

## Iyashikei 281

### Chapter 281:

Jin Sheng's story crawled into Han Fei's body but he didn't feel any change. He didn't get any new power or feel any extra weight, it felt like the story had disappeared into his body. "Perhaps Jin Sheng's story will slowly realize itself after I enter the Ziggurat. But his story details aren't that accurate. I'm just a midnight butcher, I'm not a demon." After getting Jin Sheng's support, Han Fei felt more confident. Now he had 2 trump cards, Spider's guardian talisman and Jin Sheng's ghost story. With the aid from 2 managers, Han Fei believed he'd be able to do something at Ziggurat. Leaving the office, Han Fei found his neighbours from Happiness Neighbourhood at the education block.

"The Song didn't find the thing it was looking for, so it would return. This area is not safe anymore, unless we can find a way to kill it." Before Han Fei finished, his mouth was closed by Lee Zai. Even Lee Zai who was the manifestation of misfortune didn't dare to say these things so openly.

"Be careful of what you say. Its ears are everywhere. It might hear you." Lee Zai believed Han Fei was too courageous for his own good. Han Fei didn't want to bring trouble to his neighbours so he used a more roundabout way to explain his plan. If they continued to stay here, they would only die. With the double threat from Butterfly and the Singer, the neighbours from Building 1 and 2 all agreed to help Han Fei. After checking Xu Qin's wounds and chatting with her, Han Fei sent all his neighbours into Weep's urn. Then Han Fei turned to the students and staff of Yi Ming Private Academy, "You haven't forgotten what Butterfly did to you, right? I'm planning to go to Ziggurat now, if you wish to take revenge, now is the time." With persuasion from Han Fei, the female teacher who was 2 metres tall and wore a blood necklace as well as Zhang Guanxing entered the urn. The cracked urn was held together by crimson blood. Those who didn't know would think Han Fei was carrying a Grade F Cursed Object. After saying farewell to the guard Ol' Lee, Han Fei left Yi Ming Private Academy.

To increase his level, Han Fei didn't give up any chance to trigger a mission. With the help from his neighbours, the methods Han Fei could use to complete the mission became more varied. For example, a scapegoat wanted to invite Han Fei to his home, Han Fei gave him Weep's urn and made that his new home. There was a different monster who wanted to steal away Han Fei's eyes. Han Fei gave it the scapegoat's eyes and then invited it to join them inside the urn. Everyone was given the things they needed in the end. Happy endings everywhere!

The previous manager was not as 'popular' as Han Fei. Han Fei believed he was targeted so heavily because he had selected the most difficult path.

The only drawback was after he reached level 10, Han Fei got only a small EXP from Grade G Missions.

Earlier, Han Fei explored the path that led to Cattle Alley, now he was going down the opposite path. Moving along the shadows, Han Fei who hugged the urn became an existence like a hellish agent. The straggling spirits started to remember this figure who represented tragedy. Gradually, the missions available to Han Fei became more limited and there were lesser ghosts who voluntarily came to ask him to 'play'.

'Is there no more missions at Yi Ming Street?' In Han Fei's years of gaming, this was the first time he encountered an event like this. The NPC was so clever that they started to go into hiding so the player couldn't trigger any mission. Eventually Han Fei reached the end of Yi Ming Street. At the dark junction, Han Fei encountered the last building at Yi Ming Street—Yi Ming Security Company. Fire had charred the building black.

"Notification for Player 0000! You've explored 90 percent of the buildings at Yi Ming Street, you've triggered the unique hidden mission at Yi Ming Street—Yi Ming Street's Guardian Spirit!

"Yi Ming Street's Guardian Spirit (Grade F Hidden Mission): This street can enjoy such life and vibrancy is all thanks to a secret, a guardian spirit who lives deep inside the street.

"Mission Requirement: After you enter Yi Ming Security Company, every choice you make will impact the final reward."

Han Fei was startled by the sudden system announcement, he didn't expect to trigger anymore Grade F Mission at Yi Ming Street. 'After I finish this mission, it should be able to bump me to the next level.' Without much hesitation, Han Fei carried the urn and pushed open the doors of Yi Ming Security Company. The axle creaked noisily. After Han Fei entered the company, the doors behind him closed on their own. 'Well, this is strange...' When he was standing outside, the company had been plainly consumed by a big fire. The structure was blackened and all the windows were gone. However, when he was inside, Han Fei was shocked to realize everything inside was perfectly untouched, there was no sign of fire at all. He tried to open the front door again but it refused to budge. He was trapped. The lights above him flickered on and off. Han Fei could hear the spazzing of bad electrical circuits. He looked around cautiously before his eyes settled on the elevator. The number on the screen kept changing. It moved from 5 to 3, the elevator was descending.

Hugging the urn, Han Fei didn't move towards the elevator but instead made his way towards the front desk. The old-fashion desktop was unusable, the attendance form next to it was covered with red crosses. While Han Fei continued his investigation, the elevator reached the first floor.

Ding! The silvery grey doors opened. The elevator was empty, there was no one inside the booth. 'It feels like it has come to this floor to welcome me...'

Han Fei still didn't enter the elevator. He walked around the lobby. After realizing there were no stairs, he returned to the elevator. Normally, elevator doors would close once it sat there long enough without anyone using it. However, this elevator appeared to be broken. The doors were left open like an inviting maw. Without any result from searching the first floor, Han Fei believed that he had to use the elevator to complete the mission. He slowly walked into the elevator. When nothing happened, he pressed the button for the 2nd floor. Then... nothing happened. The doors remained open. Han Fei waited for 10 seconds and then the panel inside the elevator suddenly blinked in red that it was overloaded. In the blink of an eye, the warning disappeared and then the elevator doors slowly closed.

'Overloaded?' As the doors closed, all the floor numbers on the panel lit up at once like there were endless hands pressing them!

Han Fei stood at the corner of the booth quietly. He watched all these unfold silently. After about 10 seconds, the elevator finally moved. Without warning, the elevator started to plummet. After a heavy sense of vertigo, when Han Fei turned to the panel again, he saw that the elevator had stopped at the second floor basement.

Chapter 282:

Han Fei pressed for the second floor but the elevator stopped at the second floor basement. Before the silvery doors fully opened, a pale-faced female student appeared outside the elevator. She was about to walk in when her body froze like she spied something. Her pupils darted about nervously. The girl stared at a corner inside the elevator, pulled her advancing step back, turned and disappeared into the dark corridor. 'Why is there a girl in the second floor basement of a security company? She looks frightened. What happened to her?'

Han Fei hugged the urn and chased after her. The girl's gait was strange. It was like one of her legs had no bone. Afraid that something bad might happen to her, Han Fei trailed after her but this only made the girl move faster. After she turned a corner, she disappeared. The lights above flickered and when it went off, the corridor would change slightly, the change was so minute that Han Fei couldn't exactly

pinpoint what it was. Han Fei stood in the middle of the corridor and looked around. The basement of the company was lined with numbered rooms, it looked like this floor was the hostel for the company staff. 'The guardian spirit for Yi Ming Street lives at a place like this?'

The damp walls were moldy and chill crawled up his body. Han Fei was about to choose a relatively clean room to knock on when he realized the elevator door was still open. 'The elevator is still waiting for me? How come it feels like it's watching me when it's an inanimate object?'

His eyes moved around and noticed the camera at the corner. He assumed that was just a decoration, after all, the layer of dust on it was thick. Han Fei waved at the camera and revealed a friendly smile to show that he meant no harm... at least for now. He tried the door again and realized it was locked. Han Fei considered prying the door open but ultimately decided against it because someone might be watching him. He walked around the second floor basement and returned to the elevator when he noticed all the room doors were locked.

Strangely enough, whenever he entered the elevator, the 'overload' warning would light up for a moment and then disappear. The doors slowly closed and then all the numbers on the panel lit up. Just as the doors were about to close, Han Fei saw a woman's face poke out from the corner of the corridor with trembling pupils, bloodless face and a terrified expression.

When the woman's face appeared, Han Fei reached out to grab the elevator door to stop it from closing. Sensing the hand, the doors opened again. Han Fei charged towards the corner without any hesitation. But when he arrived, the poor girl had disappeared already. 'Is she threatened?' Han Fei really didn't understand why a female student would show up at a security company. Based on her appearance, she needed help. 'The girl probably has a hidden mission on her.'

Han Fei sighed regretfully as he turned to the wall. If he had a phone in the cryptic world, he could at least leave his phone number on the wall. At least then they had a channel to communicate with. Returning to the elevator, Han Fei hugged the urn and stood quietly at the corner. He had no idea where the elevator would stop next so his exploration would be directed by the elevator. The number on the panel kept changing. When the doors opened, Han Fei was in the fourth floor basement. The wind blew into the elevator and the overload warning came again. Han Fei took in the empty elevator booth but the overload warning still remained. 'Should I leave then?' After he walked out from the elevator, the doors slowly closed and the elevator went upstairs. 'Why would a security company have so many basement floors, that is worth pondering.'

This floor appeared to be the warehouse and it showed little signs of use. Most of the doors were not locked. The corridor was filled with broken furniture and dusty trash. 'Even the company staff rarely use

this floor.’ The corridor was dark, only the light nearest to the elevator was on. Standing there, it felt like one was inside a horror movie. As a static sound began, the single light started to flicker too. Frowning, Han Fei turned to press on the button to summon the elevator but the button appeared to be broken, it refused to light up. The tapping sound against the button echoed inside the corridor and it sounded quite helpless.

As the elevator moved away from him, Han Fei stopped because a light smell of blood entered his nostril. The smell appeared very suddenly. As he turned around, the light above him went out. A disfigured human shadow appeared at the end of the dim corridor. Its body was jumbled out of shape and it was rapidly shuffling towards Han Fei. ‘What is that?’ The light suddenly came back on but there was nothing in the corridor but the smell of blood appeared to thicken. Han Fei opened the lid of the urn by a gap. Both Han Fei and the thing were waiting for the light to go out. The blood in the air clawed at Han Fei’s heart. After the temporary brightness, darkness descended again.

In the dark, things were shoved out of the way. The disfigured figure moved quickly through the trash. Wounds covered its twisted body. It came ever closer!

When the light came on, everything returned to normal again. It was as if Han Fei had imagined that monster in the dark. Several seconds later, as electricity buzzed, the light went out again. The disfigured monster was only 5 meters away from Han Fei. The latter could even see its badly mutilated face and the broken bones that pierced through its skin. With terror on his face, Han Fei pressed on the broken elevator button crazily. Blood covered everything, and fear crawled up his spine.

4 metres! 3 metres! Red footprints appeared on the trash, the uneven chair was toppled over. When the monster was only 2 metres from Han Fei, it suddenly stopped. Its mutilated face looked behind Han Fei and its split head tilted slowly to the side. It suddenly noticed that whenever the light went out, there would be an extra shadow behind its prey...

The light near the elevator came back on. It chased away the darkness but not the thickening fear. The surroundings were quiet. Han Fei’s breathing was uneven, his expression spoke of intense anxiety and fear. His finger never strayed away from the button. The number on the screen never changed. Han Fei’s expression deepened with increasing fear. It was mixed with despair, his rationality was being slowly eaten away!

And right at that moment, the light went out again. With the most fearful expression, Han Fei looked in front of him, the disfigured monster now appeared 5 metres away. “You’ve decided to retreat?” With the stamp of terror on his face, Han Fei took out a bladeless blade from his inventory. “Was it because you didn’t buy my acting? Everyone’s a critic nowadays.”

## Chapter 283:

Han Fei rarely cared about other people's opinions. People could say he was weak, had low EQ, introverted and he wouldn't get mad because they were right. However, there was one thing that he wouldn't allow others to challenge him on and that was his acting skill. To Han Fei's consternation, his flawless acting was seen through in the cryptic world. That unsettled Han Fei because he took pride as a professional actor. The disfigured figure crawled away down the corridor. Han Fei and the spirits behind him gave chase immediately, both parties had shed their disguises. Whenever the light went out, the figure would discover Han Fei appear closer to it. Anxiety crossed its mutilated face. Blood flowed down its cracked cranium. The figure didn't dare to turn around, afraid that it might find Han Fei riding on his back or lying on its shoulders. Thinking about the army of darkness that loomed behind the man, its bloody face filled with terror and fear.

The man was possessed by more than 1 ghost. There was no place for it to assume anymore!

That was the only explanation why this man was not acting like a normal individual should. After racing through the corner, the disfigured monster dipped into darkness. The blood in the air was replaced by mold. After the monster disappeared, Han Fei stopped to study the dark corridor.

"That thing sure runs fast." The fear on Han Fei's face already disappeared. He could manage his expression as easily as one would eat or drink.

"Should we chase after it?" Inside the corridor where Han Fei was supposedly alone, another male voice echoed. Hearing that voice, Han Fei wasn't afraid, if anything, he answered serenely, "Of course, there is nothing that I love more than the game of hide and seek."

Han Fei had no idea what the 4th floor basement was for and he had no idea what happened here but he was looking for 'people' to interact with. He wanted to trigger missions, if there was none, he would continue to interact with them until there was one. "Be careful, this place gives me a bad feeling." The man's voice soon disappeared and melted back into Han Fei's shadow. Scanning the shadows that appeared behind him, Han Fei slowly understood why the monster had chosen to escape. It was not that his acting was bad, his neighbours had inadvertently exposed him.

The walls started to be painted with red characters. They were evoking resentment and many other negative emotions. More trash appeared in the corridor. After turning another corner, Han Fei

discovered a door which was welded from black iron rods. A no entry sign hung on the door. The road was blocked. Leaning on the door, Han Fei realized that the moldy smell mostly came from the other side of the door. Han Fei tried to push the door but it was very well made and didn't even budge.

After standing there for a while, Han Fei turned to look at the room beside the iron door. The old wooden door lock had fallen to the ground. The door was leaning against a table that missed a leg. The room looked fine at first glance but upon closer inspection, many problems would surface. There was a handprint left on the edge of the table which suggested that someone had just moved it. Han Fei's passive hide and seek was activated. He gained a frightening instinct at finding things in hiding. He slowly moved the table away and entered the room. Throughout the process, he made no sound. Hugging the urn, Han Fei carefully moved through the trash and came to the broken booth. He poked his head in to look and saw a young man in guard uniform curling under the booth. He was holding a yellowed ghost story book. He bit his finger and was so focused on reading. The pictures of ghosts in the book were ghastly but the color was fading. The man's expression shifted as the plot progressed. His chest rose and fell unevenly, he was afraid but he couldn't stop himself from reading.

The scene in the room was rather surreal. The young guard had his body curled up and his focus was completely on the ghost story collection in his hands. Above his head, there was a human head that slowly appeared to stare at the young guard. In the dark, after who knew how long, the young guard finally finished a tale. He wiped away his cold sweat and rubbed his palms together. Then he worked his heavy shoulders. Turning to the cheap watch around his wrist, the young guard picked up the book and prepared to stand up. "Time to go for a patrol. I can't stay here and skip work forever."

With his hand on the ground, he was only halfway up, when his eyes swept to the top of his head. Lightning struck his brain and he held his pose like time had frozen. There was a face at the broken window of the booth!

The 4 eyes met and a strange atmosphere undulated.

"Don't be afraid, I'm a new guard here." Han Fei only wanted to gain level, he was not interested in scaring people. With a warm smile on his face, he walked out from behind the booth in his stained uniform. The young guard fell to the ground and crawled frantically away from Han Fei.

"If I wanted to harm you, I would have done that earlier. I'm really a new guard here." Han Fei offered his hand to the young man.

“Do, do not lie to me. My senior told me that this floor is extremely haunted. There was a guard who came down here to patrol at midnight and he was never seen again!” The young man stared at Han Fei’s outstretched hand like it was a venomous snake.

“Since you know this place is dangerous, why would you come here to read ghost stories?” Han Fei felt like he had been forcibly placed into some kind of strange character. He normally wouldn’t need to say these things.

“This is the only place without a camera, so I...”

“So you came here to sneak some free time?” Taking in the dark room, Han Fei sighed, “Is the treatment here so bad that a worker is forced to come to a haunted location to steal some downtime?” Using Soul-depth Touch, Han Fei picked up the young guard. He patted away the dust on the man’s shoulder. “There’s no need to be afraid. I’m indeed the new guard. In fact, why don’t you come with me and show me around? I have so many questions to ask you.”

“Are you sure you’re not a ghost?” The young guard poked Han Fei’s arm and felt reassured by the human warmth.

“What kind of crazy question is that?” Han Fei sighed helplessly. He reached out to snatch away the guard’s ghost story book and stuffed it inside the urn. “Stop reading books like these. There are no ghosts in this world. You need to believe in science!” As he turned to walk off, the horrifying shadows inside the room slipped into the urn as the lid temporarily opened.

Chapter 284:

After being ‘educated’ by Han Fei, the young guard still didn’t feel much better, if anything he became even more afraid. He was certain that Han Fei was not a ghost but in this world, one didn’t need to be a ghost to instil fear in others. Seeing Han Fei who was so at ease in a bloody uniform, the young guard silently switched on the walkie-talkie. Perhaps because they were inside the basement, the walkie-talkie only responded with static.

‘Ghosts have a unique static field. When they are present, they will disrupt the static field, causing electrical devices to malfunction...’ As the detail from the ghost stories entered his mind, the guard became tense again. He rubbed his gummy calves and hurried up from the ground. He decided to leave

this place while he still could. "Let's go upstairs then. My senior would be looking for me. They're probably circling the lobby, trying to find me." The young guard had a hidden message in his words. 'I have many friends here so don't do anything too stupid.' He believed that such a claim would stop Han Fei from harming him but in reality, when Han Fei heard that, he only nodded as he silently came up with a plan to capture all the guards in one fell swoop.

After walking out from the room, Han Fei glanced at the corridor which was welded shut. The other side of the corridor appeared to lead to a different world.

"By the way, I still haven't got your name."

"My name is Bai Sinian, everyone calls me Xiao Si."

"Xiao Bai, I have a question for you." Han Fei pointed at the sealed path. "Why is this path sealed? Is there something scary on the other side?"

"The name's Xiao Si." The guard said weakly. "When I patrolled with my senior, he only told me that I mustn't come to this floor after midnight. There is no surveillance on this floor and no guard is assigned to patrol this place, no one really knows why."

"Is that when you decide to take advantage of the blind spot yourself? You came to this floor to sneak some rest?" Han Fei couldn't help but be impressed. This Bai Sinian was in a way quite a genius.

"I was just braver than the rest. I enjoy ghost stories and this floor has that horror-film atmosphere." Bai Sinian glanced at the ceremonial urn Han Fei was holding and then dipped his voice conspiratorially. "I heard from the others that there was once a new guard who was afraid of ghost stories. When he came to this floor to patrol for the first time, he was never seen again. I wonder if they just made that up to scare me or not." Then he glanced at Han Fei as if suspecting that Han Fei was that security guard. The two walked down the long corridor and arrived before the elevator. Seeing the changing elevator number, Bai Sinian didn't feel that afraid anymore. As strange as Han Fei was, he didn't show any intention of harming him. Summoning his courage, Bai Sinian asked the question which had been bothering him. "Big brother, why is your uniform so bloody when I can't see any visible wounds on you? And how come your uniform doesn't really look like ours?"

“I came from a neighbourhood security. I plan to join this company to start a new career.” Han Fei answered.

“Why did you stop working for that neighbourhood? Did something happen?” Bai Sinian asked with curiosity in his eyes. Hearing the question, Han Fei was rather speechless. Life was short enough but some people insisted on making it shorter. If Han Fei was truly a ghost, this young guard would be dead several times already.

Ding! While the atmosphere froze from Han Fei’s refusal to answer, the elevator finally arrived. Bai Sinian quickly rushed in. Han Fei walked in after him. When he did, the red overload warning lit up again. Han Fei’s frown deepened by Bai Sinian just shrugged. “This elevator has always been like this. When you take it at night, even if you’re inside the booth alone, it’ll keep on saying that it’s overloaded. It’ll go away on its own.”

“Looks like you’re quite used to that.”

“Well you have to when you have a skimpy boss. He would never fix these things.” As the elevator rose, Bai Sinian’s tone lightened significantly. “If you can get an offer elsewhere, I’d advise you against joining this company. The boss gives a very unfair contract. This place might look impressive but it’s not much better than the government job agency. And the key thing is, I’ve heard of a sinister secret about this place...” Bai Sinian lowered his voice. “The one good thing about our boss is that he has very wide connections and thus can bring many jobs into the company but I hear that some of the colleagues never return from their postings.”

“Isn’t that a good thing? That means they get a permanent posting there, and a stable income.”

“No, it’s not like that. We never hear from them again... like they’ve disappeared.” Bai Sinian stared at Han Fei’s uniform for a long time before his eyes lit up with shock. “Now that I think about it, I’ve seen your uniform before! Many guards have worn the same uniform as yours! The neighbourhood you came from is a big customer of our boss. Every week, our boss will send people there but no one ever returns. The place is like a blackhole.”

Bai Sinian had incidentally provided Han Fei with valuable information. The boss of this company had connections with Ziggurat and had been continuously feeding the place well-trained ‘security guards’.

“Is there a special requirement to get a posting there?” Han Fei asked.

“Didn’t you come from there? You should know.” Bai Sinian was confused but he still answered. “In any case, I heard that before the guard is sent there, they would be summoned to the boss’ office on the 4th floor and be given something by the boss.” Han Fei’s plan was to infiltrate Ziggurat as a security guard but he didn’t know how a Ziggurat security guard would operate but he was going to find out at this place.

“Let’s go to the 4th floor now.” Han Fei suggested.

“Are you sure? The boss sometimes sleeps in his office, if we run into him...” Bai Sinian shivered involuntarily as he imagined that scene. The young guard appeared to be afraid of the boss.

“It’ll be fine, we’re just going to go take a quick look.” Han Fei wanted to find out the clear relationship between the security company boss and Butterfly. If they were friends, Han Fei had to eliminate this boss. ‘Hopefully things won’t reach that stage, my professional resume is already quite bloody as it is.’

Chapter 285:

The red number on the elevator panel turned from negative 4 to negative 2 and then it stopped without warning again. The silvery grey door slowly opened but there was nothing in the dark corridor. “I heard from my senior that the company used to supply accommodation for the workers and allow them to bring their families to live at the underground hostel. But something happened and the boss chased everyone out. The hostel was officially closed down.” Bai Sinian looked at the corridor and curled deeper into the elevator.

“Do you know what happened?”

“I heard one of the girls came back late one night and she was killed on her way home. If you follow the corridor until the end, you’ll come across her picture and an altar set up for her.”

“I didn’t see any altar or picture.” Han Fei grumbled, “But I did scare the girl away.”

“What did you say?” Bai Sinian pressed on the elevator button crazily before the doors finally closed. “The elevator would stop every time on this floor, it’s just crazy. Some even claim that they have seen a girl standing outside the elevator, she seemed to be observing the people inside the elevator, looking for her killer.”

“I’m surprised so many things happened here.” Han Fei had a feeling that he found the right person, with Bai Sinian as his guide, he had saved a lot of time. The two of them took the elevator to the fourth floor but the old elevator once again stopped when it reached the 2nd floor. Han Fei noticed that the strange elevator would stop at every even number floors.

Compared to the basement, the surface floors were cleaner and neater. The corridor had lamps every few metres and the place was well lit. The place looked normal, like a typical office. Han Fei couldn’t find any problem. But in the cryptic world, when there was no problem, it was the biggest problem. A very faded scent of plastic burning lingered in the air. It made Han Fei’s nose twitch uncomfortably. He couldn’t find the source, the smell appeared to come out from the walls itself. “Was there a fire here?”

“I don’t think so.” Bai Sinian scratched his head and straightened his cap. He walked out from the elevator and reached out to grab the patrol form hanging beside the elevator. The old form had names written down in red but most of them had been crossed off.

“Whose prank is this?” Bai Sinian took out a pen from his shirt pocket. He was about to fill in his report when he realized his name was not on the form. “This is strange...” He flipped through the form again and again. With each turn of the page, his expression became stranger and stranger. “Impossible! Someone must be pranking me!” His eyeballs gradually protruded and his normal face started to pale.

“What’s wrong?” Seeing this, Han Fei asked with concern.

“Our company’s patrol form will update once a week. When I went to the fourth floor basement, it was a Wednesday but the date here says that it’s already Thursday! And my name is nowhere to be found!” Bai Sinian spoke urgently, his emotions fraying.

“If that’s the case, then perhaps you should look at the earlier pages. But if you can’t find your name on the patrol form at all, that can only mean that you entered the basement a long time ago and haven’t left there ever since.” Han Fei’s method of consolation was quite direct.

“No! Impossible! I remember everything very clearly!” The skin on Bai Sinian’s face started to wrinkle. His fingers gripped the patrol form and then he charged towards one of the rooms. “Senior! Are you there? Wang San! Sister Lan! Is anyone here?!” Bai Sinian stopped before a door. He shook the handle madly but the door didn’t open. Han Fei walked over and helped him by kicking it down. Once the door opened, Bai Sinian turned the place upside down. He pulled down all the drawers and scattered the files everywhere. “Why isn’t it there?” The drawers had the files on all the security guards except Bai Sinian. Unwilling to accept the truth, he switched on the old computer on the table. The screen flickered several times. It was barely usable. He clicked on the mouse madly, his eyes were red. None of the documents had anything to do with him, it was as if his existence had been wiped away by this company. “No, no, there’s still nothing!”

Staring at the desktop, Bai Sinian clicked on the recycle bin, his mind standing on the edge of despair. There were plenty of files inside the recycle bin. He noticed a file from 1 month ago. He restored the files and realized they were all video files. Bai Sinian clicked on it and a surveillance video started to play. The midnight elevator rose up from the fourth floor basement and stopped at the second floor. Then the patrol form beside the elevator fell to the ground. The papers rustled and someone roughly scrawled out the names. Unclear footprints appeared on the corridor. A barely visible shadow walked through the darkness and stopped before the office door. The office door suddenly started to tremble like someone was shaking the lock madly even though there was no one in the corridor. Moments later, the door opened.

That was the end of the first video. Bai Sinian turned to the second video. This time the video was captured by the camera right above his head. In the second video, the midnight office appeared to be haunted. The drawers were pulled open, the cupboards were pushed over and documents scattered everywhere. When everything stopped, the computer suddenly came alive. The documents were opened one after another, before finally the recycle bin was clicked on.

Soon, the computer started to play the surveillance videos. At the last segment of the video, the screen of the computer reflected a face covered in scars and blood. Then a row of words appeared on screen—  
Do you remember now?

Bai Sinian slowly raised his head to look at the camera above him. He was doing the same thing as the ghost inside the video.

Smell of decomposition drifted out from his body and his bones started to collapse. Bai Sinian’s face rapidly decayed. He looked at the video inside the computer, he looked at the ghost inside the video and his face on the screen. His lips slowly opened and he uttered rather weakly, “So I’m already dead...” The walkie-talkie on his shoulder echoed with static. No wonder no one answered him, he was talking to himself. “I remember it now, everyone was led through the iron door but me. I was trapped inside that

room on the fourth floor basement. I was the one who was most afraid of ghost stories, I was the most cowardly guard..." He mumbled to himself, "No wonder I don't fear ghost stories anymore..."

"Why so glum, chum?"

Observing the complete change on Bai Sinian, Han Fei opened the urn and released Weep and Lee Zai. "Being a ghost is not so bad, some might not even have the chance to become a ghost, you're already much luckier than most." Pulling the confused Bai Sinian to his side, Han Fei used Soul-depth Touch to grab the man's hand. "If you really do feel lonely, I have a big family who is always ready to welcome you."

Chapter 286:

When a normal person realized their company was dead and their skin started to decay and their face literally melted off, it should be a terrifying discovery. Based on a normal horror movie trope, Bai Sinian would lose control and then start to attack the living humans around him. He would lose his mind after killing his victim and then in his loss and confusion return to the fourth floor basement and reinitiate a new cycle. This would have happened many times already but this time things were different. Bai Sinian, who was literally decaying, had his hand held tightly by Han Fei. He noted with surprise that the man wasn't that friendly before he found out he was a ghost.

"Based on the surveillance tapes on that computer, you've been wandering around this place for a long time already. After discovering the truth, you'd work to avoid it every time and thus got stuck in an endless loop. Brother, you're trapped inside a maze made by your own memory." Han Fei told Bai Sinian kindly. He started to persuade Bai Sinian to join him. With the training from the cryptic world, Han Fei was more professional than most psychiatrists on the market, it couldn't be helped, he had too much clinical experience. Looking at the computer screen, as the truth entered his mind, Bai Sinian should go berserk but he was both mentally and physically suppressed by Han Fei. "I know this will be hard to stomach for now but you can't change what happened." Through Soul-depth Touch, Han Fei realized Bai Sinian was not an evil spirit. His soul was like a balled-up twine, the threads which were truly malicious were extremely little.

After Bai Sinian calmed down, Han Fei asked. "Now you should remember many things already, can you tell me what exactly happened here?"

“Dead, everyone’s dead. Only the dead will be taken away. You’ll have to die before you can become a security guard. They came from different places but all had horrible deaths. Then they were sent to different places.” Bai Sinian mumbled incoherently. “No one ever returned, they will never return.”

Seeing the state Bai Sinian was in, Han Fei wanted to crack open the young man’s brain and used a more ‘hands on’ approach to his treatment. Resisting the urge, Han Fei made his tone as gentle as possible, “What do you mean by they have to die to become a security guard? Didn’t you say that you’ve seen other guards in the same uniform as I do? Does this mean those guards were given some kind of special training before they were sent to the neighbourhood?”

“All the guards assigned to that place were handpicked by the boss. I was selected once in the past. We needed to go up to the 4th floor to claim a form and then conduct the last step in the 4th floor basement.”

“Last step? What is the last step?”

“I don’t know. Before it happened, my senior told me to find a place to hide because I was shaking too hard from fear...” Bai Sinian held his head in pain like his head was about to explode. Noting this, Han Fei stopped his questioning. He turned to the computer and checked the surveillance videos again. He noticed that these video files were copies. They were purposely left there inside the recycle bin. “Where are the other surveillance recordings?”

“They’re on the 4th floor. Both the main surveillance room and the boss’ office are on the 4th floor, he likes to observe us work.” They didn’t stay much longer. Han Fei led Bai Sinian to the 4th floor using the elevator.

The 4th floor looked similar to the 2nd floor. Everything looked normal and nothing was out of place. The only change was the smell of charring was heavier in the air. ‘This building looks so normal, it’s hard to imagine a Grade F Mission would be hidden here.’ After playing this game for so long, Han Fei had noticed some habits of the system. For example, the naming of the mission was not random, sometimes, the name of the mission was itself a hint. ‘Why would the system deem this place as related to Yi Ming Street’s Guardian Spirit? Will Yi Ming Street be destroyed without this security company?’ While Han Fei processed the question in his mind, Bai Sinian led him to the door which was the most luxurious they had ever encountered at the company. The bad memory in Bai Sinian’s head was triggered again. His pale fingers started to twitch. His hands closed over the handle but he couldn’t find the courage to push.

“Is your boss very scary?” Han Fei took out Rest in Peace from his inventory.

“Yes, in my remaining memory, the only impression I have of him is fear.”

“That’s because you’re still too young. Soon, you’ll realize there are more people scarier than him.” With that Han Fei kicked down the door and entered the office. The office used gold as the main color scheme, the place breathed of wealth. In the 50 cubic metres office, there was a glass cupboard on the left which showcased many arts and golden items; on the right was a bookshelf but most of the books appeared untouched. Before them was an impossibly large office table. Various documents were placed on the table. Picking up a random document to read, Han Fei noticed it contained the information and training record of one of their employees. Based on this document, the feeling gave off by this company was absolute professionalism. They not only provided training for their security guards, they also picked the job postings based on the individual guard’s personality to ensure that each guard would get their most suitable posting.

“Employee information, training grading, career planning, work feedback...” Han Fei couldn’t find any problem. This security company in hell was a lot more professional than many companies in real life.

“No, it’s not like that!” Bai Sinian originally only dared to stand outside the door but after seeing nothing happened to Han Fei, he also gained some courage. He stood beside the table and scanned the documents. “The real forms have been hidden away!” Bai Sinian looked through the office while Han Fei stood quietly to the side. Soon Bai Sinian found a torn form inside the trash can. Spreading it open, the form had no name or picture, just a number. This looked more like a delivery manifest, but the description of the item was quite strange. “No. 69, average rating, barely fits the requirement. The cargo itself is not flawed; the surface pattern showed no sign of ruination. The internal cavity is well-preserved. The cargo is stable, will make a good vessel.” This cargo appeared to be some kind of container but why would that be found inside a security company?

Han Fei reached out his hand and used hide-and-seek’s passive to investigate every corner of the office. When he passed the bookshelf, the landlord’s ring chilled slightly. Han Fei stopped and had Weep and Lee Zai move the bookshelf away. To everyone’s surprise, there was an elevator hidden behind it. The elevator appeared to be a cargo elevator, it was connected directly to the 4th floor basement. Pressing the button, the elevator door slowly opened. Instantly they were hit by the smell of blood. The elevator booth was practically slathered in blood.

“The cargo on the delivery manifest actually refers to the security guard here? The boss has been sending his employees to different places as cargo?” Han Fei thought this was just a normal security

company but it was actually a 'processing' plant. From available information, this company was in a lot of different businesses. They offered security services and sold cargo that featured 'humans'.

Just as Han Fei hesitated whether to enter the cargo elevator, the elevator door suddenly closed on its own. The number on the panel changed as the elevator descended. "Someone has summoned the elevator on the 4th floor?"

The elevator stopped at the 4th floor basement for a while before it started to rise again. Seeing this, Han Fei opened the urn and called out all of his neighbours. "Be prepared! Something is coming up!"

Chapter 287:

Pairs of eyes stared transfixed at the changing number on the panel. Some of them were hungry for blood, others were deep with despair, a few were just coldly detached. All of them reigned in their presence and waited patiently. The red color on the black elevator panel screen appeared to be bleeding. 10 seconds later, the elevator finally stopped. The bloody doors opened slowly and the stinging smell of decomposition and blood spread. Then a pair of large hands reached out from inside the cargo elevator. The hands covered with death spots were almost greyish purple in color. The bloated fingers were adorned with several expensive rings. As the body continued to grow in size, the rings were practically stuck inside the flesh.

A heavy breathing followed as the hands slowly pushed to ease its large body out. The tailored suit was drenched in grave wax, and it radiated a horrible stench. A tie dangled unevenly around the fatty neck. "Who moved the bookshelf?" A raspy voice came from the cracked lips. An impossibly ugly face was reflected on the glass cupboard. The legs that stretched out from the elevator halted as if the owner had sensed something. After a temporary pause, the limbs shrunk back and the pudgy finger pressed repeatedly on the elevator button. The silvery grey doors started to close but it only managed to go halfway before they stopped.

A crying voice started to echo inside the cramped elevator booth. Dark black eyes opened among the walls. The temperature inside the booth started to plummet like a trap had been triggered! Without warning, the stuck elevator doors were pried open and the red warning appeared on the panel—  
Overload!

Pairs of pale hands appeared and ashen faces squeezed into the booth. Before the well-dressed monster could react, he was already surrounded. Its throat gargled anxiously. Light black mist exuded out from his wet clothes. When the crying approached, he rammed out from the cargo elevator!

The crying became more intense, and more eyes opened on the door of the office. Dripping with bloody tears, a thin girl stood alone at the door. Her hollow eyes stared at the monster and her mouth smiled sweetly. The monster immediately closed his eyes but he was still too late. He realized his actions had slowed, his consciousness appeared to be forcibly dampened by some kind of force. His mind tried to resist the pulling force as he lost control of his body. The despair within his heart was pulled to the surface and all his sealed memories were triggered. The despair within him pierced through his soul like spines. The despair without him trapped him like a cage. In less than a minute, the monster had lost the ability to fight back. Before he could use his special power, his mind, soul and body were detained.

“You’re the boss of this company?” With Rest in Peace in hand, Han Fei’s method of interrogation was rather unique. He didn’t need a confession from his target because he was holding the cryptic world’s best polygraph test. Without waiting for an answer, he chopped at the man’s arm!

Those who killed and sinned would trigger the blade of Rest in Peace. Han Fei would determine how evil a person was based on how fast the blade took to cut through their bodies. In this case, the blade sliced through without resistance. Before the monster even felt pain, his eyes already saw his arm plop weakly to the ground. Several seconds later, the pain came and he screamed.

“Who are you?!” Without any explanation, the man cut him immediately, this could only mean that they hated each other deeply but the monster had no memory of Han Fei at all. This should be the first time they met.

“Your hands are so bloody that the sins you’ve committed are deeper than the monsters at Cattle Alley.” Han Fei stared at the still squirming arm. After it was chopped off, the arm soon dissolved into black mist. When the black mist floated towards Han Fei, Weep’s urn flipped over and a strange bug crawled out. It consumed the black mist greedily. Its eyes shone with satisfaction before it turned greedily to the boss’ body. Being stared at by the bug, the monster shivered. He couldn’t remember offending Han Fei before. “Why are you here? I can give you anything you want.”

“No wonder you’re the boss, you’re quite the negotiator.” Han Fei looked at the man with a harmless smile.

“The building has accumulated many Yin energy and special items, I can bring you to them.” The monster’s gaze slowly moved away from Han Fei. When he saw Bai Sinian in the corner, he growled angrily, “You brought him here? Well, I can’t say I’d expect a coward who can’t even sell for a good price to accomplish something like this.”

Being glared at by his boss, Bai Sinian was feeling hapless too. To be honest, when the large amount of ghosts appeared inside the office, he was scared too.

“This has nothing to do with him. The main reason I came here is to get some information from you and take away some stuff.” Han Fei sat on the office table. “You must have seen this uniform I’m wearing, right?” The monster initially didn’t even notice it but when he noticed the unique uniform Han Fei was wearing, the fatty folds on his face jiggled and his eyes flashed with shock. “You came from Ziggurat?”

“That doesn’t matter. I just want to know how many security guards you’ve sent there and what is your relationship with that place.”

The monster didn’t answer immediately. He only caved when his consciousness was about to be sucked away. “I don’t know how many people I’ve sent there but I only did that to protect the greater majority. If I didn’t send those people over, the tenants at Ziggurat would come out hunting for themselves. Then the whole street would perish.” The monster slumped weakly to the ground. His ugly face was written with guilt and blame. If Han Fei wasn’t a master actor, the monster might have been able to fool him.

“Acting is not your calling. That whole performance is just amateurish.” With another swipe of Rest in Peace, the monster’s other arm fell and morphed into black mist. Big Sin was very happy with the feast. Han Fei didn’t hesitate with his actions like he already knew part of the truth. The monster who lost both arms finally pleaded for mercy and was willing to tell the truth. “The Ziggurat had me send them suitable souls so they can make vessels out of them. They wish to plant seeds inside the soul in the hopes of growing special flowers.”

“Flower?”

“The seeds are the cocoons and the flowers are the beautiful butterflies. The Ziggurat’s manager has been meaning to create the most perfect bloom but it has never succeeded. Most flowers refused to bloom and those which did were flawed.”

The monster’s words immediately grabbed Han Fei’s attention. The Butterfly at the Ziggurat planned to create another Butterfly?

Chapter 288:

“In other words, the security guards that you sent there are equal to flower pots?”

“You can say that, since they were all used to nurture flowers.” At this point, Bai Sinian who had been perfectly quietly stalked over. His eyes protruded and his pupils flushed red. “You tricked everyone to go there even though you knew that they would die?”

“If not for your cowardice and your senior’s willingness to take your place, do you think you will survive until now?” The monster thought it was Bai Sinian who brought Han Fei here so his eyes that targeted Bai Sinian were filled with venom.

The young man’s fist smashed into the monster’s face. Bai Sinian gasped heavily as his body continued to grow taller like there was no limit. Han Fei still had some questions so he had Drake pull Bai Sinian to the side for now.

“Was there any special mark on the guards you sent to Ziggurat? Or did they have to go through some kind of special training?” Han Fei’s real goal was to try to infiltrate Ziggurat as a security guard and he needed his disguise to be as perfect as possible.

“The guards would have to put on the cursed uniform. The uniform contained the wicked spirit of the previous owner. Passing the spirit’s test is only the first step, then you have to drink a drop of the Ziggurat manager’s blood.” The monster didn’t lie because he knew it was very easy for Han Fei to dispose of him.

“The manager’s blood?”

“At least that was what I was told. In any case, the blood contains some kind of bug cocoon. After you drank the blood, and did not perish, the cocoon would crawl deep into your soul. Then the security guard would become a qualified flower pot. They would be tormented by the pain and despair brought by the cocoon and eventually lose their humanity and become what most locals call the outsiders.” The monster paused before adding, “There are a small portion of people who could resist the mutation brought on by the cocoon, but their endings weren’t much prettier.”

“What are the more obvious mutations that one could see after consuming the cocoon?”

“First, their personality will change. Compared to humans, they will become more like animals, they have no sanity left and love to kill.” What the boss said was similar to the outsiders Han Fei had encountered. He could mimic their personalities perfectly. “Physically, there will be some changes too. The most obvious would be the appearance of a butterfly wing pattern on the body part where the cocoon had decided to reside. The pattern cannot be removed and will accompany the flower pot until the end of their lives.”

“How long will it take for the pattern to appear on one’s skin after the cocoon is ingested?”

“It depends on the individuals, some took hours, others took months.” Han Fei couldn’t verify that but creating a butterfly pattern was going to be difficult.

“Does everyone at the Ziggurat have the butterfly pattern?”

“No, the situation at Ziggurat is very complicated.” The monster picked his words carefully like he was worried that he might trigger some curses. “Ziggurat is the most dangerous building here and the danger is multi-faceted. Other than the manager whom no one has seen, there are many other scary creatures there. They can’t even start to imagine their horror.”

“I’m curious, why would all these scary creatures congregate at Ziggurat?” That was a question which had been bothering Han Fei.

“I don’t know but one time when I went to collect the broken flower pots, I heard from one of the tenants that you could see the other side of the nightmare inside one of the rooms...” When he was halfway through, the monster’s body suddenly froze. Then the folds of fat started to tremble violently. The black mist that released from his skin appeared to form sharp threads which shredded through his body. The ugly face was covered in disbelief. His eyes widened but he could no longer say anything. Black mist poured out from his mouth and tore open his brain. The smell was horrendous. After the monster was positively dead, the black mist dissipated.

Big Sin bounced about, taking in as much as black mist as it could. Han Fei looked despondent because he saw the character Death on the monster’s rapidly dissolving heart. As the monster perished, so did the character.

'Is that the curse from Ziggurat?' The monster accidentally triggered the death curse. Han Fei still had many questions for him.

"He was quite powerful among the Medium Lingering Spirits but he managed to retain his rationality with such power. That was rare, no more the Ziggurat valued his service." Out of professional habit, when the monster's curse was triggered, Drake walked forward to shield Han Fei from it. "The Ziggurat would never curse someone for no reason. They would only curse those that they value with the unique Death Curse. Based on my understanding of the Death Curse, the one on the monster was the weakest kind."

All the spirits guarded around Han Fei while Bai Sinian looked at the pool of blood on the ground in a daze. He was reminded of many things, he understood why he became like this. He wanted to take revenge for his colleagues and his senior, but the killer was already dead. "Hey, you don't really think this guy was the culprit, did you?" Han Fei patted Bai Sinian's shoulder. "The real monster that killed your senior is still at the company, your boss was just its caretaker."

Bai Sinian was still contemplating what Han Fei meant when he was dragged by the man towards the cargo elevator. Since there was a Grade F Hidden Mission at the security company, it could only mean that there was a Large Lingering Spirit inside the company or at least a monster at the level of the Doctor from Cattle Alley. "The boss is already dead so the thing would know about our existence already. In that case, we would meet it in person." With all the tenants from Happiness Neighbourhood and teachers from Yi Ming Private Academy, Han Fei might not be strong enough to fight with Ziggurat but he was certainly powerful enough to bulldoze a security company.

"They call themselves the guardian spirit of Yi Ming Street, but they've been doing these dirty transactions. They treat the people living on this street as cargo, they have never really wanted to help this street." Han Fei pressed the down button and the door started to close.

"What are you doing?" Bai Sinian was still stumped. He looked at Han Fei and the army of ghosts who were willing to follow him.

"Yi Ming Street needs a new guardian spirit, a real guardian spirit." Inside the elevator, Han Fei waved his hand at Bai Sinian. "Come on."

"Ziggurat is very scary. After we killed the boss, where are we going to find the new guardian spirit?"

“There’s no need to find one.” Standing amidst the many ghosts, Han Fei smiled, “He’s already here.”

Chapter 289:

Looking at the people inside the cargo elevator, Bai Sinian was struck with a strange feeling. Even though they too were strapped by despair, sadness and pain, they were distinct from the normal locals of the cryptic world. Bai Sinian didn’t know how to describe it, but he knew that he wanted to be a part of that world. Hearing Han Fei’s invitation, Bai Sinian’s legs move involuntarily. When he came to, he was already beside Han Fei. He became one of them and stood beside them.

Pressing the down button, the silvery glass door closed and the elevator started to descend.

“Erm... I don’t even know your name yet.” Standing among the crowd of ghosts, Bai Sinian didn’t even dare to speak too loudly.

“The name’s Han Fei. I’m the building manager of Happiness Neighbourhood Building 1 as well as the patrol teacher at Yi Ming Private Academy. I own a small business too.” Han Fei signalled for Bai Sinian to calm down. “They are my neighbours and colleagues, they will not harm you.” The red number on the panel kept changing. As the number dwindled, the strange smell in the air thickened. But the passengers inside the booth didn’t care, they followed behind Han Fei and strode ahead. The mottled elevator wall started to bleed. The black blood vessels started to crawl like worms and the booth was dyed red.

Blood dripped to the ground. Xu Qin reached out to use her hand to block Han Fei’s head to stop the blood from hitting him. The spirits looked like they were standing at ease but a close observer would realize that these monsters dominated by despair and pain were all guarding Han Fei. They would protect Han Fei the moment there was danger. Bai Sinian couldn’t believe his eyes. Just what kind of charm this man had that he could have so many monsters and spirits follow him so willingly?

He lowered his head and thought about the way Han Fei looked when he offered him the invitation. The man had an expression that he had never seen before. His senior never told him that there was such brilliant hope and light in a person in the cryptic world.

The temperature in the booth dropped and they were suffocated by blood and stench. Soon the number became negative 4, the elevator groaned before it stopped. The elevator door opened and a taboo location appeared before them. The walls were covered with plants that mimicked arteries. Occasionally

unknown bugs crawled between them. Large amount of blood and flesh spotted the ground. Every few steps there was a bloody guard uniform. "This is the real appearance of Yi Ming Security Company, everything on the surface is just an illusion."

Chills came in unrelenting waves from the landlord's ring. A lot of things were hidden here. "I suggest we stay close to each other." As they exited the elevator, they observed the passage ahead. This part of the 4th floor basement looked like a large trash processing centre. There were holes dug out from the concrete walls everywhere. Some of the holes had carts, others had cutting instruments.

"Many guards will come here to complete the 'last procedure' before they are sent out to work." Bai Sinian now had more memories coming back. He was wrapped in regret. "My senior was responsible for leading the newbies. He didn't have to go to Ziggurat, he did it for me."

Han Fei couldn't imagine what this last procedure was. The faded red lights on the wall darkened. Han Fei and Bai Sinian were soon lost in the underground maze. They could only work off of experience and headed down the direction where the stench was strongest. After a few minutes of walking, Weep suddenly stopped. He tilted his head at a spot on the wall and then extended his finger. The wall was crawling with artery-like vines. They grew in layers on the wall. Weep used his fingers to part the vines to reveal a captivating flower behind the complicated patchwork of vines. The flower was miniscule, about the size of one's fingernail but it was very delicate.

His finger caressed the flower and the small red flower responded to his touch. Weep was about to pluck the flower when Drake stopped him. Drake lifted the flower from below and the flower's slender stalk was growing out of a rotten eyeball. Once they parted away more vines, it was revealed that a body dressed in guard uniform was 'planted' into the wall. The red flower grew out from the body's eye socket. "This place is purposely made like this. The flower is nothing good." Drake pinched and snapped the flower off by its stalk. Instantly the red flower wilted and the broken stalk dripped with atrocious bloody liquid. The flower looked so pretty but the nutrient sustaining it was horrendous.

"I've seen this flower at Cattle Street before, they grow on flesh and blood, sustaining on the nutrients of the dead. They are loved by cursed bugs." Xu Qin stared at the wilted petal and stomped over them. After living for so long in the cryptic world, she preferred the freshness of meat rather than the romance of flowers. The stench in the air thickened but the number of flowers on the wall increased. When they reached the end of the corridor, everyone was stunned. There was a giant hole dug out at the end of the passage. The hole contained a small hill that was blooming with red flowers. At the middle of the hill where the flowers had the brightest blooms, was a blood pool the size of a sink.

“The red flowers need flesh and blood to grow, so this small hill should be filled with rotting bodies and broken spirits.” Ever since he entered the cryptic world, Han Fei had not seen something so pretty, it was arrestingly breath-taking.

“I just remembered something. My senior told me that the guards have to drink some kind of blood, I believe he meant the blood inside that small pool.” Before Bai Sinian finished, Big Sin suddenly leaped out from the urn and rolled into the deep hole. Its body soon disappeared among the sea of flowers. This happened so suddenly that no one was ready for it. The neighbours turned to Han Fei but Han Fei didn’t really understand what happened either.

But he was not that worried about Big Sin. Technically speaking, the sea of flowers was not that different from Big Sin’s place of birth. Big Sin was born inside the mass grave under the pet shop, the grave was filled with the spirits of dead animals and pets. This deep hole didn’t have the bodies of animals but it should have the bodies of many security guards.

“Big Sin is an anomaly born through animality when normally, to morph a human cocoon into a butterfly, one would need a lot of humanity.” While Han Fei contemplated, a row of red flowers was pushed aside as Big Sin flew up the hill towards the blood pool in the middle. Just as it attempted to wade into the blood pool, the blood red flower sea suddenly lurched like a wave. The whole hill shook and a snake-like tail whipped Big Sin back down the hill.

Petals were plucked off and they wilted in the air. The ground slowly rose and one after another children’s heads poked out from the sea of flowers. The shrill cackle of children laughing echoed inside the hole, and Han Fei got to see the full view of the monster.

It had the heads of 8 children while its lower body undulated like a snake. But instead of scale, a strange butterfly wing pattern covered its body.

“What is that thing? Can I keep it as a pet?” Only by touching the thing that the system could provide Han Fei with an answer.

“Octo-Crown? Why is it here?” Drake recognized the monster and his face was of plain shock. “When I accompanied the previous boss to make delivery to the Ziggurat, I saw it there before. But at the time, it hadn’t grown to this size yet.”

Chapter 290:

“What kind of species is it?”

“It has the combined spirits of 8 children. It’s very hard to deal with. The paper doll would stay away from it whenever we would encounter it.” Just as Drake finished, a shrill scream emitted from the bottom of the hole. The monster crawled up the side of the hole with its 8 heads displaying different expressions. It was more than 4 metres long and a thick layer of Yin energy twined around it. After it crawled by, it would leave behind a deep crimson trail. If Han Fei was alone, he would immediately think about running, but now things had changed. As Eight-Crown crawled out from the hole, the neighbours already moved to guard before Han Fei. Eight-Crown was just a tenant at Ziggurat while Han Fei had the power of everyone from Happiness Neighbourhood and Yi Ming Private Academy. He believed he could fight this monster.

With the ability to log out at any moment and the aid from his friends, Han Fei was incredibly confident. He showed no fear facing Eight-Crown. Bai Sinian who saw this was beyond baffled. Why did this man look so confident when he didn’t appear that strong?

Red eyes opened in the dark, the hungry pupils stared at the monster which emitted a scary presence. Crying mixed with despair slowly overwhelmed the children’s scream. Weep reached out his fingers to touch Eight-Crown’s head, “Do you want to play with me?” The large snake tail whipped at Weep, the boy didn’t move to evade. Instead he raised his hands to grip at the despair within Eight-Crown and was slowly molding the despair into the shape of a knife.

“Get out of the way!” Even though Bai Sinian was a coward, he had a good heart. Seeing the child was about to be swiped by the snake tail, he made to run forward to bump Weep away. But before he got there, a shadow slammed heavily into the ground. The wall and floor cracked. Lee Huo emitted a strong presence of misfortune. His arms, which were larger than a normal person’s leg, grabbed the snake tail tightly. He opened his jaws and bit on the snake tail. “Meat!”

The venom on the Eight-Crown colorful skin injected into Lee Huo’s body but at the same time, Lee Huo’s deep misfortune also infected Eight-Crown. Bai Sinian was beyond belief watching the close quarter combat between Eight-Crown and Lee Huo. Just what kind of creature he had been hanging out with?

The faces of the 8 children started to distort. Each child’s face surfaced with a strange character. One of the girls who had the character, Curse, on her cheeks stared transfixed at Lee Huo. And then the girl’s

faces started to surface on Lee Huo's muscular body. The faces giggled and smiled as they crawled deeper into Lee Huo's body. At the same time, a boy with the character, Soul, on his forehead also turned to Lee Huo. The moment he did, Lee Huo's soul started to crack.

"The 8 faces of Eight-Crown each had their own special power. Singular use of them might not be that strong but if they impose multiple powers on the same person, it'll have a very scary effect." Eight-Crown image was caught in Drake's single eye, he could see many things that others couldn't. While no one was paying attention, strands of hair slithered through the vines and dead bodies. Eventually they gathered behind Eight-Crown. The woman who died from domestic violence at Building 2 had made her move. Her exposed body showcased black and purple bruises, this was the first time she fought outside her own room.

The seemingly fragile black hair gathered together. When Eight-Crown discovered her, its body was already surrounded by nets of black hair. The black hair was unable to bind it into place but whenever it tried to break through them, it would gain one more wound on its body. As the nets closed in, Eight-Crown was faced with a difficult choice. If it broke the nets, it would be injured; if it didn't, its action would be heavily limited. The snake tail swiped at the woman. Before the impact connected, she dissolved into black hair and splashed like water. Moments later, she reformed at another location. No one knew where her real body was and no one knew how strong she really was. What Han Fei and the others saw was what she was willing to show.

Han Fei had a deep impression of this woman. Her name was Qu Yun, like the Spectral Hound, she was one of the candidates to become the next building manager of Happiness Neighbourhood Building 2. Spectral Hound stayed behind at the neighbourhood, Xu Qin was injured so the strongest ghost with Han Fei was this woman.

As the wounds on its body increased, the 8 children's faces scrunched up together. One of the heads with the character, Brain, exploded. The blood mist spread and covered the other heads. Eight-Crown became more agile and the children's expressions livelier. The blood mist was a strengthening potion for Eight-Crown but it was a poison for other spirits. Once they came into contact with it, their humanity would be immediately sucked away by it. Normal spirits had to stay away from it but it was unlucky enough to run into Xu Qin, the Curse Amalgamation. When the blood mist touched Xu Qin's curse, it changed immediately. The gluttonous desire within Xu Qin was injected into Eight-Crown. The heads on its shoulders slowly sunk into madness. They stopped coordinating and attacked relentlessly.

Bai Sinian was shocked by what he saw. Chill wind swept through the entire 4th floor basement. He had never seen much Lingering Spirits in his life, much less the sight of them working together. Just the sight of it caused Bai Sinian's heart to tremble, he could never be part of this. He stole a glance at Han Fei beside him. He thought Han Fei would retreat like he did but soon he realized he was dead wrong.

Han Fei who retreated to the edge of the hole opened his inventory and took out the blood red chains he acquired at the pet shop. He tied one end around the side of the edge and dropped the other end into the hole.

“You’re not going to go down there, are you?”

“If Eight-Crown decided to fight us inside the sea of flowers, then we would have to pay greatly to win. But it underestimated us and crawled out from the sea of flowers.” Han Fei said evenly like this was something perfectly normal, “Soon it will realize its mistake, so we need to cut off its retreat as soon as possible. We need to destroy its lair so that when it thinks about retreating, we could directly take its life.” The most casual tone to describe the craziest idea. The Large Linger Spirit was just a stepping stone for Han Fei, of course that was because he had the aid of his neighbours.

Even though Eight-Crown was a Large Linger Spirit, there were great differences in power level among Large Linger Spirits. For example, both Spider and the Doctor were Large Linger Spirits. Eight-Crown was slightly weaker than the Doctor.

“Are you sure? Won’t this be...” Before Bai Sinian finished, Han Fei nodded.

“Won’t this be a waste? I know. I actually wanted to capture it alive and try to see if I could make it my pet. Having a large pet will be quite magnificent.” Han Fei held Rest in Peace, had the black anaconda crawl into the ghost tattoo and gripped the chains. “But it’s too dangerous to attempt that now. We mustn’t let our guard down. If we can kill it, we should, just to be safe.”

Bai Sinian didn’t know what to say. Perhaps he had been trapped inside the security company for too long, he couldn’t follow Han Fei’s train of thought.