

## The Rabbit Doll

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*Decorated with various masks, this room is in a mysterious atmosphere. No light could survive in this room. Only a little bit of sunshine slips through broken holes on the wall. The parallel sun lights seem to interlace staves with numerous musical notes. The indistinct melody spreads all over corners of the room. A man with neat black suit walks into this room quietly lest others might notice his secret space. He used many names for those who knew him. Rarely did people know his real name--Din. A rabbit doll in a dirty appearance is his best friend. In his imagination, the rabbit is like his wife and takes care of his life. He even could burn the midnight oil for indulging in his imaginary world.*

Din: My beloved, today isn't my day. You know what? I was desperate at searching for ingredients but returned in vain.

Rabbit doll: Sweetie, that's not a big deal. I believe someday you would find those ingredients you desire for. Wherever you are or whatever you do, I will be always on your side.

Din: Oh, my beloved, I can't live without you. You are the only person who can cheer me up, I love you. *(Din held the rabbit doll to him in an affectionate embrace.)*

Rabbit doll *(whisper)*: Even if the world turned its back on you, I still wear the warmest and biggest smile waiting for your hug.

*Despites the weak light of only one small candle, the queer darkness still invades the whole room. That man rolls his body up with the rabbit doll in the center. He looks at the rabbit doll with all of his passion and talks to it even if the responding sounds are just from his pretending. The core of his whole life is this doll. His love to the doll is beyond description.*

*The next day...*

Din: Good morning, my girl. Did you sleep well last night? I'm reluctant to leave you alone but if I don't go out for the ingredients, I have no way to let you become a perfect goddess. I hope you would understand that all I wanna do is just for you, just for you, just for you, you know!!! *(He cries out with some tears.)*

Rabbit doll *(puts her arm on his should)*: I'm very glad that you say so. And I extremely appreciate what you've done for me. I know you want me to be a perfect goddess, but honey, do you know it's impossible to change an

ugly duckling into a swan, which happen merely in the fairy tales. I want you to face the reality and be a normal man, which would really make me happy.

Din (*in a firmly tone*): No one can prevent me from what I'm determined to do! I said I wanna change you into a beauty and that's all I wanna do. So please do not persuade me into giving up. You know that's in vain, save your trouble!

*And then, Din still puts down the rabbit doll tenderly and leaves it in a very dark and delicate bed. He walks to the door and picks up a large chain of 20 keys. His door has 20 medal locks on it, which are very stable and firm. He locks the door with these keys very carefully and kisses the door. It seems like Din requests the door not to let others in. Din walks downstairs with heavy steps and calls an old and small taxi.*

Din: Send me to the eleventh street. Please try as fast as you can.

Taxi driver (*with serious country accent*): Hey, young man, call me Hiffy! It's so nice to meet you. You know, I haven't taken any passengers for three days. I had no income and almost starved to death. You are like a hero to save me in danger, buddy.

Din: .....

Taxi driver: Why are you so hurried to that street? Are you late for your date with your mistress? Or are you late for work? Or are you late for school? Or...

Din (*in an angry tone*): Shut up, you bald negro. What I am going to do is none of your business! Just keep your mouth shut, or I'll let you know what "evil hero" could do.

Taxi driver: Oh man, I don't know what I said would offend you. Please forgive this old man. I always repeated this mistake. My ex-wife, Lora, often reminded me of my talkative personality, but I've tried many ways to improve myself, still in vain. What's worse, Lora left me for my talkativeness. You know, when I was a young man like you, I was a sailor. I had been to so many countries that I can hardly remember what they were. However, I was not happy then. My talkativeness makes me in isolation. Oh, young man, as I think of that horrible experience, I can't control my tears. I'm sorry. You know, I am not that kind of talkative.

Din (*yields*): Please hurry up, for God's sake!

Taxi driver: Can't I get your forgiveness?

Din: Forgiveness? Forgiveness? You know that the god dame word "forgiveness" means? You might not think it is very important. But to me, it means a lot. It's the most unachievable thing for me. It has

accompanied with me from I was born. You don't know what the feeling is like! This painful feeling is just like an ant asking for living but it's still killed by a cruel press of humans. You don't know what the feeling is like for you're not as miserable as I am, for you're so lucky to be a normal simple taxi driver. So please for God's sake, not to push me anymore. Or I don't know if I can still keep calm or not. And please, not to mention that dirty word in front of me.

*At the end of Din's response, the driver feels that Din is in wrath. The car is covered with the un-peaceful atmosphere, which scares the driver to death. The driver dares not say anything but just drives quietly and fast.*

Din: Hey man. What the hell are you doing? I said I want to go to eleventh street. Why don't you go through the bridge? Haven't I told you to "hurry"? Or you try to fool me?

Taxi driver: No, mister. I always go the right way. The bridge...*(interrupted)*

Din: No one can argue with me. Just send me to the eleventh street right NOW. I don't care what you want to tell me, really, I don't care.

*A few minutes later, the cab stops. Din pays the money to taxi driver, and rushes out the cab. He stealthily looks around and walks to a dark alley. Nobody would like to go to that vicious alley, not even pay just a little attention to it. The building presses the cramped path from both sides, just like the wall between would assail from both sides anytime. Choking air comes from the dark crack, with the smell of rotten tomato. Disreputable trash can lies on the center of the path, warning off everyone who doesn't wish to get trouble. There must be the last place a man would approach.*

*Din enters the grubby alley, with no hesitation. The footfalls are so lucid that it makes the haze even spookier. Suddenly, a humid stair appears in the corner, leading to a dark cellar. Din walks down. In the basement, a Thai sits on a chair. No one knows where he exactly comes from, what's his name, and why he would be there.*

Thai: *(With a strange accent)* It's you. Hey Din, I know you would come today. I know everything. You come for that thing, right? I am very sorry to tell you that the thing no come now.

Din: What did you say? You mean I can't get my thing now? How can you do this? How can you be so irresponsible?

Thai: Calm down, young man...

Din: Don't ask me to calm down. You have no right to say so, even no right to think so. You don't know how important it means to me. You promised me that I can get my thing today. I trust you, but you break your own word. So never ask me to calm down again.

Thai: Right, right. I am really sorry. I promise I call you when I get it, maybe tomorrow, oh no, maybe tonight. I promise. Don't angry. Angry can do no good thing. Please go home. I will call you later, please.

Din: You Thais always do the same thing. Never be late again, understand?

Thai: You have my word, sir.

Din: ..... (*turns and leaves*)

*Din puts the key to his door.*

Din: Oh, my beloved. I am so sorry that you have to wait for more time.

Rabbit doll: What?

Din: My beloved, don't worry about it. It's all under my control. Please trust me again just like before, okay? I know you have waited for a long time, so do I. I will always be your sides. (*Gives a bear hug to the rabbit doll*)

Rabbit doll: Sweetie, I know you will. I always trust you, right? I understand you would never let me down. You are so kind, so generous, and so conscientious a man. You are my only one. (*turns the head and whispers*)...I don't want to wait any minute longer...

*The night has enveloped the city. Remote barks delimit the silent of the street, reminding that some evil are dynamic now. Din gets a call. Delights expresses through his face without reservation. He puts on the overgarment and locks the door. Even though he seems in a hurry, the 20 locks are all locked respectively. He calls a cab and then goes straight into the murk cellar.*

Din: (*very loud sound*) Here I am. Here I am.

Thai: Good, sir. This is what you want. (*Passes Din a parcel*) I call you right away when it comes. You still remember the spell, right?

Din: Course I remember. I would never forget that. I want to leave now.

Thai: Have fun... (*with a sinister smile...*)

*In Din's room, the rabbit doll sits on the chair quietly. She is meditating, going through a delicate plan in her mind. Planning something? The sound of keys appears behind the door. It would be Din, Din comes back.*

Din: My beloved, I am back. See what I bring for you. It's our precious.

Rabbit doll: Great.

Din: Give me five minute. Let me arrange the setting first.

Rabbit doll: Sure. (Keeps clinging like a leech)

*Seven colored candles– blue, red, green, yellow, purple, white, and gold – are taken from the drawer, Din arranges them in the shape of Dipper on the ground, lights them up. The rabbit doll sits on the chair, watching Din preparing the ceremony. She seems to contemplate on something deeply in her mind. Then, Din opens the parcel. Inside the box is a spotlessly white fur. The fur is so white that it seems like the wings of an angel. Din puts the fur in the middle of the Dipper.*

Din: All done. Let's begin.

Rabbit doll: My sweetie, thank you very much. You really don't have to do this for me.

Din: I just hope this time I can really change you into a goddess. Be faithful for me, please, just like before. **(starts the incantation)**...nia gon siwa ama...olo bui i agu...ho ava la hu...olo bui i agu.....*(whispers)*.....*(As he repeats the incantation, a tumultuous sound with spark lights up the room, which scares Din to death. He thinks maybe this time it is not successful again. He turns around to the rabbit doll and looks disappointedly at her. )*

Din: My beloved.

Rabbit doll: What happened? Did we success?

Din: I'm afraid we fail again...

Rabbit doll: Again? Again? It can't be. You have to succeed this time, you have to. I have been waiting for such a long time. You must do something, not just saying fail again.

Din: Yeah, I know, my beloved, but... *(Interrupted)*

Rabbit doll: Say no word, please. I don't want to hear anything. Just say no more, please.

Din: But.....

Rabbit doll: .....

Din: I see. Then, goodnight, my beloved. Goodnight, goodnight. Parting is such sweet sorrow that I find it difficult to say goodbye to you.

Rabbit doll: Okay, okay. Goodnight.

*Din walks toward the rabbit doll, and gives a kiss to rabbit doll. Then, he lies down beside the doll, falls asleep soon. Suddenly, the rabbit doll raises her head, staring at the candles on the ground.*

Rabbit doll: *(murmurs to herself)* It can't be, it can't be. How could this happen? There must be something wrong, there must be. Think, rabbit, think. Do

you want to stay in this dirty rag doll? No, never. I wanna get rid of this fuzzy body. I want freedom, freedom, freedom. (*Suddenly, something flashes in to her mind.*) Oh, yes. Blood. All I need is a drop of blood...

*This is a quite night, so silent that makes people feel eerie. Fortunately, the morning comes, sweeping out the burdensome atmosphere. Din opens his eyes, looks at the rabbit doll lies besides him. The rabbit doll stays immobile, just like it has been petrified by Medusa. Then, a demonic smile appears on Din's face.*

Din: Finally, free, free, free. I am free.

*The rabbit doll just lies on the ground, without any movement...on the ground...*

Din: Free...Free...Free...

(The End.)