

Collapse 811

Chapter 811 The Master of Insurance Fraud, Gu Bengbeng

By now the sky was gradually brightening.

A silver moon was slowly rising from behind the clouds, and the land in the east was also slowly lifting upward.

The moon looked as if it were being propped up by the up-tilting earth, the two of them rising into the sky together.

Huge chunks of debris were falling from the land that was ascending toward the sky, making for a spectacular sight.

But Gu Mian had no time to stop and properly enjoy this magnificent scene; he was ripping along the north-south central axis, not daring to slow down even a little, or he'd be heading up into the heavens along with this piece of land to rub shoulders with the moon.

He twisted the throttle to the limit, the motorcycle letting out a feeble roar as it carried Gu Mian and the Big Jar on the back seat racing southward.

Gu Mian only felt the ground getting more and more slanted, the scenery around him whipping backward, yet no matter what he couldn't see the end ahead.

Just how big was this chunk of land that was about to take off!

The mechanical dog in the jar also poked its head out to look ahead, as if it were getting anxious on Gu Mian's behalf.

The speed was too fast, and the wind slamming into his face was getting more and more painful; Gu Mian felt an itch on his forehead, like the Holy Disguise Item, the "Eight Characters" Moustache, was about to be blown off.

He freed one hand and slapped his forehead hard, finally sticking the wobbling "Eight Characters" Moustache back on.

The ground around him was tilting more and more, and in the end the motorcycle couldn't even stand on this slanted surface.

At this moment Gu Mian finally saw the edge of this piece of land; a deep chasm had already appeared there, a trench formed by the earth's movement.

That's the end! Just need to clear that trench!

He saw a multicolored street winding along the opposite bank, exactly the "NPC Street" he had visited before.

He hadn't expected the range of this Inverted City event to be so huge, reaching all the way to the entrance of NPC Street.

The street lay on the other side of the rift, just outside the affected area.

Gu Mian saw a few people standing on the opposite side of the rift peering over, most likely NPCs from the street who'd come to watch the spectacle.

Those few people had clearly also seen Gu Mian barreling toward them, and all stood there on the opposite side, mouths agape in shock.

The ground under Gu Mian's feet had almost tilted to forty-five degrees, the motorcycle starting to slide downward; Gu Mian was so anxious he wished the bike under his butt could grow two more wheels and run a bit faster.

As if it had heard the wish in his heart, Gu Mian felt the motorcycle's speed suddenly pick up, going crazy as it charged straight toward the few people on the opposite side.

The people opposite hadn't expected Gu Mian to still be able to accelerate; watching the motorcycle coming straight at them, they stared dumbly for a few seconds.

The slanted ground made it hard for Gu Mian to control the bike's direction; he felt that if he so much as turned the handlebars, the motorcycle would lose control and slide all the way down.

He had no choice but to charge straight ahead, but the kind-hearted Gu Mian still shouted a warning: "What are you spacing out for, run!"

Only then did the few NPCs snap out of it and scatter.

And by now Gu Mian had already raced to the edge of the rift; this huge crack split open by the earth's movement was nearly two meters wide, with a bottomless abyss below.

Gu Mian lifted the front wheel slightly, and amid the earth's roaring he drove the motorcycle toward the opposite side.

The bike leaped into the air, spanning the abyss.

At that instant, time seemed to slow; from the bike, Gu Mian could lower his head and see the chasm below, one side of the land still slowly writhing, like some enormous worm.

Gu Mian passed over the worm, surging toward the safe far side.

He was safe now, but the NPCs were not.

Even though they'd already reacted and scattered, there hadn't been enough time, and they hadn't run very far.

Gu Mian, racing full tilt, couldn't slow down immediately; he clipped two people who hadn't managed to get far enough away, and Gu Mian even heard one of them spit out a curse.

After knocking the two down he rushed forward quite a distance before barely managing to bring the bike to a stop.

As soon as he parked, Gu Mian jumped off and turned back to check on the victims' injuries.

Turning around, he just happened to see the land behind him standing fully upright at ninety degrees, then the earth sped up its rotation, and in no time it had flipped over and lifted into the sky, becoming a true Inverted City.

Gu Mian saw that jeweled long-rod statue completely flip over as well, hanging upside down in the sky.

At a glance, the Secret Forest was not within the range of the Inverted City; when Gu Mian was escaping he'd been worried that Slaughter and the Evil God statue would go up into the sky together.

Turns out his worry had been unnecessary.

And directly beneath the Inverted City, the ground had been left with a pitch-black giant pit, extremely spectacular.

"Ow—" "Ow—"

The sound of pained cries reached him, and only then did Gu Mian realize he still hadn't checked on the victims' injuries.

"You guys okay?" Gu Mian quickly walked over to the two people on the ground.

The other three NPCs who hadn't been hit also gathered around to check on the two on the ground.

"Do I look okay to you?!" One of them clutched his waist and gave Gu Mian a fierce eye-roll, then ran his eyes up and down him.

He felt this guy looked a bit familiar, but for the moment couldn't recall where he'd seen him.

"Which world are you from? I feel like I've seen you somewhere... whatever, point is you hit me and hurt me, so you gotta pay up!"

Last time Gu Mian had come here to borrow the delivery tricycle, he'd heard that fortune-teller guy say that everyone running shops here had rushed out of the lockdown zone, not bringing anything valuable.

A lot of them couldn't even afford rent and had gone over to Crazy Game City to look for work.

Speaking of which...

Gu Mian looked at the two victims on the ground, then at the three onlookers beside them; the fortune-teller wasn't among them.

He turned back; judging from the last time, he shouldn't run into that guy until tomorrow afternoon, so it wasn't time yet.

But at this same time last run, there hadn't been an Inverted City forming here.

Gu Mian looked up at the inverted city hanging in the sky; most of this Inverted City fell within the forbidden zone, filled with ruined, dilapidated buildings inside.

The silver moonlight poured over the city, making it seem even more desolate.

"Are you even listening to me?" The man clutching his waist twisted his body and gave Gu Mian a sidelong look; he clearly wasn't about to let him off without compensation.

Gu Mian turned his head toward a conspicuous four-wheeled cargo truck not far away, piled high with suitcases of all sizes; obviously the five of them had been packing up their luggage earlier.

Probably just like the fortune-teller had said: shop owners who couldn't afford the rent, planning to take their luggage and go to Crazy Game City to find work, and his arrival had just made their already miserable situation even worse.

Thinking of this, Gu Mian also felt a bit guilty.

He took a few steps forward and pulled the man up from the ground: "I'll take responsibility for you guys. Come with me, I'll take you somewhere nice."

Gu Mian's movements while pulling the man up were a bit too big, and the Holy Disguise Item, the "Eight Characters" Moustache on his forehead, which hadn't been very secure to begin with, wobbled and, like a dying leaf in the wind, fell from his forehead and fluttered down to the ground.

The man had originally been half-skeptical about Gu Mian's words, eyeing him with suspicion and not believing in this so-called "nice place" he was talking about.

But as Gu Mian's moustache fell from his forehead, the man suddenly felt that this person looked more and more familiar, and finally his heart gave a jolt as he matched Gu Mian's identity in his mind.

Chapter 812 A Bright Future Ahead

"Let's go, why aren't you moving?" Gu Mian warmly invited the man to ride on his motorcycle.

Little did he know, the man who just moments ago was lying on the ground struggling to even move suddenly felt much better.

He opened his eyes wide, forced a healthy smile, and said, "Ah! I suddenly feel fine, I'm okay, I'm very healthy! You should go, don't worry about me!"

The other person who wasn't held by Gu Mian had already quickly gotten up from the ground and swiftly fled the crime scene.

The three bystanders realized something was wrong when the moustache fell off and quickly left, saying things like "The sun is quite bright today" while looking at the night sky.

Seeing his companions had left him behind, the man's healthy smile almost fell apart. He raised his hand, attempting to push Gu Mian away to escape, but didn't dare.

In the end, he could only keep repeating, "I'm fine, I'm okay, I'm really okay, I'm fine..."

Gu Mian looked at the man in front of him and shook his head, sighed, "You've knocked your head silly, I need to take responsibility."

The man's smile finally disappeared, revealing a look of mourning as if he lost both parents.

Gu Mian bent down, picked up the "Eight Characters" Moustache from the ground, slapped it onto his face, and then pulled the man towards his motorcycle.

The man was a head shorter than Gu Mian, weak and skinny; even though he was unwilling, he couldn't resist and could only let Gu Mian drag him to the bike.

It was then Gu Mian noticed his motorcycle had somehow mutated, with two more wheels growing beside the rear wheel.

He remembered thinking earlier that the motorcycle wasn't fast enough and wished it could grow two more wheels during the sprint.

After that thought, the speed indeed increased – could those wheels have appeared because of that wish?

But now he was on NPC Street, far from the Secret Forest. Could the Evil God still hear his wishes from such a distance?

Gu Mian felt something wasn't quite right.

He looked at the Inverted City in the sky behind him, then turned back and grabbed the man trying to sneak away, forcing him onto the back seat: "Behave."

Then Gu Mian mounted the four-wheel motorcycle, revved the throttle, and continued heading south.

As they passed the truck full of luggage, Gu Mian saw four other NPCs hurriedly loading up luggage. When they saw Gu Mian riding over, they nervously hid behind the truck, afraid of getting caught in unwarranted disaster.

The man sitting behind Gu Mian stretched his neck, gazing longingly at the four people behind the truck, hoping someone would speak up for him.

But before his longing gaze could be noticed, the motorcycle sped past, leaving behind a trail of dust.

The man retracted his neck in despair, feeling his future was bleak.

"You know which direction to Crazy Game City, right?" Just when the man was imagining his despairing future, Gu Mian suddenly asked him.

Head to Game City to cause trouble?

The man initially wanted to reject this righteously but thought better, realizing if Gu Mian had another target, he might be let off. But answering too quickly would seem too eager.

So he pretended to hesitate, as if struggling internally, finally gritting his teeth and reluctantly said, "Head southeast for an hour and you'll get there."

He thought he disguised it well, but Gu Mian had already seen his uncontrollable grin reflected in the mirror.

At that moment, a mechanical dog's voice came from behind: "Are you happy?"

The man was startled and turned to look.

A camera had popped out of a Big Jar behind them at some point, pointing directly at him.

Looking closely, he said, "Isn't this the delivery robot from Bird Bandit Express?"

The mechanical dog was indeed something Gu Mian had swiped from Bird Bandit Express. Passing by the delivery shed, Gu Mian noticed the three-wheeler he took had reverted back to its original spot due to a rollback.

"This thing was originally a Street Happiness Survey robot; later, the owner of Bird Bandit Express had it stolen and modified into their delivery worker;" Feeling familiar, the man began talking more, "Though it's often faulty, at least three days a week it's wrecking things at my shop."

"Your shop?" Actually, Gu Mian still didn't know the man's name or what he did.

The man was quiet for a moment, reluctant to tell Gu Mian much about himself, but feared Gu Mian's anger might lead him to do something inhumane, so he unwillingly spoke up, "My shop's right next to Bird Bandit Express, it's called 'Loan and Legacy'"

"What's it called?" Gu Mian didn't catch it.

The man raised his voice, leaning closer to Gu Mian's ear, "It's called Loan and Legacy!"

"Sounds like a shady shop."

"I'm in the loan business. Lately, times have been tough across industries, and people have no money, so many come to borrow from me;" Saying this, the man pulled a face like he had eaten something unpleasant, "But most people can't pay back, and I've had to hire enforcers for collecting, but later my funds were tight too, so I borrowed from other loan shops, and..."

No need to explain the rest; Gu Mian could imagine it.

"So I couldn't collect my loans and couldn't repay what I borrowed, so I had to find work to earn money to repay loans." His tone held a hint of grievance.

Originally, he came to pack his luggage today, then head to Crazy Game City to look for work.

Unexpectedly, a motorcycle appeared and hit him.

Though he wasn't hurt much at the time, he suddenly thought of a great money-making idea, figuring he could get compensation from the perpetrator.

Now he regretted not slapping himself back then; not only did he not get money, but he might even end up in a worse situation.

Thinking about it, regretful tears welled up in his eyes.

Gu Mian felt somewhat guilty towards this victim: "Don't worry, stick with me, I'll think of something."

Participating in the variety show to rescue Lu Yi involved causing a lot of trouble for Upper Class People, so why not rob them first to redistribute wealth.

"Really?" The man wiped his tears, suddenly seeing Gu Mian as a heroic figure.

"Really." Gu Mian calculated how to exploit Upper Class People as he asked, "I still don't know your name."

"My name is Dai Huanhuan."

Unexpectedly, this sour-faced man had such a cheerful name.

Suddenly, Gu Mian remembered the fortune-teller he met on NPC Street before the rollback; he still didn't know that man's name, though he did guide him.

"That fortune teller setting up a stall on your street, with the flag having three dashes two shorts, what's his name?" Gu Mian asked.

"What?" Dai Huanhuan seemed not to have heard clearly.

"Your street had a fortune teller; what's his name?"

After Gu Mian's question, Dai Huanhuan stared at his back with a strange look for a long while before saying, "There's never been a fortune teller on our street."

Chapter 813 Guide to Avoiding Dangerous Personalities (8th Edition)

"Ziiii—"

The screeching sound of brakes echoed on the street.

Behind him, Dai Huanhuan accidentally bumped into Gu Mian's back, causing a painful collision.

He reached out to rub his forehead, dissatisfied yet hesitant to question, he could only ask quietly: "Why did you suddenly stop?"

"Are you sure there's never been a fortune-teller on your street?" Gu Mian turned to look at him.

Dai Huanhuan nodded quickly: "Absolutely, I moved from the original blocked area to this street when it was built, there's never been a fortune-teller here."

Gu Mian fell into thought.

The last time he came here, he encountered that NPC with a fortune-telling stall who kindly pointed him to the direction of the forbidden zone, thanks to whom he could find the statue of Slaughter and the Evil God in the forbidden zone.

But now Dai Huanhuan says there's never been a fortune-teller on this street?

That person was not from this street but lied about his identity to give directions to Gu Mian, seemingly waiting specifically for him here.

Who is he? Why did he do this?

Gu Mian had many questions in his heart.

At that moment, the mechanical dog Hei poked its head out from the Big Jar behind him, delivering its classic line, "Are you happy?"

Dai Huanhuan looked back at the Big Jar behind him.

He had long wanted to complain about this jar; a jar on the back of a motorcycle, what kind of design is this?

Plus, there's a dog in the jar, but he didn't dare question Gu Mian's aesthetics and swallowed his big doubts alone.

Exactly.

Gu Mian remembered that when he saw the man with the fortune-telling stall, Hei was quite rude, barking "Hey" "Hey" at the man, which puzzled him at the time, now it seems there might be something hidden?

"Do you know him?" Gu Mian looked at the dog's head of Hei.

It was said to be a dog's head, but actually just a camera.

Unfortunately, Hei was just like its brother, only spitting out that one line.

Gu Mian couldn't get anything out of it except to sigh why all the creatures around him were stammering.

"According to the timeline, I should meet him tomorrow afternoon, if I wait here until tomorrow afternoon, I might run into him, but not necessarily, he might not come this time."

Gu Mian looked up at the Inverted City in the sky behind him—the last time this didn't happen, did it?

It seems things don't always follow the original trajectory.

Plus, Lu Yi will be executed in seven days, he didn't have time to waste here.

Thinking of this, Gu Mian took a deep look at the location of the fortune-telling stall from last time and then rode his motorcycle towards Game City.

With Dai Huanhuan as the practical navigator, Gu Mian took shortcuts avoiding various Upper Class People zones and lower-class zones and saw the Game City building before dawn.

Since Game City was not within the activity area of the Upper Class People, Chu Changge and 007 weren't worried about being captured while moving nearby, Gu Mian could see the two from afar at the gate of Game City.

His oddly shaped motorcycle attracted the attention of many NPCs around, but since the people here always looked somewhat abstract, it didn't cause much of a stir.

It wasn't until he parked his motorcycle in front of Chu Changge and 007, that 007 gazed at the four-wheeled motorcycle with a jar and showed an expression hard to describe: "This bike is..."

"I made it myself;" Gu Mian said as he got off and went to the jar on the back seat, fetching the mechanical dog Hei from inside and stuffed it into 007's arms, "I picked up this dog by the roadside, named it Hei, since your profession is Fortune-teller, it might be useful to you."

With the Fortune-teller and the dog stuffed into his arms, they exchanged glances but none spoke first.

Just then, Dai Huanhuan gingerly got off the back seat and nodded quietly to Chu Changge and 007 to introduce himself: "Hello, I'm Dai Huanhuan..."

He had seen these two in the "Guide to Avoiding Dangerous Personalities (8th Edition)". Both were Gu Mian's disreputable companions, if you were lucky enough to meet either of them in your instance, congratulations, a hopeful bankrupt working life awaited you.

Seeing these three gathered together, Dai Huanhuan's mind buzzed with a feeling of impending doom.

Chu Changge sized him up a few times and then focused back on Gu Mian: "You even brought a useless NPC."

Hearing this, Dai Huanhuan's head, already lowered, drooped lower, feeling himself wasn't all that useless.

"Didn't you also bring someone?" Gu Mian looked toward Chu Changge and 007's rear, where a ragged, nervous-looking man stood.

Gu Mian recognized him.

"Ming?"

The full name should be "Bright but Not Dazzling Man"

The first time he saw him was at Blizzard Mountain, in the World in the Mirror instance, back then he was overly flamboyant, accompanied by a CP named the Alluring but Not Ostentatious Woman.

Back then, Gu Mian enthusiastically named them Ming and Xiao Zhang.

After that, they didn't meet for a long time.

The second meeting was last time, on Earth; by then, Ming had lost his prior flamboyance, becoming silent, cautious, his hunched, shrinking form unlike what a young man should have.

Xiao Zhang had also disappeared, no longer clinging to his side as before.

Then, Ming recognized them at the supermarket entrance but didn't dare approach and fled instead.

Unexpectedly, the third meeting came so quickly.

"No wait, how did you get in?"

When Gu Mian used the 108th Key from the Mysterious World to enter Paradise World, he made sure there were no irrelevant persons nearby.

"I asked, back then he was in the park just not far from the entrance. When you went to check the entrance, he hid away far, when you finished and left, he sneaked behind the entrance to peek, this made him brought in and landed in the same area with me."

Chu Changge already had the whole thing figured out and now reporting without expression.

Gu Mian recalled notifying Chu Changge and 007 in the group chat about the world's rollback afterward, and Chu Changge queried Gu Mian if he'd mentioned someone he encountered previously.

Gu Mian answered with a negative.

It seems in the first entry into this world Chu Changge didn't meet Ming, the rollback might have led Chu Changge to spend time pondering several matters, the time differences resulting in event differences, leading him to encounter Ming also entering this world.

Then Ming rubbed his filthy hands, explaining: "Sorry, I couldn't find a place to stay outside, when I saw the park I wanted to stay at a ticket booth for a night, as long as there was a roof, out of the rain, that'd be enough;

"But I accidentally found the meter room inside the park... you know, the one with many meters, it looked like someone had lived there, they left bedding there... I haven't felt safe sleeping on a bed for so long, wanted to stay longer;

"Didn't expect to see you at the entrance, also didn't expect coming close would cause this..."

The meter room in Lianhua Paradise? Gu Mian knew he meant the electrical room, someone used to live there?

He thought of Renle Mountain who recently sneaked away from the apartment.

seemed to have thought the same, slightly startled in expression.

Chapter 814 Making Hats for Lu Yi Together

"Did the people who used to live there leave anything behind?" Gu Mian asked.

Mingliang wasn't sure why Gu Mian wanted to know, but after thinking for a moment, he shook his head. "Nothing left, just bedding and some trash."

Looks like I'll have to check out that power distribution room he mentioned once we get out, Gu Mian thought to himself.

was silent for a moment too, wanting to know where Renle Mountain had gone, but understanding that now wasn't the time to discuss it.

Thinking this, she pulled out a colorful flyer: "Look at this."

She handed the flyer to Gu Mian. "Chu Changge got this from the Upper Class People's area."

Gu Mian took it and looked down—

["Judgement and Crown" is about to make a shocking arrival]

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

[The ignorant burn the world alone, the coward covers their ears and drifts with the flow, and the greedy look up from the abyss.]

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

[Convict: Upper-class Traitor Louis (former head of the Circus of Love and Justice)]

[Judge: To be selected in a clean, sanitary professional lower-class breeding area]

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

"Judgement and Crown..."

Slaughter mentioned to him in the Secret Forest that the show to judge Louis was called "Judgement and Crown," and it's written plainly that the convict is Louis.

This is exactly the show Gu Mian and the others need to participate in.

It seems Chu Changge managed to take a very useful thing from the Upper Class People's residential area.

"The judge will be selected in a clean, sanitary professional lower-class breeding area..." Gu Mian read the words on the flyer, this means they want the lower-class people to judge Louis and impose punishment on him.

Below, there are three stages of the event.

The first stage is the preliminary period, which can be briefly summarized as clandestine canvassing, with lower-class people giving speeches at polling points while Upper Class People watch the voting. The top fifty lower-class people advance to the second stage.

The second stage is the elimination period, with fifty people competing on stage and the top ten moving to the third stage.

The third stage is the coronation period, more commonly known as the handicraft stage, where ten people are to make hats for dear Louis.

Gu Mian figured these hats were certainly not normal hats; the Upper Class People wouldn't go to such lengths for making hats for Louis.

"This is troublesome;" Gu Mian looked at the judge column, "The first batch of lower-class people will be selected in a clean, sanitary professional lower-class breeding area. They want to select people from clean and sanitary enclosures, but we're not being bred, we're just wild."

They didn't even have the qualification to compete.

However, when leaving the Secret Forest, Slaughter told Gu Mian about a friend who ran a photo studio on the second floor of Game City who could help them acquire the appropriate identity.

The name of that photo studio is "Catch Turtles in the Sky Photo Studio."

"Let's first find a photo studio on the second floor," Gu Mian lifted his foot to walk into the building, saying this as he turned back to look at Dai Huanhuan, "Do you know a photo studio called Catch Turtles in the Sky?"

Dai Huanhuan was taken aback; he actually did know it: "I know it, it's right on the second floor here, I'll take you there."

Saying this, he naturally moved to the front to lead the way, without any guilty conscience of betraying his kind.

He didn't know what Gu Mian and the others came to this world for, only that Gu Mian had promised to help him gather money.

Thus, he led the way with peace of mind, as if he had fully integrated into Gu Mian's group.

had already put Hei back on the ground, and Hei seemed to like her very much. After stretching lazily on the ground, it hurriedly followed, constantly circling around 007's feet.

"By the way, Gu Mian, you mentioned something about this world's memory rewinds in the group earlier, can you elaborate?" 007 asked.

At that time, when things were urgent, Gu Mian only briefly told them the outline in the group, without clear explanation.

Now that they had time, he explained the entire memory rewind incident to Chu Changge and 007 as they walked, describing how he came to the Secret Forest and met Slaughter, how he saw the story of the Evil God, and also told them about the magical use of the Evil God statue.

"It's like a wishing machine; that motorcycle you saw at the mall entrance was made by me using the statue," Gu Mian said to 007.

had found the motorcycle's shape twisted at first glance, and now she knew why.

"Slaughter also gave me another leaf brooch left by the Evil God, though it seems useless, it does pair with the one I had before." Saying this, he pointed to the green brooch pinned on the right side of his chest.

He had another identical leaf brooch pinned symmetrically on the left side of his chest, looking quite ludicrous.

looked at the brooch left by the Evil God: "To think this world has undergone memory rewind so many times before, and to think it originally intended... for Heroes to lead everyone to defeat evil..."

She had difficulty finishing the last sentence, given the current state of the world: there's not even a "Hero," let alone "everyone."

The world was solely divided into Upper Class People and lower-class, with a gap larger than that between humans and beasts.

Mingliang trailed behind them.

had already explained to him that this wasn't an instance, and that the mall was quite safe.

He initially listened to the conversation between Gu Mian and the others, but it had been too long since he had walked so peacefully in a mall, and soon he was captivated by the endless array of shops around.

Every now and then, strange creatures would walk past, and Mingliang would sneak sideways glances at them.

"It seems the Earth has been continuously thwarting the script written by Slaughter and the others, forcing this world to rewind until it became what it is today;" Chu Changge adjusted his glasses, "By the way, Gu Mian, you said while you and Slaughter were running up from underground, Slaughter said a lot of ominous things, but the statue didn't realize them?"

"Yes." Gu Mian also found it strange.

That statue was something that, as soon as it discovered even a single thought from you, would eagerly help you fulfill your wish.

Yet at the time, the things Slaughter said underground never came true, and they escaped safely, passing through the shutter door to the surface.

Chu Changge thought for a moment, then looked up at Gu Mian: "Can you tell me about your escape to the surface from the underground in detail?"

"There wasn't much to it; Slaughter said a lot of things like 'earthquake,' 'flood,' 'we're going to die here,' but none of it happened. I pulled him along as we ran up the stairs, and once we got to the top, we pushed open the shutter door to escape."

"Push open the shutter door?" Chu Changge zeroed in on the key point.

"Yeah, it opened just from a push from below."

"When Slaughter took you down from the top, was the shutter door opened the same way?"

Gu Mian furrowed his brow, recalling the scene going down: "No..."

When they went down, Slaughter had searched a long time for the shutter door key.

After finding the key and inserting it into the lock, the shutter door automatically transformed into a downward staircase.

At that time, he had praised how smart this thing was.

So when he fled from the underground to the surface, using a push to open the shutter door was incorrect; it shouldn't have been able to open by pushing, but required insertion of the key to form stairs.

But at that time, he'd long forgotten about this, and naturally pushed open that "ordinary shutter door."

That's when Gu Mian remembered seeing, in the rearview mirror as he drove the motorcycle away, Slaughter outside removing the helmet that isolated wishes, as if he was no longer worried about his wishes coming true at any moment.

Moreover, when his motorcycle reached NPC Street, the vehicle grew two more wheels under his strong desire, yet at that time he was far from the Evil God statue, and wishes shouldn't have been able to come true.

From this, a strange thought occurred in his mind.

Chapter 815 A Warm Welcome to Mr. Beng at Game City

At this moment, Dai Huanhuan, leading the way, stopped: "We've arrived."

Arrived?

Gu Mian gathered his thoughts and looked up.

He saw himself standing in front of a storefront, above which hung a large sign with the words "Catch Turtles in the Sky Photo Studio."

However, the studio door was tightly closed. Through the glass door, it was clear the door was locked from the inside.

Inside, there was only a counter, a sofa, and a small door with the words "Workroom" written on it.

Gu Mian was silent for a few seconds.

Slaughter had instructed him to find the photo studio owner for help here, presumably notifying him beforehand, yet the owner had locked the door from the inside.

Could it be that Slaughter had informed him of the visit, and he specially locked the door?

also noticed the lock hanging inside the glass door. She turned and glanced at Gu Mian's expression, then shifted her gaze to the guitar bag on Gu Mian's back: "The door is locked from the inside; there should be someone inside."

Gu Mian understood her implication.

If worse comes to worst, he could use a saw to open the lock.

Just as he was contemplating whether to knock politely or forcibly unlock the door, a tall figure suddenly appeared inside the shop, hurriedly moving a display screen out from the workroom, not immediately noticing the waiting patrons outside the main door.

Seeing the person inside not paying attention to them, Gu Mian decided to give a friendly reminder: "Hello there."

Unexpectedly, Gu Mian's greeting was quite impactful, like a ghost's call, causing the person inside to shudder and almost drop the display screen.

He uttered a couple of "Ouch," hurriedly placing the screen onto the shop counter, then promptly turned to look at Gu Mian and his companions gathered outside.

The tall man's gaze first stopped on Chu Changge, his eyes swept around Chu Changge, then revealed a "Just as I thought" sense of hopelessness, seemingly recognizing Chu Changge's identity.

Next, his gaze rested on 007, also taking a look around, then his expression grew even more despondent.

Both Chu Changge and 007's portraits were in the "Guide to Avoiding Dangerous Personalities (8th Edition)," so it was not surprising they were recognized.

At this moment, Gu Mian was still wearing the Holy Disguise Item, the "Eight Characters" moustache, and the owner couldn't pick out which of the remaining people was him.

"Is it you, Gu Mian?" He looked at the foremost Dai Huanhuan, thinking that the person at the front seemed shifty and suspicious.

Dai Huanhuan silently retreated to the back.

"Not?" Then he turned to Mingliang at the back, "Is it you, Gu Mian?"

Mingliang was observing the bustling second floor and various strange beings. Upon being pointed out, he bewildered looked up at the person in the shop.

"Not this one either..." Finally, the owner looked at Hei at 007's feet, "Then it must be you, Gu Mian."

Hei tilted its camera slightly, spat out, "Are you happy?"

Gu Mian could no longer stand it, stepped forward to the door, tore off the "Eight Characters" moustache Holy Disguise Item on his face, "I'm here."

The tall man finally noticed there was indeed someone else here, startled, stepping back.

But he didn't stay frightened for long.

Upon confirming the person before him was indeed Gu Mian, the tall man immediately unlocked the door, pushed it open, and pulled Gu Mian inside.

Gu Mian had never been treated with such enthusiasm by an NPC before; as he was suddenly pulled inside, he was completely taken aback.

Seeing Gu Mian being pulled in, 007 stepped forward as well, intending to follow, but before reaching the door, it slammed shut with a "bang": "You wait outside."

Then he reattached the lock, drew the curtain inside, physically separating the interior from the exterior, as if implying something unspeakable was happening with Gu Mian inside.

paused, foot hovering mid-air, somewhat puzzled, turned back towards Chu Changge: "What's he doing...?"

Honestly, it was her first time seeing such enthusiasm from an NPC towards Gu Mian, directly excluding them outside, eagerly desiring to be alone with Gu Mian.

"Probably has something he doesn't want us to hear," Chu Changge didn't react much, "Anyway, it's someone else who's at risk being alone with Gu Mian, no need to worry."

nodded, agreeing that Chu Changge made sense.

Besides, the saw went inside with Gu Mian, if something goes wrong, Gu Mian also has help.

At this moment, just across the door in the photo studio, uninformed about the unfolding events, Gu Mian was pushed onto a sofa.

He looked up at the photo studio owner before him.

The owner had a tall build, was rather older, groomed his hair meticulously, albeit with strands of white.

He wore suit pants and a white shirt, layered over with a coffee-plaid vest, dressed impressively, appearing mature and steady, yet his facial expression told a different story.

His face already had a few wrinkles, now deeply etched due to his furrowed brow.

Gu Mian also noticed bean-sized sweat droplets sliding from his forehead, streaming down along the deep creases, trickling to the similarly pinched crow's feet.

Only then did Gu Mian pay attention to the owner's persistent gaze fixed on him.

"You must have realized the issue, right?" The man suddenly and without context addressed Gu Mian.

Sitting on the sofa, Gu Mian scooted back a bit, to avoid having the other's sweat drip on him: "I did sense something off."

Despite the question being vague, Gu Mian quickly caught on to what the owner was referring to.

The man was asking about the wish-making matter, given his acquaintance with Slaughter, he likely knew about the Evil God statue being a wishing machine.

Theoretically, upon reaching NPC Street, Gu Mian should have been out of the wishing range of the Evil God statue, yet the motorcycle still turned into a four-wheeler upon his strong request.

"I suspect the Evil God statue possibly came along with me."

Currently, his biggest suspect was this new leaf brooch given by Slaughter, as it was the only item he brought from Slaughter.

Upon hearing, the man pursed his lips, didn't utter a word, instead stepped back to the photo studio counter.

On the counter was the display screen he'd previously placed.

He reached aside the screen, touched it, then turned it on, seemingly intending to show Gu Mian something.

Gu Mian curiously eyed the screen, clueless about what he was to see.

What couldn't be verbally conveyed, required a screen, and barred others outside from viewing?

It ought to be crucial documents, perhaps "Paradise World's Five-Star Secret Document" or "Slaughter's Secret Photo Album," and such.

In an instant, countless earth-shattering secrets flashed in Gu Mian's mind.

So when the screen started playing cartoons, he was utterly speechless.

"So you locked them outside, grandly moved a screen here, all for the sake of playing cartoons for me?"

Chapter 816 Ugly Mr. Gu and His Archrival, the Green-Furred Dog

The man didn't pay attention to Gu Mian's dissatisfaction. He moved the screen closer to Gu Mian:

"Look, don't think about anything else, just seriously watch this cartoon."

Upon hearing this, Gu Mian looked at the screen with some confusion.

This person is so eager for him to watch the cartoon; could there be an unspeakable secret hidden in it?

With this doubt, Gu Mian earnestly watched the cartoon characters on the screen.

This cartoon was clearly produced locally in this world. The characters are as white as if they were rolled in flour, and if coated with breadcrumbs, they could be thrown directly into the oil pan.

The plot was also quite brainless.

After watching the introduction for a couple of moments, Gu Mian discovered that it was a story about a middle-class cartoon upper-class person who, through his own efforts and wisdom, bought and sold lower-class slaves to become the richest man in Paradise—where in this world, the lowest of the upper class are middle-class, and below them are lower-class people who are worse than dogs.

He was confused about what secret could be hidden in such a foolish cartoon when the man's eerie voice sounded in his ear: "Actually, it's not the Evil God statue that came out with you, but its function has been transferred."

Gu Mian was taken aback.

Function transfer?

He had a wild idea: "Could it have been transferred to me?"

Thinking of this, he began to fantasize about fireballs falling from the sky, killing all the upper-class people.

But that could easily injure his own people.

Gu Mian quickly shifted his attention to the cartoon on the screen: "Hmm, these characters are really white."

Now he understood why the man wanted him to watch cartoons.

"Slaughter has already called me and said that while you two were escaping upwards from the underground, he uttered countless unlucky words, but none came true. He initially thought it was because the statue was affected by the rollback, but the next moment you pushed open the hinged door that normally couldn't be opened, making him realize something was wrong;

"He found that the statue seemed unable to fulfill its own wishes anymore, but it could still fulfill yours;

"After you left, he tried to make a wish several times, but all failed. He realized the statue's function likely transferred to you, and from now on, only your wishes would be fulfilled—these little characters are genuinely cute."

While speaking, the man didn't forget to divert the topic to the cartoon, to prevent Gu Mian from getting impulsive and coming up with some surprising ideas.

"They are indeed very cute," Gu Mian replied perfunctorily, "Does this mean I have to control myself and avoid dreaming even while sleeping from now on?"

If he accidentally dreamed that all NPCs and humans died, leaving only himself...

Gu Mian went back to carefully watching the cartoon, feeling that the upper-class protagonist in the story was struggling too hard in this world—it would be better if they all perished together, eliminating the need for striving.

"No... it's not that exaggerated. Slaughter informed me over the phone that the function is likely restrained by you; only things you inherently believe or strongly desire in your heart will be realized."

Is that so?

Like the hinged door, Gu Mian subconsciously believed it should open that way, so he easily pushed it open.

When wishing for a motorbike, Gu Mian naturally thought the Evil God statue would grant his wish, thus obtaining the motorbike.

While on NPC Street, Gu Mian fervently hoped the vehicle under him would grow two more wheels, and it really did transform.

"So, it won't be a situation where whatever you think immediately appears, right?" Gu Mian remembered an example Slaughter told him: someone was taking a shower and randomly wondered what if the shower water turned into acid—and then the water actually did.

"If you don't strongly demand it, it shouldn't happen."

While speaking, the man watched Gu Mian trying to think about what he wanted.

"I want a little doll that looks like Fatty." He imagined the appearance of the doll.

Naturally, this wish was not realized.

Because his desire wasn't strong enough.

"I want a little doll that looks like Fatty!" Gu Mian intensified his tone and repeated.

Still, the little doll didn't appear in his hand.

It seems only in critical moments, when his desire is strong enough, will his wishes be fulfilled.

"Although you won't casually realize your desires, subconscious thoughts are uncontrollable, so from now on, you must cultivate yourself and try to control your mind..."

"Speaking of which..." At this moment, Gu Mian suddenly interrupted the man. He pointed towards the closed door behind the counter, "Is that your studio?"

The man had just come out of that door carrying the screen.

The door even had a plaque that read "Studio."

The man was momentarily stunned by Gu Mian's words, then followed his gaze to the door: "It used to be, but later, over time, it became a storage room. I put some important instruments in there."

"Then your important instruments are probably gone," Gu Mian stated matter-of-factly, "because the sign on it says 'Studio.' At first glance, I subconsciously thought it was a studio inside."

Upon hearing this, the man's eyes widened. He then quickly straightened up, rushed to the door, and flung it open.

A spacious room appeared before them.

A large red curtain hung on the wall opposite the door, with two photo-taking devices on either side—it was uncertain if the room had always been like this, but now it perfectly matched Gu Mian's mental imagery of a photo studio workspace.

However, judging by the man's expression, which looked as if he had eaten something unpleasant, Gu Mian guessed it no longer resembled the cherished condition he had remembered.

The man let out a sharp scream, clutching his head and almost collapsing against the door frame: "My instruments!"

"Don't worry." Gu Mian comforted him kindly, "You can describe to me what those things look like, and I'll try to imagine them back."

This was quite challenging; he couldn't guarantee success.

But at least he was attempting to salvage the situation.

"No! Don't think about it anymore... No, a solution must be found to control your mind. Otherwise, this mall will soon be doomed..." The man agonizingly took out his phone, browsing the contact list seemingly to seek help, but momentarily couldn't think of who to call.

Gu Mian curiously leaned over: "You're just a photography studio owner here—why are you so worried about the safety of Game City?"

Upon hearing this, the man suddenly lifted his head to look at Gu Mian: "You don't know what my name is, do you?"

Gu Mian shook his head.

Really, he only knew the person in front of him was the photography studio owner, and Slaughter hadn't informed him of the owner's name when he was instructed to find someone.

"What are you doing at Crazy Tower Chief's studio door?"

A perplexed voice emerged from below.

Dropping their gaze, they saw a toy dog covered in green, with the word "Limited" written on its body.

At this moment, it held a wanted poster in its mouth, its button-like toy eyes emitting a curious glow as it observed them.

This was the Toy Dog that was distributing "Wanted Posters for Ugly Mr. Gu" throughout Game City, with its signature on the poster—"Doggie Doll (Green Limited Edition)"

The mechanical dog Hei happily approached its kind to greet: "Are you happy?"

Doggie Doll casually stuffed an Ugly Mr. Gu wanted poster into Hei's mouth, then looked up again at those standing: "What are you doing at Crazy Tower Chief's studio door?"

Waiting for the Ugly Mr. Gu you are looking for to come out, 007 silently thought.

"Wait?" She paid attention to the title Doggie Doll just used, "You just said... Crazy Tower Chief? Who is Crazy Tower Chief?"

Doggie Doll tilted its head: "It's the leader of Game City, everybody's boss, and the photography studio is owned by the Chief."

Chapter 817 What Do You Think This Ugly Photo Reveals About the Author's Thoughts and Feelings?

"Are you the chief of this Game City, and this whole building is yours?" Gu Mian finally understood why Slaughter wanted him to find this person for help.

Moreover, Crazy Tower Chief had to help.

Slaughter directly dropped himself, this ticking time bomb, into Crazy Game City, and Crazy Tower Chief would definitely do everything possible to prevent him from exploding in the Game City.

Thinking about this, Gu Mian looked up at the ceiling of the room: "If such a big building exploded, the damage would certainly be significant, right?"

Crazy Tower Chief's face visibly turned red, clearly not from embarrassment but from anger causing blood to rush to his head.

"I didn't know... I didn't know Slaughter at all before yesterday! Okay, we did know of each other's existence, but that was it. We had never met or spoken before!"

Really?

Gu Mian silently thought, when Slaughter introduced Crazy Tower Chief, he said, "I have a friend in Crazy Game City."

Seems like this "friend" was a title temporarily given by Slaughter.

At this moment, Crazy Tower Chief continued his endless chatter:

"Honestly, the NPCs in Game City are not familiar with those Upper Class People. Even though Slaughter is considered a relatively normal Upper Class Person...

"So when he called me yesterday, I was indeed surprised. The Upper Class People sometimes call us in Game City to place orders, but they usually call the store manager directly. Therefore, when he called my photo studio yesterday, I felt something was wrong;

"I thought of countless possibilities, but I never imagined he would throw you—this hot potato at me, and an enhanced version at that!"

Wherever Gu Mian went before, it was always chaos, with Evil Ghosts wailing.

Now that Gu Mian had acquired a wish-fulfilling buff, the scene was even more like a hell on earth.

"Slaughter said you're taking your Blast Team to participate in some show hosted by the Upper Class People, and he asked me to find you an identity suitable for participating. I'm already contacting my friends, just hoping you don't roam around in my mall before I get this sorted, and certainly don't come up with any brilliant ideas in a heat of the moment."

It's clear that Crazy Tower Chief truly detests Slaughter. The moment Slaughter's name is mentioned, Crazy Tower Chief's tone becomes filled with gritted teeth.

Gu Mian had no doubt that if Slaughter were in front of them, Crazy Tower Chief would definitely rush up and strangle his neck.

At this time, a phone suddenly rang, bringing the nearly collapsed chief back to some level of sanity.

Gu Mian glanced over and saw the caller ID displaying "Toy Goose Special Items Factory."

"Toy Goose Company also manufactures special items?"

He knew Toy Goose had a food processing plant, but it was the first time Gu Mian heard of a special items factory. It seemed the company had a diverse range of businesses.

Crazy Tower Chief glanced at Gu Mian warily and pressed the call button to answer the phone.

"Hello, is this Crazy Tower Chief? The identity cards you ordered from us yesterday have been made. The courier is delivering them to you right now and should arrive at the Game City shortly."

A young man's voice on the other end made Gu Mian a bit concerned.

Crazy Tower Chief ordered identity cards from Toy Goose yesterday? Just the name suggests it serves the same purpose as the "Human Skin Mask" in TV shows, exactly what Gu Mian and his team need now.

It seems Slaughter's call yesterday had a significant intimidating effect, forcing Crazy Tower Chief to order identity cards overnight.

"Alright, alright, I'll go get them right away."

"But your Paradise's NPCs have always had little interaction with Upper Class People. Why the sudden order for so many disguised Upper Class identity cards? Is it to go see that show six days later?" the young man on the phone asked.

The NPCs of the Low-Dimensional World have always been hostile to Gu Mian, so Crazy Tower Chief couldn't say it was for Gu Mian. He could only evade by saying it was for himself and his friends to watch.

"Besides those Upper Class identity cards, you also ordered a lower-class identity card. Is it for you or a friend to personally experience it?" The voice on the other side sounded suspicious.

Crazy Tower Chief wiped non-existent sweat from his forehead: "I do have a friend who wants to experience... Ah! I suddenly have something to attend to, goodbye!"

With that, he hurriedly hung up the phone, then rubbed his forehead in distress and looked back at Gu Mian: "The identity cards for changing your identities have arrived. I'll go get them now, and I hope once you have them, you'll leave immediately to join that damn show!"

After saying this, Crazy Tower Chief quickly unlocked the door and left, as if unwilling to stay with Gu Mian for even a second longer.

Outside, 007 and his group were questioning Doggie Doll about Crazy Tower Chief's identity, and turned to see him coming out.

"Ah! The chief has come out. Did the chief see the big bad villain today?" Seeing Crazy Tower Chief come out, Doggie Doll excitedly jumped up and handed him a wanted poster, seemingly giving out Gu Mian's wanted picture daily regardless of whether others had received it before.

Everyone present already had an average of one picture of Gu Mian in their hands.

Mingliang looked at the wanted poster in his hand, feeling both surprised and honored. It was his first time having someone forcibly hand him a special item.

Crazy Tower Chief didn't stop walking, holding onto the wanted poster with a grim expression, heading towards the escalator.

Doggie Doll watched his back, with a perplexed expression on its fluffy face: "This is the first time I've seen the chief in such a bad mood."

Just then, it heard the sound of a door opening behind it again, and turned to see a man with a guitar case emerging from the photo studio.

Seeing someone it hadn't seen before, Doggie Doll immediately got excited, jumping up and eagerly handing the man a flyer: "Sir, see the big bad villain, see this big bad villain."

Big bad villain?

Gu Mian curiously raised his hand to look at what was handed to him. It was a very familiar wanted poster, with a very familiar ugly photo on it.

Gu Mian: "..."

He looked at the wanted poster and then at Doggie Doll, whose expression grew increasingly puzzled.

He had now found the homesick wanted poster creator.

Chapter 818 The Hospitable Crazy Tower Chief: Wanting to Refuse but Unable to Resist Gu Bengbeng

Seeing the Doggie Doll's expression getting more and more blank, it was obvious he'd also recognized who was standing in front of him.

Earlier, in order to reveal his identity to the Crazy Tower Chief, Gu Mian had ripped off the "Holy Disguise Item 'Eight Characters' Moustache" stuck on his forehead and stuffed it into his pocket, so now everyone could recognize him.

stared at the Doggie Doll's stiff face, and she actually saw a hint of pallor on that furry mug.

This Doggie Doll really knew how to read the room.

Before seeing Gu Mian, he'd hated him to the core, running around everywhere spreading his ugly photos and recounting his insane deeds.

Now that his enemy was right in front of him, he shrank his dog head back from the bottom of his heart, casually dropped the wanted posters in his mouth on the ground, and said, "Time's up, I should go home for dinner."

Then he spread his four short green legs and bolted, running like crazy back the way he'd come.

But how fast can a dog doll really run?

He was soon chased down and caught in Gu Mian's hand.

Gu Mian looked at the dog doll curled into a ball in his hand, pretending to be a lifeless toy: "That 'Wanted Poster of the Ugly Mr. Gu' was your masterpiece?"

The wanted poster even had the author's name on it, and the signature was Doggie Doll.

The dog doll in his hand played dead, motionless, as if he'd truly become an inanimate toy.

At this moment, Dai Huanhuan, who'd been watching the show from the side, suddenly felt this dog doll looked familiar. He stepped up and studied it carefully for a while, then recognized who it was: "Isn't this one of the clerks from the 'Twelve Twelve Happy Dolls' shop?"

Twelve Twelve Happy Dolls?

Gu Mian remembered he seemed to have heard about this shop somewhere before.

After thinking for a bit, he finally managed to dig the name out of his memory.

"I remember, I saw that shop on your NPC Street."

Back then it was that fortune-telling man who'd pointed out the shop to him, telling him the shop had more than a dozen employees, and because they couldn't pay the rent, they'd had to go hand out flyers in Game City.

He hadn't expected the flyers to be this kind.

Gu Mian glanced at the wanted poster with his own ugly photo printed on it in his other hand.

The Doggie Doll had clearly also recognized Dai Huanhuan, who had exposed his identity. It glared fiercely at Dai Huanhuan with its button eyes, as if accusing him, but still didn't dare move its body.

Dai Huanhuan went on, "That shop specializes in making dolls, and there are twelve toy employees inside. This Doggie Doll is one of them;

"Their original shop was also in the lockdown zone. Later it got affected when the forbidden zone collapsed, so they hurriedly left and went to NPC Street to open a shop."

After listening to Dai Huanhuan, Gu Mian understood why this Doggie Doll hated him so much.

The forbidden zone collapse had been caused by him alone, and this unlucky Doggie Doll had been forced to abandon their original shop because of it.

That fortune-telling man had also told Gu Mian that when the people on NPC Street evacuated from the lockdown zone, they didn't have time to take their wealth with them, so later they couldn't even pay rent and all came to Crazy Game City to work.

"How pitiful. Why don't you follow me from now on and live the good life?" Gu Mian understood the Doggie Doll's feelings and generously expressed that he wouldn't pursue the matter of him snapping ugly pics anymore.

Unexpectedly, after hearing this, the Doggie Doll's face turned even paler, looking like he might faint any second.

"Here," he tossed the playing-dead Doggie Doll to 007, "I think you need this."

007's class required her to collect some small animals.

Gu Mian had already bought her a big goose in the supermarket earlier. Now they'd also acquired the mechanical dog Hei and this moving, jumping Doggie Doll. With all these different types of small animals, there was no worry about 007's class not progressing.

caught the green-furred doll Gu Mian had thrown over.

Once out of Gu Mian's hand, the Doggie Doll seemed less afraid. The pallor on his face regained a bit of green, then his pitch-black eyes rolled as if he were plotting how to escape.

At this moment, Gu Mian also felt something was off, so he took the Doggie Doll back and shoved it directly into his guitar bag: "I'll give it to you when we get out, in case he runs away."

When Dai Huanhuan saw Gu Mian unzip the guitar bag, a cold glint flashed inside.

He couldn't help but recall the rumors. Everyone said there was a vicious weapon in the guitar bag on Gu Mian's back, and now the Doggie Doll was sharing a room with that weapon.

Then Chu Changge spoke from behind, "The variety show will start in six days. Our identity issue..."

"The Crazy Tower Chief customized identity badges for us. He's gone to pick them up." Gu Mian recalled what the Crazy Tower Chief had said on the phone. "But it seems he made all of yours Upper Class People identities, and mine is a lower-class identity."

had still been worrying about how to deal with things once she was on stage, since the stage performance in that Circus instance last time had been way too bloody.

"So we just need to sit in the audience and wait for you to pull out the key?" 007 pondered. "As long as we're within five hundred meters of you."

Gu Mian pulled out the "No.108 Key From the Mysterious World (Long Aotian Version)."

This was the key the Evil God had given him to enter and leave the Paradise World, palm-sized and looking very much like a dog door.

As long as he recited a specific Spell, he could take all living beings within a five-hundred-meter radius into Paradise World with him.

When they wanted to leave, he just had to recite it again, and he'd take all living beings within five hundred meters out with him.

"To be safe, it's better if you guys stay in the audience as Upper Class People and wait. The stage and the audience shouldn't be too far apart. Even if you end up outside the range, we can just move closer to each other." Gu Mian felt it wasn't wise to have Chu Changge and 007 both participate in the show as lower-class people.

This kind of variety show that uses lower-class people for entertainment would, with high probability, lead to casualties. If the two of them went on stage, accidents would be easy.

"The Crazy Tower Chief is really a good guy, to even think of this." Gu Mian nodded, praising Chief Luo.

"There are still six days before the show starts. Gu Mian, you're going to participate as a lower-class person. We need to use these days to figure out the show's process." Chu Changge was still holding that Trial and Crown flyer.

They'd already read the flyer once and couldn't extract any extra information from it.

"Chief Luo said the show wouldn't start for a few days. He told us to stay here with peace of mind and leave when it starts. We can spend these days gathering useful intel in Game City." Gu Mian rubbed his chin.

"He told us to stay here with peace of mind?" 007 repeated the sentence as a question.

When Chief Luo and Gu Mian talked, they'd closed the photo studio door. The others outside hadn't heard the conversation, but later a few of Chief Luo's roars had come through, roughly meaning "leave here immediately" and such.

"Yeah, stay here with peace of mind." Gu Mian answered without blushing or skipping a beat.

Dai Huanhuan had already been staring at Gu Mian with an expectant look for a long time. He didn't quite understand the conversation among the three, and only firmly remembered Gu Mian's promise in his heart—to find a way to help him make money.

He still owed a pile of online loans he hadn't paid back yet.

"Don't worry," seeing the urgency in Dai Huanhuan's eyes, Gu Mian patted him, "you can come on the show with us. The Upper Class People there have a lot of money."

Chapter 819 Gu Bengbeng Uproots the Doggie Doll

Dai Huanhuan had already learned from Gu Mian and the others' conversation that they were going to the show "Trial and Crown", but she didn't know what exactly they were going to do there.

However, thinking about what Gu Mian had done in this world twice before, Dai Huanhuan couldn't help but feel like mourning for the upper-class people who were about to watch the show.

But listening to Gu Mian, he seemed to want to rob the upper class and then give the money to himself.

Dai Huanhuan hurriedly waved her hand: "I can't take the stolen money, in case the upper-class people come to find me later..."

"They won't come after you," Gu Mian assuredly patted her shoulder, "You'll just take the upper-class people's things outside the venue, like cars, stored bags, anything useful, they won't come after you."

Dai Huanhuan listened with great interest but still had doubts: "How could they not come after me..."

"The bags won't come after you." Gu Mian smiled at her, his bright teeth dazzling her eyes.

Dai Huanhuan then followed Gu Mian mindlessly, contemplating the feasibility of Gu Mian's plan.

"Let's find a place to stay in Game City for the next few days, anyway, there's plenty to eat and drink here." Gu Mian looked at a lady with a steak on a platter for a head walking by.

The steak lady noticed Gu Mian's gaze and quickly lowered her platter, leaving hurriedly in fear.

thought that if they settled here, Crazy Tower Chief might really become crazy.

Ever since Gu Mian and him had a conversation in the photo studio, Crazy Tower Chief's mental state had become even more unstable.

"Crazy Tower Chief told me the wishing function of the Evil God has transferred to me, only allowing me to make wishes myself;" Gu Mian said to Chu Changge and 007, "but unlike before, it's not uncontrollable, it's somewhat manageable."

007's expression froze for a moment.

Gu Mian had also briefly told them about the Evil God statue's ability to grant wishes, and had discussed many negative examples of wishing.

Unexpectedly, this function had now transferred to Gu Mian.

It's like a time bomb, no wonder Crazy Tower Chief was so anxious to get rid of Gu Mian.

"Transferred to you?" Chu Changge changed the subject, "I've researched the map near Crazy Game City and confirmed that the Inferior Sightseeing Park, Crazy Plastic Surgery, and Spectator 1058 from your delivery mission are nearby. Also, the photo frames needed by Inferior Sightseeing Park and jaw prosthesis needed by Crazy Plastic Surgery can be bought in Crazy Game City."

suspiciously looked at Chu Changge, since she had been with him in Game City, but hadn't seen a store selling photo frames and jaw prostheses.

Gu Mian contemplated these three locations, as they had determined before entering that these locations belonged to Paradise World, thinking they could source materials locally for the delivery.

However...

"Your intentions are too obvious. I just told you I took over the wishing machine, and you rigidly tell me this, obviously trying to subconsciously make me think Game City has stores selling jaw prostheses and photo frames." Gu Mian twitched his mouth, "Don't treat me like Fatty, trying to fool me."

"Was the topic change too abrupt? It seems I should pretend to look for it first next time, then happily tell you I found a relevant store." Chu Changge adjusted his glasses.

Gu Mian twitched his mouth: "Thanks, I already know your next plan. If you say that again, I still won't believe it."

"But the half-bucket of leftover food required by Spectator 1058 can indeed be found in Game City, you could say it's found everywhere." Chu Changge pointed to not far away, just there was the food street on the second floor.

Gu Mian immediately saw several food stores like "Rainbow Candy Roasted Chestnut Shop" and "Xuanwu Gate Brothers' Restaurant".

Feeling a bit tired, they decided to go in and rest.

Seeing Gu Mian and his group approaching, the enthusiastic store clerks immediately hung up the "Closed for Business" sign at the door and eagerly locked up the store.

Gu Mian timely grabbed the clerk's hand locking the door, the clerk seeing hungry guests looking at oneself with longing eyes, couldn't help but shed tears and happily said "Welcome."

Gu Mian and the group then sat down in the "Unhappy Hot Pot Restaurant".

The table was too small, couldn't accommodate everyone.

Gu Mian, Chu Changge and 007 sat at a table by the railing, while Mingliang, Dai Huanhuan, and the mechanical dog Hei sat at another table.

"Let's first study the contents of the 'Trial and Crown' show." Chu Changge placed the show leaflet on the table, pulling out paper and pen.

looked through the second-floor railing down to the first floor: "The leaflet content is limited, Crazy Tower Chief should know more about the show procedure."

Gu Mian followed 007's gaze to the first floor and immediately saw the courier storage point in the center.

At the moment, the storage store was piled high with packages like a mountain, the clerk hadn't had time to code and sort them.

On top of that mountain-like pile of packages, he saw the figure of Crazy Tower Chief.

Crazy Tower Chief couldn't wait for the clerk to code and find packages for him, he personally rushed into the pile and searched piece by piece, muttering to himself.

"Not this one, not this one..."

Seeing Chief Luo so actively running around for his own affairs, Gu Mian felt touched and decided to stroll more around Game City to take care of Chief Luo's business.

Looking at the towering package mountain, Gu Mian suddenly remembered the Inverted City that had formed just yesterday.

"By the way, while rushing over here from Slaughter yesterday, I happened to encounter an Inverted City forming, almost flew to the sky with it."

"A new Inverted City formed?" 007 paused, then asked, "Did this also happen before the rollback?"

"That's exactly what confuses me, before the rollback there was no Inverted City forming there." Gu Mian shook his head.

Chu Changge knocked on the table: "Inverted City also randomly appearing in the real world as a large-scale event, it clearly is something created by Earth, indicating forces from Earth are impacting Paradise World, and unaffected by the rollback."

"I also saw an already formed Inverted City when I first entered this world," Gu Mian recalled the faces of the lower-class residents in that city, "They were very joyful and serene, just like the event's description."

"The calm harbor without storms, humanity's last refuge..." 007 thought of the promotional words of the Inverted City event, "In that sense, those words are quite accurate."

If this calm harbor without storms, humanity's last refuge, only appeared in the real world, it would be one thing, but it also appeared in Paradise World.

Could Earth be so kind, shielding the people of the real world while also protecting the lower-class in Paradise World?

Gu Mian couldn't fathom the answer.

"Perhaps it's Earth's way of eroding the low-dimensional world, look at how those lower-class people are already enjoying it." Chu Changge looked up at the sky outside the glass roof.

Chapter 820 Xiao Qiao's Diary – Paradise Crew

The transparent glass dome was covered with some dust, but it didn't obstruct the view of the blue sky outside.

At this moment, steaming hotpot bases were being served, along with fresh vegetables and meat rolls filling up the table.

Even though Gu Mian and his group hadn't ordered any food.

But the waiter obviously wanted them to eat and leave quickly, or perhaps he wanted to shut their mouths with food, making Gu Mian focus on eating so they wouldn't have any thoughts of doing anything else.

Gu Mian noticed that the staff was gritting their teeth and clearly annoyed while serving the food, probably hoping this meal would stuff him to death.

Looking at the steaming hotpot, Gu Mian thought of Fatty.

He opened the group chat of ten to see if Fatty had sent any messages.

Unexpectedly, as soon as the page opened, it was filled with Fatty's complaints, worried why Gu Mian and the others hadn't responded, wondering if they were in danger, and expressing curiosity about Paradise World's rollback incident.

Thankfully, the ten-person group chat didn't allow voice messages, or else Fatty would have recorded a half-hour-long audio message for the group.

Beside him, Chu Changge spoke up, "I just looked, it's all Fatty's nonsense. There's even a diary entry by Xiao Qiao. If you want to know about their situation outside, you can read Xiao Qiao's diary."

Gu Mian was puzzled.

Has this group chat turned into a diary book? Why is Xiao Qiao writing a diary in it?

Moreover, a diary is quite a private thing. It's the first time seeing someone writing one in a group chat.

He scrolled up and indeed found Xiao Qiao's diary—

"Today, sunny."

Great! Starting off with the wrong date format, whose diary date says "today"?

"Gu Mian went into the amusement park with a scary glasses guy and a string of numbers without taking me. I'm so bored.

"Liu Ruyan taught me to write a diary, which is to record the day's events, so it's not boring, so I decided to write it in the group to share with everyone.

"Today, Little Fatty didn't feel like cooking, so I sneaked into Gu Mian's house and took the pot, only to find those evil curled noodles in it.

"I guess Gu Mian and the scary glasses guy and a string of numbers are filming in the amusement park, because they NG'ed. I really want to go film too.

"Next time, you must take me, next time, you must take me, next time, you must take me."

Xiao Qiao's diary was so abstract, but fortunately, she was literate. Gu Mian struggled but managed to extract the correct content from the abstract words.

Gu Mian looked up at the "scary glasses guy" across from him, which was the nickname Xiao Qiao had given to Chu Changge.

And sitting next to the "scary glasses guy" was "a string of numbers" 007.

To give credit where it's due, Xiao Qiao's naming skills were not bad at all.

However, besides Chu Changge and 007, some others had come in as well.

Gu Mian looked toward another table in the restaurant where Mingliang and Dai Huanhuan were seated. The mechanical dog was sitting obediently, curiously watching the steaming hotpot, even extending its metallic arm to feel the rising steam.

Mingliang probably hadn't eaten proper food in a long time.

He stared at the food on the table for a long time, then raised his head to search the restaurant for any sign of the attendants.

But the server, having delivered the food, had long retreated to the kitchen, avoiding too much contact with Gu Mian.

Failing to find the server, Mingliang swallowed his saliva at the sight of all the food, and turned toward Dai Huanhuan with a pleading look: "Can I eat this...?"

Dai Huanhuan had originally picked up his chopsticks to grab meat from the pot, but hearing Mingliang's question, he cautiously put the chopsticks down: "Is it poisoned?"

"No, no," Mingliang quickly waved his hand to explain, "It just feels surreal to suddenly be in such a nice place and provided with such good food."

That was it; it was just a poor player frightened by instances.

"This isn't one of those terrifying instances, it's okay." Dai Huanhuan patted his shoulder, after all, Gu Mian was right at the next table, even if this were a horror instance, would any ghost dare to jump out and say "no" to you eating from the table?

Receiving permission, Mingliang finally took up his chopsticks with trembling hands.

He hadn't properly used chopsticks in a long time, and they almost felt unmanageable.

Piece by piece, leaves slipped from the unsteady chopsticks, unable to be held, prompting Mingliang to anxiously pick them up with his hands and toss them into the pot.

Although Dai Huanhuan was an NPC and hadn't personally experienced the terrifying instances designed in their world, he did know how high the death rates in those instances were.

There didn't seem to be many people left on Earth.

Watching Mingliang gobble the food without waiting for it to cook thoroughly, shoving it into his mouth, Dai Huanhuan felt a strange sensation.

They ought to be adversaries, yet here they were, sitting at the same table eating, and he even felt a bit of sympathy for Mingliang.

At this moment, Gu Mian was also watching Mingliang continuously stuffing food into his mouth, still steaming meat was shoveled hastily from pot to mouth, causing him to "sizzle" from the heat.

He was now completely different from when they had first met.

No longer watching Mingliang fanning his mouth from the heat, Gu Mian turned his eyes to Chu Changge's face: "Before the rollback, you hadn't mentioned Mingliang, so I assume you didn't encounter him. This time, after I mentioned the rollback in the group chat, you took different actions than last time and encountered Mingliang;

"Did you experience anything special when you entered this world?"

Chu Changge didn't have memories before the rollback, so Gu Mian couldn't ask him about the differences between the two actions, only about any special occurrences.

Chu Changge looked up again at the sky outside the glass dome, recalling the photo he saw upon entering this world.

"Jiang Yang"

Jiang Yang?

It was Xie Bi'an's former name, something Chu Changge had mentioned to Gu Mian before.

"We knew previously that Jiang Yang came from this world, and I happened to land at his old dwelling, Rathead Alley, a lower-class neighborhood."

Unexpectedly, Chu Changge had landed at the place where Xie Bi'an used to live.

"Lu Yi had told me, the Guardian dispatched from this world was a lower-class person, and Xie Bi'an is a lower-class person, his appearance wouldn't stand out in the real world." Gu Mian rubbed his chin.

Upper Class People in Paradise World would look like albinos in the real world, if Xie Bi'an was Upper Class, it wouldn't be surprising for him to always wear a cloak.

But if he looks just like everyone else, why cover up with a cloak?

"Speaking of which," Gu Mian suddenly had a thought, looking to Chu Changge, "How did you know you landed at Jiang Yang's old address?"

"There were still photos left in the house."

Of course, Chu Changge and Xiao Qiao had both seen Xie Bi'an before he wore a cloak, so they could recognize him from the photos.

Xiao Qiao previously even commented that "Xie Bi'an looks pretty good."

Mind you, her standards are quite discerning.

Gu Mian was really curious about how Xie Bi'an looked, but unfortunately, Chu Changge didn't bring the photo.

Why is he always wearing a cloak while walking around? Gu Mian couldn't figure it out.

While pondering, he glanced at the first-floor courier storage area.

From afar, the pile of couriers resembling a mountain no longer had Chief Luo's figure, he must have found the package he was looking for.

Speak of the devil and he shall appear, suddenly, Crazy Tower Chief's voice came from behind Gu Mian:
"So here you are!"