would suddenly reset, turning all his efforts to foam.

Gu Mian could even imagine the other party's mental journey.

The first time, the Evil God led everyone past obstacles, defeated enemies played by teammates, and liberated the world. After the celebration, full of hope, he slept, only to close his eyes and wake up back in Novice Village, with everyone else losing their memory.

He was somewhat broken.

Though unsure of what happened, now wasn't the time to break down.

He gathered the people again to overcome numerous obstacles and defeat the dark. But this time, throughout the process, he was filled with anxious worry, concerned about a repeat of last time. After the celebration, he didn't dare to sleep, waiting with open eyes until dawn. Only when he saw the world unchanged did he rest assured and sleep.

Alright, Fatty could even guess the next part of the plot.

He closed his eyes, opened them, and found himself back in Novice Village.

This time he truly broke down.

It's ridiculous; if he weren't part of it himself, it could almost be a joke to share.

Next was reorganizing his mental state, starting the third time, fourth time... unsure how many repetitions.

Gu Mian believed during this period, the Evil God certainly made various efforts to end the cycle. He might have feared to sleep, worrying that closing his eyes would lead to a reset, maybe even considered suicide.

But all efforts were in vain.

After countless numb repetitions of the "Heroes Battle the Evil Dragon" story, he finally succumbed and chose to exit.

Yet his teammates without memory were still dutifully playing the villain, waiting for salvation.

At this point, the stairs were almost at the bottom, and Gu Mian saw the ground below, where a massive, pure white statue stood in the center. From this angle, Gu Mian could only see its top and the surrounding ground.

The Upper Class People had cleaned the area thoroughly. They laid wooden floors on the ground, and even built a short platform in front of the statue for people to kneel while making wishes.

Slaughter also looked at the statue: "I used to resent him, never understood why he disappeared midway, when we clearly agreed to complete this story together. But he simply vanished, leaving us in this painful torment, it's truly agonizing;

"After seeing this statue, I suddenly realized his pain might not be less than ours. Alone, he repeated the cycles, daily worried he might have to start over again, unable to see any future."

They were now at the end of the stairs, stepping onto the wooden floor.

Slaughter stood before the stairs, gazing at the statue from afar. After a long while, he finally took a step forward: "The statue holds a story, take a look."

A story? Gu Mian followed him and walked toward the statue's base.

The complete statue wore a robe and a crown, not making any superfluous poses, just standing there with its head slightly raised as if looking at the sky.

Gu Mian followed its gaze upward, but above there was no sky, only a dark cavern.

The Evil God's statues seen before had indistinguishable faces, but this one was different.

Despite the dim surroundings, Gu Mian could vividly see the statue's features resembling Xu Xingcheng.

Yet, what was most striking wasn't its features, but the... comics on its body?

Gu Mian saw the statue carved with rows of little figures, no, not just figures, but also simple backgrounds of flowers, trees, and environment.

It's evident the sculptor's technique wasn't exceptional. Even simple stick figures were carved crookedly, though the simplistic visuals could barely convey meaning.

Is this the story Slaughter mentioned?

Indeed.

In this world, only the statue can resist the reset's influence. If the Evil God wanted to leave any message, he could only do so on the statue.

Soon, Gu Mian found the story's beginning.

The comics were carved in a spiral around the statue, from bottom to top, and Gu Mian found the beginning at the statue's robe hem.

At first, three little figures were warmly gathered together, discussing something. Then, one of the little figures picked up a precious sword and separated from the other two, going alone.

These are all stick figures, Gu Mian couldn't tell which was which, but luckily the one who left had the sword, and Gu Mian could distinguish him from the others.

What's next is a simple plot.

Two stick figures committed numerous evil deeds, while the sword-wielding figure descended from the sky to defeat those two evil ones, with the oppressed people celebrating by lifting the sword figure high, seemingly in celebration.

The next scene shows the sword figure once again going off alone.

Gu Mian understood this depicted the Evil God's own story.

The sword figure is himself, and the two villainous figures are the Evil God's good teammates.

This story is really simplistic, just a few scenes sketching out a complete cycle.

Gu Mian patiently continued to look upwards.

The scenes a few circles above were mostly similar, until the picture book reached the waist, and the little sword man broke down.

In this segment of the drawing, after defeating two evil stick figures, the little sword man chose to commit suicide, hoping to end the cycle in this way.

But it was useless.

Next came the heartbreaking scene; he returned to the past once again.

Following this, he tried a series of actions such as starting by committing suicide and running away frantically, but none worked.

The story was drawing close to the end.

The picture book had reached the neck of the statue, and fortunately, Gu Mian's eyesight was good enough to barely see the content on it. This was the last segment of the drawing.

In this cycle, the little sword man once again overthrew evil, then madly killed everyone. Including the two evil stick figures and the people who helped him overthrow evil, he killed anyone he saw, trying to end the cycle by killing everyone involved.

He was already insane.

What a pity.

The subsequent plot was not unexpected; things returned to the beginning again.

Even Gu Mian was feeling exhausted watching, let alone the Evil God who truly experienced it time and time again.

He probably accepted reality too, as this time the beginning directly showed a little man with a crown, no longer the little sword man.

The last scene was the crowned little man standing there alone, looking very desolate.

The story ended there.

Gu Mian looked up at the crown on the statue.

The figure of the crowned man gradually overlapped with the statue in front.

He had changed, no longer the hero representing light, but a traitor who named himself "Slaughter."

Unexpectedly, the Evil God's experience was rather tragic.

Gu Mian thought back to when he just learned from Chu Changge that Xu Xingcheng was a clone of the Evil God, and he was somewhat incredulous.

Xu Xingcheng previously had no memory of the Evil God, was gentle and timid, not at all like the arrogant Evil God in Gu Mian's impression.

Back then, he was puzzled as to why the amnesiac Evil God was so cowardly.

Now it seems his nature was inherently like this, just gradually driven mad through the endless cycles.

Gu Mian immersed in his memories for a while, then snapped back, right, he was here to study the purpose or clues of this statue, after researching he must hurry back to rescue Lu Yi.

The person most familiar with this statue, other than Slaughter, could be questioned for any problems.

Gu Mian turned his head towards Slaughter: "Aside from making wishes, this statue also..."

His voice abruptly stopped.

Gu Mian looked beside him; it was empty, Slaughter had disappeared.

Where did he go?

Slaughter was so close to him, if he left, he would definitely hear something, yet he heard no sound at all, Slaughter just vanished inexplicably.

Gu Mian quickly scanned his surroundings.

The mechanical dog they brought down was still here, but Slaughter's figure was nowhere to be seen.

He then looked upwards.

Stone stairs spiraled up along the cave wall, with a hollow center, from here several loops of stairs could be seen.

But Slaughter was not on the stairs either.

Strange.

Did Slaughter sprout wings and fly away in such a short time?

At this moment, he suddenly heard the sound of something breaking, coming from above.

Gu Mian's forehead twitched; could it be? Could this place be about to collapse?

Considering his understanding of his own luck, this possibility was high.

Thinking of this, Gu Mian immediately grabbed the dog beside him, intending to run up the stairs; he didn't want to be buried here, buried too deep for Fatty to even hear his lament.

Then came an even louder cracking sound, and this time Gu Mian heard it clearly.

The sound came from the statue beside him.

Holding the dog, Gu Mian turned to look at the statue.

Only to see a slender crack at the crown area on its head, the crack snaking downward, splitting the statue's entire face.

Gu Mian felt overwhelmed.

This time he hadn't touched the statue, yet somehow it seemed keen to incriminate him?

Chapter 802 Wanted Poster for the Ugly Mr. Gu ×2

Gu Mian discovered that the statues of the Evil God have a strange habit; every time they see him, they shatter a bit as a form of greeting.

He thought he'd try making a world peace wish in a moment.

Well, great. Before he could make a wish, the statue just crumbled.

Gu Mian watched as the crack spread down from the crown, growing wider and deeper. The Evil God's face seemed to have grown a large vertical mouth, which continued to split open wider, wanting to devour everything before it.

Soon, the fissure snaked down to its waist, spreading around like a river, and didn't take long before the entire statue was covered in tiny fractures.

It finally reached its breaking point and collapsed with a loud thud, raising a large cloud of dust as Gu Mian stepped back.

Gu Mian coughed a few times, holding his mechanical dog.

The dog in his arms probably thought the statue was unhappy, dutifully pointed its head at the ruins to ask if it was happy.

It's shattered this badly, happiness is a ghost.

Gu Mian waved his hand twice to disperse the dust ahead, then lowered his head to look at the fragments scattered all over the ground.

Slaughter suddenly disappeared within minutes, and the intact statue suddenly shattered too.

The intact statue shattered... Lu Yi had discussed this situation with him in the past...

A sense of foreboding suddenly rose in Gu Mian's heart.

He immediately wanted to open the panel to check the [Ten-person group chat], but before the panel opened, the ground underfoot began to shake, followed by a rumbling sound coming from the ruins in front of him.

Gu Mian raised his eyes to look at the heap of ruins that had formed a hill.

It seemed as if something huge beneath was moving, attempting to emerge, causing the small debris on the ruins to tumble down. As more fragments rolled to one side, the giant thing inside finally emerged.

Gu Mian watched as a human head slowly rose from the rubble, like a seed breaking through the soil rapidly growing and stretching out, growing taller and bigger in the dim, cavernous space, extending its limbs and finally maturing into human shape.

Again a brand-new statue identical to the one just before.

Gu Mian stared at the newly-grown statue, knowing that the ominous feeling in his heart had come true.

It shattered and was reborn, undergoing a rollback.

The sudden disappearance of Slaughter was also due to the rollback; at this current point in time, he doesn't know where he actually stands.

Gu Mian felt like swearing, and he didn't know how far back they'd rolled back, what if they suddenly went back a few hundred years—that'd be funny.

"Although it rolled back, my memory didn't disappear." Gu Mian quickly thought, "Could it be that during a rollback, our memories as external players don't disappear?"

He wanted to open the [Ten-person group chat] to ask about Chu Changge and 007's situation.

But honestly, he didn't know if this group chat could still be opened. If this world did roll back several hundred years, then global gaming hasn't begun yet, naturally, he also wouldn't have a game panel.

That would be bad.

Are they really going to live here for a few hundred years waiting for the real-world global gaming to start? Oh, by then they'd probably be dead.

Forget it, let's see if the game panel can still be opened first.

Gu Mian was about to try to open the game panel when he heard the familiar cracking sound again.

This sound frankly made his scalp tingle.

"No way?" He, still holding the dog, looked up at the statue that had just grown, only to see a vertical crack reappear on its forehead, identical to before.

Again?

Gu Mian understood this was another world rollback.

In just a few minutes, the world rolled back twice.

"Seriously?" Gu Mian took two big steps back with the dog to avoid getting hit by the shattered statue.

He wondered as he watched the newly emerged statue disintegrate into ruins shortly after, followed by another new statue emerging.

But that wasn't the end.

The third statue had barely appeared when another crack formed on its forehead, clearly ready to perform "shattered peace" again.

Gu Mian felt his forehead twitch and decided to sit on the steps with the dog, watching the statues line up to perform their inherent talent.

He counted on his fingers; after five such repeats, the world finally calmed down.

By this time, the last emergent statue was half surrounded by nearby debris, and Gu Mian could only see its upper half.

"In a short while, the world rolled back five times, which must have spanned a few hundred years." Gu Mian thought his chances of opening the player panel were almost nil.

He was already starting to contemplate how to rescue Chu Changge and 007, whom he couldn't contact, and complete the Evil God's unfinished wish. The three of them could form a hero team and film an anime called "As a Lower-class Person, I Conquered the World."

It would tell the story of himself as a hero, along with the cunning, sly strategist Chu Changge, and upper-class traitor Miss 007 overthrowing the upper-class people's rule; not to mention, the name 007 seems quite fitting for a spy.

"Hahaha." Gu Mian forced a laugh.

Though he was already scripting, he was still determined to try and open the game panel.

"Hmm?"

Could still open it?

Without hesitation, after opening the game panel, Gu Mian immediately tried to open the [Ten-person group chat]

It could open too.

And there were still chat records, but a few were missing, presumably followed the world rollback.

Currently, the latest two messages in the group were sent by "Fatty."

[Fatty]: Doctor Brother Chu Miss 007 I used binoculars to observe you disappearing, you should have already entered Paradise World, right? Did anyone transmit together?

[Fatty]: Why isn't anyone talking, Doctor say something!

This is... the message Fatty sent when they first entered this world.

The time returned to when they just entered Paradise?

Gu Mian was somewhat puzzled.

He looked at the nearly-scattered statue and then at the group chat records. This world made a grand gesture of rolling back five times, and yet it only went back to yesterday?

Gu Mian thought he'd have to traverse back hundreds of years to take the place of the Hero.

He typed in the chatbox, wanting to discuss the rollback with Chu Changge and 007.

As he was typing, someone in the group suddenly sent a new message.

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

Gu Mian stopped typing, staring at 007's message, slowly furrowing his brows.

007, as if she had just arrived yesterday, reported her location.

If he remembered correctly, in a few seconds, Chu Changge should report his position too.

Gu Mian waited a few seconds, but Chu Changge hadn't sent a message.

After another dozen seconds or so, Chu Changge's name finally appeared in the group chat.

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

Though the timing was later, the information mirrored what they sent yesterday perfectly.

Gu Mian silently deleted the text he hadn't managed to send, then looked at 007 and Chu Changge's chat info above.

The time indeed returned to yesterday, but these two seemed unaware of the rollback, they, like the native people of this world, lost memories from before the rollback.

Only he retained the memories...

Unsure if the world's rollback would affect the outside's real-world, did the outside world roll back too? Would Fatty and the others' memories be erased?

Following yesterday's message sequence, next Gu Mian should send info saying he's at Mantis Tail Street.

Gu Mian edited his message wanting to tell the others about the world rollback when 007 unexpectedly posted another message.

[007]: Something feels off

After 007 sent the message, she turned to look around a few times.

The glass ceiling overhead, not far away, a green-hatted dog handing out leaflets, and the city map plate in front were all so familiar as if she'd visited before.

At this moment, the green-haired dog saw her and jogged over with a leaflet in its mouth, making a gnashing sound: "It's a big baddie, this person is a big baddie."

007 lowered her head to look.

It's a [Wanted Poster for Ugly Mr. Gu]

Chapter 803 Xiao Qiang Strives to Become Qiao

It really looks familiar.

Not only do the people and environment around look familiar, but this wanted notice also seems to have been seen somewhere before.

stared at the wanted notice in her hand for a while. A photo occupied the upper part of the notice, but the photo was captured in an ugly way. She spent some time to identify who it was—the "Ugly Mr. Gu" is Gu Mian.

While she was staring at the ugly yet familiar photo in her hand, she noticed out of the corner of her eye that a tall figure was approaching from afar.

looked in that direction, her pupils constricting.

The person had a long and slender body, with a large platter instead of a head on top, and it seemed to be holding something.

In Crazy Game City, all sorts of bizarre creatures are common, like a green-hat dog distributing flyers nearby. But for some reason, as the platter person got closer, she suddenly felt uneasy.

The person with a platter on their neck was getting closer, almost next to 007.

At this moment, she inexplicably stepped back a step. To be honest, she didn't even know why she stepped back, but her body moved ahead of her mind.

After stepping back two steps, the platter on the person's neck suddenly tilted, and the content inside slipped off, slamming down on the spot she just stood with a "bang".

glanced down, it was a giant fried egg with an oily sheen on top.

If she hadn't stepped back, this oily fried egg would have hit her head.

"I'm so sorry, I'm so sorry." The platter person hurriedly picked up the fried egg beside 007's foot and put it back in the platter, covering it as they shyly ran away.

This eerie déjà vu.

Even the platter person's shy retreating silhouette felt familiar to 007.

Before entering here, Gu Mian had briefly discussed the situation in Paradise World with them. This was a world that had been archived countless times, and the unhealthy class system was due to these countless resets.

Would this world reset upon us entering it? 007 wondered.

Though she thought the idea was absurd, the more she pondered, the more likely it seemed.

She clutched the wanted notice and continued to look at the group chat for ten people to see if Gu Mian and Chu Changge had noticed something odd.

But neither had spoken yet, and it was unclear what they were busy with.

didn't wait for Gu Mian and Chu Changge's comments, but instead, other people responded.

[Xiao Qiao Needs To Work Hard]: NG! You guys reshot it.

This is Xiao Qiao.

NG? 007 knew it was a common term used in film and TV shooting, where an NG required actors to reshoot a scene.

NG, reshoot, were somewhat similar to resetting.

Could it be the world had indeed reset? And Xiao Qiao seemed to know.

At this point, a new message appeared in the group.

[Fatty]: Miss 007, Brother Chu, what are you doing? Why are you repeating what you said earlier about reporting your location? Is this a special requirement of Paradise World?

In the apartment, Fatty had a splitting headache due to Xiao Qiao's noise.

He had just cleaned up the floor full of cans thrown by Xiao Hong into the trash bin and planned to take out the garbage downstairs.

Unexpectedly, just as he approached the door, Xiao Qiao ran upstairs, shouting "NG", "reshoot" and asked him to check the group chat.

Only then did Fatty realize that Chu Changge and 007 had eerily repeated their conversation as they entered Paradise World.

His first reaction was that the group chat had encountered a bug.

Despite suspecting a bug, Fatty cautiously sent a message in the group inquiring with Chu Changge and 007.

read Fatty's message, her heart sinking: "Did I and Chu Changge report our positions twice? But in my memory, there was no 'last time'.

This world indeed reset, but only those of us in Paradise World were affected. The reset didn't impact the outside world.

contemplated, then Gu Mian appeared.

[Gu Mian]: Fatty, have your chat records in the group been deleted?

Seeing Gu Mian's message, Fatty scratched his head.

He wasn't sure why Gu Mian asked that, but he carefully scrolled back through the messages one by one.

A few minutes later, he confirmed.

[Fatty]: No, at first, Miss 007, Brother Chu, and you, the doctor, reported your positions. Then, you said the wanted notice was a special item and asked everyone to rip one off. You also asked if Brother Chu and 007 could see the Inverted City.

[Fatty]: Later, Brother Chu and Miss 007 met in Game City, and everyone stopped talking. Only I said a few words in the group chat. Those chat records are still there. Below that is where Brother Chu and Miss 007 started repeating position reporting.

looked at Fatty's message, stunned for a moment.

It turned out that before the reset, she had already met with Chu Changge, and Gu Mian seemed to have seen the Inverted City.

But this time, Gu Mian didn't report his position in the group chat, nor mentioned the Inverted City and the wanted notice.

Did he remember what happened before the reset and reacted differently than the last time?

In the cave with statues, dust was still flying as Gu Mian confirmed the outside Fatty was unaffected, and even the chat records remained intact.

"It seems the outside world won't be impacted by this world's reset," Gu Mian observed the small fragments that rolled to his feet. Beside him, the mechanical dog seemed interested in these fragments, moving its camera close to a piece like a real dog, tilting its head to observe it, and occasionally barking.

Of course, it couldn't bark like a real dog, only repeatedly using its consistent phrase.

Gu Mian also picked up a fragment to examine it. It happened to be from the statue's eye area.

"It seems that besides me, everyone else was impacted by the reset, even the reality-bound Chu Changge and 007, but Slaughter was reset elsewhere. I have no idea where he is now."

Looking down at the eye fragment, Gu Mian experienced a peculiar sensation as if he was looking into the eyes of a lone hero from years past.

For an instant, the eye seemed lively as Gu Mian vividly imagined the hero reaching out with a sword, but the illusion vanished quickly. Upon looking again at the eye fragment in his hand, it was merely an ordinary stone.

After Gu Mian picked up the fragment, the mechanical dog eagerly raised its camera to look at him, prompting Gu Mian to toss the fragment back to it. It inspected a lot closely before losing interest and moving away.

Watching the mechanical dog before him, Gu Mian suddenly thought, "Why hadn't this dog been impacted by the resets?"

By now, it should be sorting parcels at Bird Bandit Express on NPC Street, yet the world reset five times, and it wasn't affected.

Does it have some unique feature, or is it because it was brought by me, thus unaffected by the reset?

If it were the second possibility, the courier vehicle he drove should still be parked outside the forest.

Gu Mian intended to take this dog to 007.

Her profession is a Beast Tamer, a delicate role requiring a prerequisite task to officially start the career, the task being to tame a "beast".

To this end, he carefully selected a large goose from the supermarket for 007.

But all this time, 007's task had made no progress, indicating that the goose was of no use. Upon entering Paradise World, Gu Mian felt this dog might barely qualify as a "beast", so he planned to bring it and give it to her after they met.

Gu Mian even thought of a name for it: Xiao Hei—since it's all black, it matches the goose's name, Xiao Bai.

However, it's uncertain whether this thing counts as a creature and can be taken into the real world.

Gu Mian wanted to study Xiao Hei before him first, but he needed to inform Chu Changge and 007 about the world's reset. In addition, he planned to go up and find Slaughter, thinking Slaughter might not recognize him now.

Chapter 804 Fixed the Bug Where Rollbacks Would Boot Players Out of Paradise

Gu Mian quickly explained the situation to Chu Changge and 007 in the group chat, informing them of the world resetting and the fact that it had reset five times in a row.

Before the two could react, Fatty jumped out anxiously.

[Fatty]: What? Doctor, your world reset? What do we do now? If your side keeps resetting, wouldn't that make it impossible for Doctor, Brother Chu, and Miss 007 to reunite?

Then he began to worry heavily, imagining Gu Mian's group unable to reunite due to the resets, forever trapped in Paradise World, until he himself grew old with a white beard before they ever came out.

Thinking of this, Fatty felt sad and began to lament in the group.

[Fatty]: Boo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo.

[007]: I just took a closer look at the information Gu Mian sent. This world reset five times in a row yet only moved time from tomorrow back to today. That's somewhat strange.

[Gu Mian]: I think so too.

The two chatted back and forth in the group, completely ignoring Fatty sobbing in the background.

Gu Mian, after sending the message, turned to look at the pile of ruins surrounding the statue.

The reset should have been a one-step process, going directly to the desired save point.

Yet this world reset five consecutive times, without even a moment's pause for breath.

This seemed like a bug when resetting, unable to return to the desired save point, so they kept trying multiple times without giving up.

He knew Paradise World's reset was controlled by Earth, and these five consecutive attempts were clearly Earth's handiwork.

"Is Earth trying to revert time to before we entered Paradise?" Gu Mian guessed as he looked at the ruins. "Trying to see if they can kick us out?"

But due to an unknown bug, Earth tried many times and could only reset time to after they entered this world, and eventually had to give up.

Before he saw the statue, everything was calm here; the world showed no signs of resetting.

Right after he saw the statue, Earth started resetting madly in succession, trying to reset him to another place.

Earth seemed unwilling for them to find this statue.

"Is there some secret on this statue? A secret Earth doesn't want people to know."

But no matter how Gu Mian looked, he couldn't see anything special about it. He could only go find Slaughter to make him talk about the statue.

But first, he had to reintroduce himself to Slaughter.

Thinking so, Gu Mian glanced at the group chat again, where Fatty and Xiao Qiao were chatting aimlessly about useless things, and after 007 finished communicating with Gu Mian, she hadn't sent any more messages.

Chu Changge hadn't spoken since reporting his location.

It was the same last time. Back then, Gu Mian told Chu Changge to go to Game City and meet up with 007, and Chu Changge only responded much later with a single "okay," seemingly busy with other matters and unable to reply in time.

As Gu Mian didn't mention him by name in the group this time, he didn't even send an "okay," and one wonders what he's been busy with.

Gu Mian thought for a moment and typed in the group chat.

[Gu Mian]: Chu Changge, you're close to 007's location. Walk south for a while and you'll see Crazy Game City, it's safe there, go and meet with 007.

Just after sending this message, he heard hurried footsteps coming from above.

Gu Mian lifted his head to look up, his head turning half a circle along the spiraling staircase, and saw the person making the footsteps on the opposite side.

It was Slaughter, dressed in a suit.

Probably due to hurriedly going down the stairs, the once neat suit had a few creases, but he was completely unaware.

At this point, he had already seen Gu Mian directly across and widened his eyes, glaring at the stranger who had appeared inexplicably: "Who are you?"

In a dim room, Chu Changge was looking at a few photographs on the table in front of him.

The photo showed a boy with normal skin color, under ten years old, looking nervously at the camera, although possibly unfamiliar with cameras, his gaze was slightly shifted upwards.

Chu Changge was already in the room when he entered.

This is an empty old room, unused for a long time.

On the ceiling walls of the room are irregular dry yellow marks, with patches of moldy green showing through, suggesting frequent water seepage from the roof, wetting then drying, over and over.

The surrounding walls appear to have been repainted, covering some dripping watermarks, but the new paint couldn't ultimately fix the leaking ceiling, as a series of long watermarks flow down from the ceiling corner, almost hitting the ground when stopped by the bed-head at the corner.

It's a worn-out wooden bed, its bed-head and legs faded, showing its age. A bed leg seemed slightly short, propped underneath with a thin wooden plank.

Apart from that, there was just a window and a table in the room.

The table was the one before him, with three photos of the boy on top.

Heavy dust settled on the photos and the table, like draping them in a dust-colored tablecloth.

Chu Changge immediately recognized the boy as Jiang Yang, now he no longer goes by Jiang Yang, having given himself the name Bai Wuchang, always shown in a black cloak.

Heavy curtains covered the window, making the room seem suffocatingly oppressive.

Chu Changge took a few steps forward to the curtains, lifting a slit to glance outside.

This is the second floor, offering a view of crooked, dilapidated buildings outside, looking down to find cracked street pavement, the classic lower-class residential area. But now, this residential area is devoid of people, eerily quiet.

Sunlight seeped through the curtain's gap, illuminating dust floating in the narrow room air.

Chu Changge lowered his eyes, gazing at the deserted street for a moment, then let down the curtain and turned to check the room's setup.

Though rundown, the room is quite a luxury for lower-class people.

Upon arrival, he thoroughly checked the room, discovering nothing but a few photos on the table.

"Seems like last time." Chu Changge already saw in the group chat the reset matter, including Gu Mian's message instructing him to go to Game City and meet with 007.

Though lacking memory from before the reset, he could guess some things from Gu Mian's message.

Last time, he must have safely reunited with 007 in Game City, hence Gu Mian didn't ask about anything before sending him off this time.

From here to Game City is indeed safe; the residential area contains no one, and walking outside earlier, he spotted an upper-class residential area not far from here.

Gazing there, he had a hunch he must have ventured in last time.

Understanding oneself best, Chu Changge knew the world reset, so he started mentally deducing his previous action trajectory.

"Following last time's trajectory should lead safely to Game City and 007 reunion." Chu Changge returned to the window, glancing at the nearby upper-class residential area, noticing some flyers scattered on its grounds.

"It's possible to make a rough guess of the trajectory, but perfect timing matching last time is impossible—only approx." He surveyed the upper-class residential area closely. "Such a nearby upper-

class area—I won't miss a chance to dig for clues by entering. But not now; first, must familiarize with geography and patterns."

Chapter 805 "A Man as Bright as He Is Gentle"

Chu Changge held the [Blood-stained school badge] in his hand while observing the Upper Class People residential area from the window.

There weren't many people in that Upper Class People residential area. It took Chu Changge a few minutes to see two Upper Class People walking past the fence.

Probably because not far from the fence was Rathead Alley, so Upper Class People rarely walked from that side of the fence.

As Chu Changge observed the Upper Class People residential area, he quickly glanced at the deserted Rathead Alley outside the window.

Though this was a residential area, it seemed abandoned for a long time, with not a single lower-class person living here.

"It's almost time." Chu Changge let down the curtain and stopped observing outside, preparing to go downstairs near the Upper Class People residential area to seize the opportunity to infiltrate.

This Rathead Alley was uninhabited, making it easier for him to sneak into the Upper Class People residential area.

The duration of his stay here last time should be about the same as this time, Chu Changge estimated in his mind.

If everything goes smoothly, he can use the [Blood-stained school badge] to infiltrate the Upper Class People residential area to search for clues, and pick up one of those colorful leaflets on the floor.

Chu Changge thought that the leaflets scattered on the ground might be related to the variety show about judging Lu Yi.

But as soon as he went downstairs and stepped onto the dilapidated Rathead Alley, an unexpected event occurred after taking only a few steps.

A gray shadow, as big as a rat, swooshed through the gap between two buildings right in front of Chu Changge, making it impossible for him to pretend not to see it.

The darting rat clearly noticed Chu Changge too.

With a flustered expression, he cautiously peeked out from behind the building he hid in, looking at Chu Changge: "You... it's you..."

In Crazy Game City, 007 sat near a drink shop called "Sweet Appointment." There was a row of public seats, presumably designed for customers waiting outside for their meals.

However, currently, the customers in this Game City were few and far between, with no lines forming.

was the only person sitting on the row of public seats, while people of rather outrageous appearance occasionally walked past her.

"Gu Mian has already sent Chu Changge to Crazy Game City to join me. He should be here soon." Alone, 007 felt uneasy, needing to be with others to find some peace.

Thinking about Gu Mian, 007 began contemplating the matter he mentioned about the world's repeated events.

The world had cycled back five times but only rewound one day; 007 found this fishy. She suspected the world wanted to rewind further back but got stuck somehow, unable to achieve it, hence the five attempts.

All five attempts failed.

Repeating the rewind five times, this action seemed urgent.

had owned several gaming consoles before.

She wasn't very fond of playing games, but her father always thought kids liked these things. So, every birthday or other festive season, when not knowing what gift to buy, her father would meticulously select the most expensive game console from the store.

Once, during the year's Children's Day, her birthday, and New Year's Eve, she consecutively received three identical game consoles from her father.

That New Year's, when she received the third identical game console of the year, she finally couldn't hold back and burst into tears.

That day, her dad got a thorough telling-off from her mom and finally stopped buying game consoles for her.

The game consoles piled up in her room, and 007 tried playing them; most of the games had save and load functions.

Whenever 007 died in a game or made a major mistake, she would immediately load the save to restart.

"Did this world have a major failure too?" 007 muttered to herself, "Is that why it's so urgently repeating the rollback five times?"

Most likely, this major failure had something to do with Gu Mian.

Who knows what Gu Mian did beyond their sight, 007 thought, while opening the group chat, intending to ask Gu Mian about the world rollback issue and conveniently inquire where Chu Changge was.

Upon opening the group chat, she saw that Chu Changge had sent a message a short while ago.

[Chu Changge]: Gu Mian, did I mention I encountered someone last time?

This message was sent five minutes ago, but Gu Mian hadn't seen it yet and hadn't replied.

Whom did Chu Changge encounter?

Was it an Upper Class People, NPC, or player?

It shouldn't be Mr. Green, who came in with them, because if Chu Changge encountered Mr. Green, he could directly say it in the group chat without asking like this.

was somewhat puzzled. If last time Chu Changge managed to join her in Game City, did he bring this person with him?

She tried hard to recall, but couldn't remember anything before the rollback.

looked at the wanted notice in her hand. Only Gu Mian could answer Chu Changge's question, but unfortunately, he was currently unreachable in the group chat.

"Hey, isn't this Slaughter? How come not seeing me for two minutes means you don't recognize me?" Meanwhile, Gu Mian was in a wet, dark cave, facing Slaughter and staring at each other.

The two stood at opposite ends of a circular staircase. Listening to Gu Mian's words, Slaughter's eyes, already wide, opened even wider, his mouth slightly agape from bewilderment.

Through the circular hollow in the staircase, he scrutinized Gu Mian, finally resting his gaze on his leaf brooch and studying it for several seconds.

Seeing Slaughter's serious look, Gu Mian realized he'd forgotten to wear his helmet.

"Let's head upstairs and talk" "Are you Gu Mian?"

Both spoke simultaneously.

Gu Mian understood the more someone tries not to think of something, the easier it becomes to think about it.

Slaughter must not discover he forgot his helmet. Upon realizing this, innumerable forbidden thoughts involuntarily flashed through his mind.

Maybe it might lead to thoughts suitable for disaster films, like meteors striking Paradise, lava engulfing the world, or Gu Mian pulling out a giant chainsaw and slicing the world in two.

But Slaughter's mind was indeed too quick.

Upon hearing Gu Mian's words, he immediately realized something.

"Head upstairs and talk?" Why head upstairs to talk? Is it unsuitable here? He said this after seeing me, is there something wrong with me...

In just a few seconds, he reacted, nervously touching his head, discovering his hands easily touched his hair.

A look of terror flashed across his face. In his rush, he'd forgotten his helmet!

Without the helmet that blocks consciousness, every thought now was a wish to the statue.

Don't think too much, don't think too much!

Slaughter immediately held his head tightly, attempting to wrap it in his arms, hoping to block his thoughts.

But he knew this was futile.

The statue could still receive his "wishes."

Upon realizing he hadn't worn his helmet, boundless terrifying thoughts swiftly raced through Slaughter's mind.

"Don't think about the staircase falling" "Don't think about the cave collapsing" "Don't think about a flood pouring down from above"

In the next second, he realized all these "forbidden thoughts" had surfaced in his mind.

It's over, this time trouble is truly brewing. He tightly held his head, crouching down.

Gu Mian had already begun sprinting upstairs with the dog.

When he saw Slaughter reaching for his head, he knew something was wrong and immediately scooped up the dog and dashed upstairs.

Slaughter paused for a few seconds, then regretfully crouched down. Gu Mian guessed he must have thought of countless accidents; knowing the statue would soon realize those accidents.

By now, Gu Mian had run beside Slaughter, and he pulled him up to sprint upwards: "Run quickly, don't just crouch there dumbly."

Slaughter shook his pale face: "It's useless, the staircase might collapse soon."

Gu Mian was taken aback: "You really think hard."

Despite saying this, Slaughter's legs truthfully followed Gu Mian in running upwards; he didn't want to die here either.

"Even if the staircase doesn't collapse, be cautious of possible earthquakes later, watch out for rocks falling from the side. Even if there's no earthquake, be careful of a flood above that might drown everything here." Frantically escaping, Slaughter kept warning.

Gu Mian wished he could shove the robot dog into his mouth to stop him from speaking: "Brother, can you stop talking, maybe imagine we suddenly grow wings to fly out instead."

Chapter 806 Evil God Figurine

Gu Mian dragged Slaughter all the way upward, not knowing how long they'd run until finally reaching the end of the staircase.

The end was also dim, with two flickering wall lamps mounted on the wall at the staircase's terminus, illuminating the hinged door above.

Once they climbed through that hinged door, they'd be safe.

For some reason, Slaughter's ominous predictions hadn't come true yet, and the two were still relatively safe—so long as nothing unexpected happened on their way to the hinged door.

Slaughter seemed a bit puzzled too, furrowing his brows as if trying to guess why his wish hadn't come true this time.

"Is it going to deliver the fatal blow at the end? The hinged door won't open? Or will the door explode and blow us both down?"—The thought flashed through his mind for a split second, and he knew he shouldn't think about these things, so he quickly tried to control his thoughts and divert his attention elsewhere.

He subconsciously thought of the people he knew, with faces floating in his mind, including Xu Xingcheng's, Upper Class People's, and lower-class people's.

At this moment, Gu Mian had already swiftly brought him to the hinged door.

The hinged door was connected to the stairs, and Gu Mian reached up to push it open.

Only then did Slaughter come to his senses, reached into his pocket, but before he could do anything, Gu Mian lightly pushed the hinged door open.

Slaughter stared at the hinged door opened by Gu Mian, his expression freezing for a brief moment.

"Let's go," Gu Mian said, pulling Slaughter to go through the door. He gave another tug but Slaughter didn't budge, as he was dazing at the hinged door, "What's wrong?"

"Nothing." Slaughter quickly regained his composure and swiftly followed Gu Mian through the door.

After climbing through the hinged door, they returned to the living room on the second floor. As soon as Slaughter came up, he turned back to look at the hinged door and saw it slowly closing on its own.

Looking at the slowly closing hinged door, Slaughter's expression was somewhat complicated.

Gu Mian felt that today was his luckiest day, as he managed to return from underground unharmed despite the dual influences of the Evil God statue and his bad luck buff.

Thinking about this, he looked at the hinged door behind him once more.

There was no sound from beneath the hinged door, the stairs below hadn't collapsed yet.

"Where's my key? Where's my key? Where's my key?"

He had just looked away from the hinged door when he heard a familiar voice.

This sentence, this voice...

Following the sound, he saw the Fatty he had accidentally conjured up still standing straight in the living room, fumbling in his pockets for the missing key.

This Fatty had been accidentally created before Gu Mian reset the world; unexpectedly, even after the world reset, this Fatty remained.

"Wishes that come true don't disappear with the world reset..." Gu Mian speculated as he watched the Fatty search for the key.

Gu Mian wanted to ask Slaughter but reconsidered as Slaughter wouldn't know the answer either, being unable to retain pre-reset memories, he couldn't know if fulfilled wishes disappear with the reset.

"Are you Gu Mian?" Slaughter quickly steadied himself, pushing Fatty standing in the middle of the living room aside, then turned to Gu Mian.

It was phrased as a question but sounded more like affirmation.

He had asked this question earlier underground but Gu Mian was too busy running upward at the time to answer.

"You've quite the attachment to me, recognizing me twice on your own." Gu Mian brushed the dust off his collar.

Slaughter paused for a moment at Gu Mian's words, then asked, "How did we meet last time?"

He could now guess that Gu Mian was brought underground by him, but those memories no longer existed in his brain.

"I met you while riding a tricycle delivering packages; you and I, upon first meeting, drank and chatted, then you made a will to leave all your inheritance to me, but unfortunately, it was erased by the world reset. You should make another will." Gu Mian summarized, also seeking to claim Slaughter's inheritance.

Upon hearing this, Slaughter's eyebrows twitched twice, clearly not believing the nonsense at the end of Gu Mian's statement.

Not giving him a chance to rebut, Gu Mian immediately asked, "How did you notice the world reset just now, based on timing it seems like you realized it immediately and rushed underground?"

Slaughter was about to curse Gu Mian's shamelessness and had many questions for him.

However, Gu Mian's interruption redirected his thoughts to the matter Gu Mian mentioned: "It seems I didn't tell you last time, I have a way to discern world resets within a certain timeframe."

"What method?"

"You'll see when we go upstairs; there's something like a calendar that helps me determine the time." Slaughter said while heading for the staircase leading to the second floor.

Gu Mian had seen the stairs leading to the second floor upon arriving but hadn't gone up, realizing there's an extraordinary calendar up there.

Gu Mian followed Slaughter up the stairs.

As they ascended, Slaughter explained, "Since learning about the world reset, Upper Class People have been very sensitive to this issue. The world resets without people's awareness, and they find this terrifying, so they've tried numerous methods to record the world resets."

Gu Mian estimated that the "calendar" Slaughter mentioned was made from scraps of the Evil God statue because the only items in this world unaffected by the reset are the Evil God statues.

Indeed, Slaughter continued, "People realized that these statues exist in the 'uncontrollable range' of resets, unaffected by resets, so they crafted slab after slab of stone from statue fragments and carved the date into them daily;

"If one day we find the newest date is not today but the future, it means the world has reset."

They once carved the future into these slabs, but post-reset, that future remains only on the statue fragments.

"But those slabs were too cumbersome and inconvenient to carve each time. Upper Class People devised a simpler method, creating a set of numbers from zero to nine using those fragments, and laid them out to record the date."

By now, Gu Mian had followed Slaughter to the second floor, and he saw the "stone numbers" Slaughter had mentioned.

The second floor was smaller than the first; it had just one room with simple furnishings.

Inside were a bed and a desk, with a string of stone numbers arranged on the desk.

Gu Mian took a few steps forward to examine the string of numbers on the desk.

"974, 12, 10"

These stone numbers were palm-sized, neatly arranged in a transparent box on the desk, segmented to form three groups of numbers.

"Is it a date?"

"It's a date," Slaughter nodded, standing beside Gu Mian and looking at the stone numbers on the desk, "representing Upper Calendar year 974, December 10th."

Gu Mian guessed that "Upper Calendar" was a name Upper Class People had devised, which suited their refined image well.

Chapter 807 Amnesia

"Today isn't that day, is it?" Gu Mian glanced at a box beside the table following the numbers. The big box was open, revealing its contents—a neat stack of stone digits, unused ones inside.

"Is it December 9 now?" He turned his gaze back to that string of numbers, staring at "12" and "10" for half a second.

Slaughter came to the table and swiftly dug into the box, retrieving four numbers: 1, 2, 9, and arranged them below 12 and 10 to form 12/9. Gu Mian guessed he was recording the rollback time.

"Yes, today should be New Calendar Year 974 December 9, but half an hour ago I found the date set here was the 10th. Every time I set the date, I confirm repeatedly, it wouldn't be wrong. So when I noticed it was the 10th here, I realized the world might have rolled back."

After arranging the numbers 12 and 9, Slaughter turned to Gu Mian: "After realizing the date was wrong, I immediately placed today's date underneath and was about to confirm in the cave at the bottom, but saw Fatty as soon as I went downstairs..."

"Seeing Fatty, I realized something might have happened here before the rollback, rushing to see the statue's changes below, I even forgot to bring this."

Slaughter gestured towards the bed, Gu Mian turned his head, and there lay a round helmet.

"I've answered your question, now it's my turn." Slaughter shifted slightly to face Gu Mian directly, having a bunch of questions, "Yesterday... no, last time, how did you come here? How did we meet?"

When asking, he glanced at the clock on the wall.

Due to sensitivity to time issues, there was no shortage of clocks in Slaughter's room, four at a glance: two hung on the wall, one on the table, and one placed on the bed.

This time, Gu Mian didn't let him draft a declaration, but vividly depicted how he came across here while delivering parcels, how the hospitable Slaughter invited him in and enthusiastically showed him the remains of Evil God statue, the two becoming fast friends.

But good times didn't last, the evil earth envious of their friendship, forcefully rolling back five times to tear them apart. Seeing Slaughter who no longer recognized him, Gu Mian's heart ached as if pierced, deciding to name this Chapter "Amnesia" if ever turned into a novel.

As the nonsense wrapped up, Gu Mian also made a symbolic display of false expressions, feigning grief for two seconds.

Listening more made Slaughter's brow furrow tighter, the scar across half of his face wrinkling along, visibly wanting to throttle the person before him.

Finally, Slaughter relied on Gu Mian's story to deduce a hint of reality: "I probably recognized you because of the brooch you wore. I have the same one..."

As he spoke, Slaughter pointed to his collar's green brooch, then felt the gesture unnecessary, Gu Mian probably had looked closely at it before the rollback.

"It was left by Xu Xingcheng next to the statue, like a token, or a message. After the circus accident, Mr. Slaughter came looking for me, saying the notable No.9 in the Slaughter Game wasn't dead and had colluded with Carnival and Circus leader Lu Yi..."

Mr. Slaughter shared a similar name with Slaughter, but their appearances were worlds apart.

Gu Mian recalled the pale little guy, seeing Slaughter tossed down by Lu Yi during the circus audience blast, never expecting his survival, spreading reports everywhere.

"At that time, one of his hands was in plaster, using the other to gesture at my collar's leaf brooch, saying No.9 in the Slaughter Game also wore a brooch identical to mine. I was a bit surprised, thinking Xu Xingcheng returned."

Slaughter glanced down at the green brooch on his collar: "Later, from people from other worlds I found out the person Slaughter talked about wasn't Xu Xingcheng, but you, Gu Mian;

"Frankly, I'd heard of you already then, the infamous game bug. The game company launched many items related to you, associations about you existed across worlds. I never thought you'd have this leaf brooch, or be connected to Xu Xingcheng."

Gu Mian reached out to stroke the brooch pinned on his white coat, its surface smooth, as if touching a gem, Evil God's craftsmanship and taste were indeed exquisite: "It was given to me during my first visit to this world."

"He left this brooch by the statue for me, later giving you an identical one on your first entry into this world, seems he planned our meeting long before."

Listening to Slaughter, Gu Mian couldn't help suspecting his ninety-nine delivery tasks were also orchestrated by Evil God.

After all, he came to the Secret Forest to deliver parcels; he wondered if the delivery bike rode from Bird Bandit Express still existed.

With that in mind, Gu Mian glanced down at the mechanical dog squatting by his feet, since it hadn't disappeared with the rollback, the delivery bike outside might still remain.

"He probably wanted me to lead you to the underground statue, looks like I did it." Slaughter, having lost memories from the last round, glanced back at the foldable door to the underground, expression complex.

Though he forgot pre-rollback events, now it appeared he's done Xu Xingcheng's bidding.

"You indeed led me to the statue, even telling a motivational tale of a hero overthrowing feudalism." But the story's ending wasn't quite successful, the underground statue fractured along with this less successful conclusion.

Yet Xu Xingcheng painstakingly lured him here, was it simply to tell a story, and see how his statue cracked?

Gu Mian felt this trip seemed rather fruitless.

Then came the sound "Are you happy?" from near his feet.

He looked down at the machine dog making the noise.

Well, not entirely fruitless; at least he's got a dog.

Gu Mian shifted his gaze from the dog to Slaughter's face: "Did he leave anything else behind, like 'Evil God's Gift'?"

Slaughter remained silent for a few seconds, seriously recalling if Xu Xingcheng left anything else, finally shaking his head and taking off the leaf brooch from his clothing: "He only left this, handing it to you."

Gu Mian accepted the leaf brooch he handed over, seemingly just a regular brooch, receiving no special item notification, no unusual occurrences.

"Perhaps you've received something unseen." Slaughter suddenly said from the side.

Gu Mian remained silent for half a second, the words felt like Xu Xingcheng painted a big picture, perhaps what he received was his high expectations?

Slaughter looked again at the stone date on the table: "I think you should leave, the Upper Class People must have known about the rollback, likely rushing here."

After all, the pivotal Evil God statue is here.

Gu Mian's renown in this world is considerable, being the most popular guest of two top reality shows.

If recognized by those Upper Class People, they'd certainly chase him for autographs.

But with a tight schedule, he had to hurry to join Lu Yi in the next trial show, only able to evade these fervent fans first.

Chapter 808 Guide to Avoiding Dangerous Personalities (8th Edition)

Although the [Holy Disguise Item "Eight Characters" Moustache] could keep him from being recognized, after the disguise he was still just a "strange lower-class person" in the eyes of the Upper Class People.

Lower-class people could be casually grabbed and hauled off as labor.

To avoid unnecessary trouble, Gu Mian decided to split off from them and only go on stage when the judgment variety show started, then rip off the moustache and have a good old "rekindling of past feelings" moment with everyone.

The scene would definitely be quite a sight.

Thinking this, Gu Mian picked up the mechanical dog, shouldered the big pie the Evil God had drawn for him, and prepared to leave first: "If I get the chance I'll come find you again. I hope you still remember me next time I come."

Just as Gu Mian was about to go, Slaughter suddenly called out to him: "Wait, what about the one downstairs..."

He was talking about the Fatty Gu Mian had accidentally created.

Besides the Fatty in the living room, there was still a whole crowd outside. Right now Chu Changge and Xiao Qiao and the others should still be wandering around out there; it really wouldn't be good if they were seen by other Upper Class People.

"They won't disappear on their own?" Gu Mian remembered that before the rollback Slaughter said he'd also created multiple Xu Xingchengs. "Those Xu Xingchengs you made, how did you make them disappear?"

Hearing this, Slaughter clearly froze for a second. He no longer remembered saying any of this to Gu Mian, but he quickly reacted and stared at Gu Mian: "As long as I want them gone, they'll disappear... wait, you just said 'them'."

Slaughter had already forgotten there was still a whole group outside.

"There are dozens more outside, they're all my dear friends and family."

At that, the corner of Slaughter's brow twitched hard. Clearly he hadn't expected Gu Mian to whip up that many at once.

But the fact that wishes could be returned was something Gu Mian hadn't expected.

The Evil God Wish-Machine was almost too considerate.

Thinking that, he symbolically chanted a "sesame disappear" Spell to indicate he wanted everyone to disappear, and sure enough when he went back downstairs the Fatty that had been in the living room was already gone.

Slaughter was staring blankly at the spot where Fatty had been standing. Gu Mian suddenly remembered something and turned to look at him: "Right, I wanted to ask you something. Among the people around me, who do you know?"

Slaughter paused for half a second, then looked at Gu Mian thoughtfully: "How do you know I know the people around you?"

"When I came to this forest I created a group of people. At the time the outer machine guns detected people and automatically opened fire, but after a bit I heard someone seem to recognize someone and order the guns to stop shooting. Now that I think about it, that was your voice." Gu Mian gave the amnesiac Slaughter a recap of what happened when he'd first arrived in this forest.

"I do know some of the people around you. I know Chu Changge and that Fatty. They were with you when you were participating in the Slaughter game, it'd be hard not to know them. Besides that I know

there's a mentally deficient berserker around you, a stutterer who crawls out of a disc, and a girl who can drive a kiddie rocking car..."

As he said this, something came to Slaughter and he strode over to the bookshelf next to the living room sofa, feeling around. After a moment he fished out a thin book and handed it to Gu Mian: "They're all in here."

Gu Mian was puzzled: "Someone actually published a book about them?"

He took it and glanced down. On the top of the cover was a line of big red characters: "Guide to Avoiding Dangerous Personalities."

Below were a few smaller lines.

"Still upset about bad luck turning the corner and running into Gu Mian? Still suffering persecution for failing to spot danger in time and not running fast enough?

"'Guide to Avoiding Dangerous Personalities (8th Edition)' helps you quickly identify potential dangers around you, so you'll never again have to worry about 'turning the corner and bumping into love' — lovingly produced by Toy Goose Publishing Company."

Gu Mian: "..."

The cover image was an ugly photo of him lugging a chainsaw, with a person pinched in his hand. Look closely and it seemed to be Sunshine Insurance Company's Wang Napao.

The picture was very blurry, a side shot, probably secretly taken by someone else while he and Wang Napao were "having a friendly exchange."

You could tell everyone didn't seem to like him much, always snapping his worst shots.

He opened the first page, and right in his face was a full-body photo of himself. No idea which picture they'd cut it from. Next to it was a line of enlarged, bold red text: "Top-tier dangerous individual. Once you see him, run immediately, or you may meet a tragic end (see Spirit Car Examination Center's Coach Che and Crazy Guessing Words program's Host Green for details)."

What kind of line was that? Sure, Mr. Green was hauled into the real world by him, but he'd just brought him back here, okay?

Speaking of which, he had no idea where Mr. Green was now.

Gu Mian kept reading. He saw that every article of clothing and accessory had a helpful little line drawn out with an annotation.

On his lab coat there was a line, and at the end it said: "If you see someone who looks like they're wearing a lab coat, don't say anything, don't do anything, just turn around and run. Don't hesitate over whether the one in the lab coat is Gu Mian. Better to wrongly kill a thousand than let one slip."

Besides the lab coat, his leaf brooch, black turtleneck sweater, and guitar bag all had lines drawn out with detailed annotations.

The most over-the-top was the guitar bag, which even had a cross-section diagram drawn, exposing the chainsaw inside.

Under the character art was a large section of response recommendations. Gu Mian skimmed them; the advice boiled down to one word—"run."

He himself wasn't much to look at, so Gu Mian flipped on to the second page. He hadn't expected Coach Che to be on the second page.

Coach Che's danger rating was just below his, the second most dangerous individual. According to statistics, every instance Coach Che had ever worked in had, without exception, been swept by Gu Mian. Rumor had it he was a mole planted by Gu Mian on this side, a scout specifically there to pave the way.

Flipping further were Chu Changge, Fatty, Xiao Qiao and the others. Sure enough, everyone he knew was in there; even Xiao Hong, who couldn't enter instances, had a page to herself.

Everyone had a little character bio and outfit analysis.

On the last page was a single line: "If you run into any of the above people in an instance, it means there's a high probability Gu Mian is nearby. Run now and you might still have a chance to escape."

After reading, Gu Mian silently closed the book, deciding to take it back and show everyone. Whether or not it counted as a special item and could actually be taken out, he wasn't sure.

Thinking that, he rolled the book up and stuffed it into the guitar bag on his back, then turned to Slaughter: "I'm heading out. There are still people waiting for me at Game City to regroup. Oh, and turn off those automatic firing thingies outside."

Gu Mian had no desire to walk out and get turned into a sieve.

Slaughter nodded: "I'll see you out."

With that, he looked at the round helmet resting on the living room sofa, hesitated for a moment, then went over, picked it up, and put it on.

Speaking of which, Slaughter had rushed down in such a hurry this time he'd forgotten to wear this thought-blocking helmet, but the miraculous thing was that they'd made it all the way back up without any accidents.

Gu Mian was half-suspecting that the statue collapsing five times in a row had affected its performance.

"The variety show you're going to is called Trial and Crown. It starts in seven days. You're going to Game City to meet up with your friends and go together, right?" By now the two of them had walked out the front door. Time had reset to when they'd just entered the instance, and it was bright outside.

"Yeah." Gu Mian looked up at the bright sky. They were now rolled back to not long after entering the instance. 007 had started off in Crazy Game City; Chu Changge probably hadn't arrived there yet.

Thinking this, he opened the group chat and glanced at it, discovering that Chu Changge had sent a message.

[Chu Changge]: Gu Mian, did I ever mention last time who I ran into?

The message had been sent about half an hour ago; he was only seeing it now.

Chu Changge definitely hadn't asked this in the group last time.

Did that mean he'd run into someone this time?

Gu Mian replied with a "Nope."

Chapter 809 Single-Cylinder Liquid-Cooled Electronic Fuel Injection Engine

After sending a "no," Chu Changge didn't reply, who knows what he's busy with.

showed up and said a few words instead.

[007]: I'm already waiting at the entrance of Game City, you can spot me at a glance.

Such a considerate 007.

By this time, Gu Mian had already reached the forest perimeter, surrounded only by large trees with leaves swaying slightly in the wind. The people he had created before reverting the save were gone; looks like his sesame seeds of disappearance indeed worked.

Slaughter, leading the way up front, suddenly stopped and scanned the deserted forest.

"What's up?" Gu Mian asked him.

Slaughter withdrew his gaze and replied after a few seconds, "Nothing, were the people you created before reverting the save wandering here?"

The little flying eyeball nestled on Slaughter's shoulder diligently relayed the sound from the helmet.

Gu Mian nodded, "Yes."

"Looks like they've all disappeared." Slaughter continued to walk forward.

"Are you happy?" "Are you happy?" The robot dog following at their heels barked its only line as it trotted along.

Seeing its short legs struggling to keep up, Gu Mian bent down to scoop up the dog and walked forward with it.

This dog wasn't reverted to its original position, who knows how the delivery truck it drove outside the forest is now.

When reverting the save, that vehicle wasn't by his side. Gu Mian thinks it likely disappeared.

"I forgot everything about us meeting before reverting the save. You said the delivery truck you drove... where was it?" By this time, the two and the dog had reached the forest's edge. Slaughter turned his helmet towards Gu Mian.

There was no obstruction ahead, just an open space. Gu Mian stared at the open space: "Gone..."

"Probably reverted the save," Slaughter also looked at the open space, "Without transportation, it'll take you a long time to walk back, right?"

He could walk to NPC Street and grab another delivery truck.

But considering he had a few delivery tasks to complete nearby, doing so would waste a lot of time. If anything unexpected happened, he might not make it to the variety show.

Slaughter thought for two seconds and looked at Gu Mian: "I have a black-gold, large fuel tank, single-cylinder water-cooled engine motorcycle. You can go back with me and ride it."

Gu Mian: "?"

How come he didn't see this motorcycle when he came, and was it necessary to describe it in such detail? Are you selling motorcycles?

"No need," Gu Mian thought of a good idea. He put the dog on the ground, clasped his hands together, and made a wishing gesture, "We have an invincible Evil God Wish Machine."

Slaughter opened his mouth to stop him but thought of something and closed it halfway.

He started wishing, "I hope the heavens bless me with a black-gold, large fuel tank, single-cylinder water-cooled engine motorcycle..."

The dog on the ground kept looking for its presence with "Are you happy?"

Realizing he still had to carry a dog, Gu Mian added, "And a basket for the dog on the back seat."

Soon, an abstract motorcycle appeared.

Due to Gu Mian's special constitution and the inherent dangers of riding a motorcycle, he wasn't very familiar with motorcycles, let alone aware of what a single-cylinder water-cooled engine was.

So before them appeared a motorcycle with a large water jar attached to the back seat. Upon closer inspection, there was even a wicker basket inside the jar, presumably the dog's seat.

The large gas tank was also materialized; the bike's body was almost entirely occupied by the gas tank, except for the two wheels and the handlebars and seat, every other place was a fuel tank.

Slaughter's brow twitched twice, probably not expecting Gu Mian to exploit the wishing mechanism so thoroughly or create something so outrageous.

"A bit twisted," Slaughter honestly commented.

Wonder if it can be used...

Gu Mian placed the dog in the basket in the large jar and sat down on the front seat, twisting the throttle. The motorcycle surprisingly started up.

Gu Mian looked up at Slaughter: "Looks like it works."

Though it didn't look good, it was very functional.

"Then you..." Slaughter originally intended to wish Gu Mian a safe trip but felt it was unlikely given the twisted motorcycle, so he changed his words, "Then be careful on the road."

"Uh-huh," Gu Mian agreed.

When he was a child, every day when he went from the orphanage to school, the dean would always tell him this. When he returned to the orphanage after school, the teacher would always tell him to be careful on the road.

But they weren't master wizards, their words were useless no matter how many times they said. Bad luck was bad luck, and over time, Gu Mian got tired of this meaningless advice and would dismiss it with a couple of "uh-huhs" when hearing it again.

Seeing the dog sitting neatly in the basket, Gu Mian plopped into the driver's seat: "I still have a few deliveries to complete before joining the variety show, time is tight, I'm off."

Saying this, Gu Mian remembered something and sincerely advised Slaughter: "By the way, you better not attend that variety show."

On hearing this, Slaughter guessed Gu Mian was likely planning to cause some incidents at the show, so he nodded, supporting the helmet, and also sincerely advised, "The control range of the statue is large, you better think more positive thoughts on your way... and after leaving here as well, happiness is the most important."

Gu Mian thought he was a bit odd, Slaughter's character suddenly seemed like a psychologist helping with emotional guidance.

Slaughter continued, "You and your partner need a fitting identity to join the variety show. I have a friend in Crazy Game City who owns a photo studio on the second floor, named 'Catch Turtles in the Sky Photo Studio.' Go there and tell the manager I sent you, he'll help you create fake identities."

Catch Turtles in the Sky Photo Studio?

Gu Mian thought this studio's name was even more abstract than the motorcycle beneath him. He silently repeated the name twice to remember it, then said, "Got it, you're such a good person."

He bid farewell to Slaughter, twisted the throttle, and rode off. The motorcycle zoomed down the road, zooming past dense trees in the forest.

All dogs probably share the same habit of loving the scenery along the way when taking a ride.

The mechanical dog in the back struggled to climb up the edge of the jar, extending its head and sniffing around with its steel nose, occasionally marveling at the roadside scenery, though it could only express itself in one phrase regardless.

"Are you happy?" "Are you happy?"

Hearing the robot dog in the back start again, Gu Mian glanced at the dog head atop the jar edge through the rearview mirror.

The motorcycle hadn't gone too far yet. Through the mirror, he could still see Slaughter at the end of the road. Slaughter's figure in the mirror was already shrinking infinitely, Gu Mian thought he saw him taking off that heavy helmet.

Before he could see clearly, the motorcycle had completely exited the forest, and Slaughter's figure had disappeared from the rearview mirror.

Chapter 810 The Flying Gu Gu and the Moral Yardstick

Why did he take off the helmet that blocks thoughts outside? Isn't he afraid of making a wish on the spot?

Gu Mian was puzzled, but didn't think much about it.

Slaughter said the range of the statue's wishes is vast, so thinking too much now could possibly make the wishes come true.

"Better to think about that nonsense once farther away from here, but before I leave I have to deliver these five packages around here first." Gu Mian thought, twisting the throttle, and the motorcycle sped up again.

This seemed like a magic motorcycle, lacking basic structure but speeding up when twisting the throttle.

The delivery bike had returned to NPC Street due to a rollback, along with the map.

Luckily, Gu Mian has a good memory and remembered their general locations, plus the five delivery points aren't far from each other.

He quickly found four of the delivery points and completed the delivery task.

These five delivery points are most likely placed by the Evil God on the task list on purpose, luring him to the Secret Forest to see the statue.

Therefore, the deliveries to these five locations are simple, all just things like branches and stones that can be sourced locally. And if not, they can be wished for using the great Evil God's wishing machine.

"Carnival Abandoned Factory, Evil Eastern Valley, Prisoner Cave, deliveries to these four locations are all done. Ahead is the final delivery point—the up-and-down boundary line." Gu Mian was busy all night heading to the last location.

Up-and-down boundary line, just hearing the name reveals it's a feudal relic, constructed by the Upper Class People to demarcate themselves from lower-class people.

And the delivery to it is rather abstract—a mouthful of spit.

It requires Gu Mian to spit on this boundary line, quite in line with the Evil God's style.

Relying on his memory, Gu Mian quickly found the up-and-down boundary line.

Of course, it's also because the landmark is very conspicuous.

From afar, he saw a towering pole rising into the night sky, exceptionally visible even in darkness.

Gu Mian followed the pole's direction to a place called "Dividing Square."

Once a small square, it has become a lockdown zone affected by monstrous rampages due to collapse, having been long abandoned.

The fountain inside ceased functioning long ago, filled with piled-up leaves, emanating a stench of decaying foliage.

The brick pavement subtly uplifted from neglect, making it rough underfoot.

Seems like monsters have come here to rampage, smashing the benches into pieces, leaving behind debris and wood shavings.

It's so rundown that it hardly looks like a square anymore.

Only a bronze plaque imprinted with "Dividing Square" barely attests to its former self, yet that plaque is rusted, distorting and blurring the words.

A casual tug from Gu Mian and it fell off the pole completely, the rusty plaque hitting the ground with its final cry of existence, seemingly bidding farewell to this world.

He stepped onto the rough brick, heading towards the pole standing at the center of the square.

The night was quiet, scarcely any sound around him except for the leaves inside the fountain pool rustling faintly in the wind.

No sign of monsters nearby, perhaps they lost interest after coming once.

The mechanical dog padded closely at Gu Mian's feet, refraining from repeating its classic lines, perhaps sensing the fear itself.

Soon, Gu Mian arrived at the pole pointing heavenward.

A stone base lay beneath, inscribed with information about the pole.

"Up-and-down boundary line—this day, we finally distinguished our great selves from the inferior lower-class people, thus erected this pole to forever commemorate this glorious day."

Further down, the builder's name—Slaughter.

Gu Mian fell silent for a few seconds; Slaughter truly played his role to perfection.

He gathered himself, spat at Slaughter's name, dutifully delivering the package.

Thus, the five deliveries near the Secret Forest were finally complete.

Gu Mian fetched the list and crossed off the location "up-and-down boundary line."

"Adding these five, I've completed fifteen delivery tasks. Only eighty-four more to complete for obtaining the special tool to enter the 'Mailman' profession instance." Gu Mian felt gloomy about the future, fearing he wouldn't complete ninety-nine deliveries before Earth's destruction.

At this moment, a bold thought crossed his mind.

"This should still be within the Evil God's statue's wish range."

Thinking of this, he clasped his hands and earnestly wished to the heavens, "Dear Evil God, kindly help me fulfill the remaining eighty-four delivery tasks."

Whether due to the difficulty of the wish or the Evil God's unawareness, his wish wasn't granted. Gu Mian stood in the dilapidated square, hands clasped, appearing quite absurd.

Lifting his head, he noticed colorful, beautiful gems adorned the pole. Uncleaned for ages, they were covered in a thick layer of dust, hence overlooked by Gu Mian earlier.

"Xiao Hong will surely love these." He disregarded his wish, stepping forward to pry some gems off as a gift for Xiao Hong.

At that moment, he noticed the stars in the sky moving.

What's happening?

Gu Mian gazed at the sky in confusion.

In an instant, all the stars moved uniformly in one direction, yet didn't resemble meteors.

Suddenly, the ground beneath tilted, almost causing him to fall.

At the same time, he heard a deep rumbling from underground, resembling a giant creature growling beneath.

The ground tilted increasingly, and Gu Mian turned to survey his surroundings, discovering the eastern ground gradually rising while the western ground sank.

This land seemed akin to a seesaw now, one end continuously elevating as the other descended.

The mechanical dog sensed danger, advancing a few steps to cling fearfully to Gu Mian's leg.

Facing the see-sawing ground, Gu Mian's expression changed.

"The stars haven't moved, the ground is tilting, making people standing on it mistakenly think the stars are moving."

Gu Mian realized what was about to happen.

This area is about to ascend.

It is transforming into the Inverted City.

No time to think, he urgently ran, leaving this ascending area!

If caught ascending here, there would be no way down, leaving Chu Changge and 007 in Game City without a means to leave this world.

Acting swiftly, Gu Mian scooped up the clinging mechanical dog, darting towards his motorcycle.

Arriving by the bike, he tossed the dog into the back cylinder, mounted the bike, and fiercely throttled southward.

Heading east or west is impossible; the west end has already sunk underground, and the east is rising high, moving west is grave-digging, heading east when reaching the boundary line equals a jump to doom.

Only the north-south axis maintains alignment with the outside ground, so Gu Mian decisively raced south on the motorcycle.