

Introduction: "Journey to the Hidden Realm"

Summary

The story is roughly based on my book "The Guardian Spirit".

Plot:

A young American student, LUCY (name customizable, PLAYER avatar), goes abroad in China together with her friend, SAM. They pursue a degree in Asian Studies: LUCY - Chinese studies, and SAM - Japanese. Arriving in Beijing, they visit the Forbidden City first-hand. While they take pictures, SAM asks a certain handsome guy tourist, HONG, to photograph them together, and they become friends. HONG shows more interest towards LUCY. When the time of goodbye comes, HONG hands LUCY a special ticket, and urges them to meet him at the FOX TOWER of Beijing in the evening. LUCY and SAM heartily accept, because HONG is just too handsome to deny his invitation.

In the evening, at the FOX TOWER which looks a little too creepy, SAM and LUCY cannot see HONG. SAM suggests it was all a bad joke, when they hear a GONG ring. Once it rings four times, a strong wind blows, and the environment around the girls changes into a dark city full of lanterns - the HIDDEN REALM. People that walk around are animalistic human spirits - the yaoguai - whom LUCY and SAM have read about only in Asian legends or seen in the animated series.

The girls get immersed in the HIDDEN REALM adventures. The mysterious HONG is in fact the Lord of Transformation and the supreme deity of all the spirits - the nine-tailed fox, YUEHONG HULI. The ticket that LUCY received was a key to the HIDDEN REALM. They now need to find YUEHONG, who is the only one who can send them back. They get to meet a lot of handsome spirits along the way. Gradually, after getting to know the spirits and finding YUEHONG, neither of them wishes to return home anymore.

Main Characters:

LUCY - name customizable. A student from the US. MA in Asian Studies. Shy, reclusive, kind-hearted. Is often too afraid to try out new opportunities, but guys are drawn to her regardless.

SAM - serves as an impulse to push LUCY through situations. Has long blond twin-tails, and sapphire eyes. A student from the US. BA in Asian Studies. Lively, talkative, often gets in trouble. LUCY always gets caught in her mess. Loves chasing hot guys.

HONG (YUEHONG HULI) - Introduced as a hot tourist of 25 years, to later be revealed as the nine-tailed fox spirit. As HONG, has strawberry-blond hair tied in a ponytail, and sapphire eyes. Is pale and tall. Wears a fox mask on the waist. It is the main sign of him being not of this world. As YUEHONG HULI, has 3 forms:

RED FOX FORM - during the day, retains the sapphire eyes and the strawberry-blond long hair that drops on his back and shoulders. Wears a red silk robe. Is barefoot like all spirits. Carries the same fox mask on the head to the side. Carries two red fans. Has long red nails, orange fox ears and orange fluffy nine foxtails.

WHITE FOX FORM - during the night, YUEHONG's hair, ears, and foxtails turn white and his eyes - red. His silk robe is of light-blue colour, as well as his nails and fans.

GOLDEN FOX FORM - YUEHONG's ultimate divine form. Unlockable as premium content. His hair, ears and foxtails become golden. His silken robe is white. His eyes and nails are purple.

SANDRA NUTTS - a kind squirrel spirit that guides the girls through the HIDDEN REALM and provides them with lodging. Has long brown hair, brown eyes, a yellow dress, brown squirrel ears and fluffy brown squirrel tail.

HOSHIRO KUJAKU - the young phoenix king. Resides within the PHOENIX TOWER. SAM falls for him soon. Has long white hair, red eyes, and wears white silken robes. Has a white peacock tail and three white peacock feathers on head, all with red spots. Is a white peacock spirit but can turn into a fierce phoenix if the powers are unlocked. Shows interest in both girls.

ZEFIRO KUJAKU - the prince of PHOENIX TOWER, HOSHIRO's elder brother. Colourful peacock spirit. Blue-to-green long hair, golden eyes, blue-to-green silken robe, peacock tail, three peacock feathers on head. One of the main lords of the HIDDEN REALM. He can't stand humans. Does everything to prevent SAM's and HOSHIRO's relationship.

MEI HULI - YUEHONG's daughter since ancient ages. Fox spirit queen. ZEFIRO's fiancée. Tries to impede with LUCY and YUEHONG getting close. Unlike her omnipotent father, has only two forms:

RED FOX FORM - the main form. Long blond hair and purple eyes. Orange fox ears as long as a bunny's, and nine orange foxtails. Wears a red silken dress. Carries two red fans like her father. Red nails.

WHITE FOX FORM - unlocked at premium content. Mei's hair turns purple and eyes - red. Her ears and foxtails turn white. Her dress remains red. Her nails turn purple.

+ Other minor characters

Gameplay

LUCY gets to choose certain options and the story revolves around it. Depending on her choices, the outcome will be varied, but will return to the same plot pattern at a certain point. Then it will divide again, and so on, until the end. SAM works as a push - she starts interacting with all the handsome and creepy NPCs and LUCY gets caught in the mess; hence, players get to experience the whole thrill of different adventures which become unavoidable, even if their choice is negative.

Premium Content

Certain choices, such as seeing the special spirit forms (e.g. Yuehong's golden form), or interactions with the hot NPCs that go deeper than just kiss or hug, are generally premium. They shall cost in-game currency, GOLDEN COINS.

Tone References

The setting is paranormal fantasy and combines both the Chinese and the Japanese lore, westernized to the point that the players from the US and the Europe can enjoy it to the fullest.

Themes

The story is a mix of Asian and western cultures, showcasing the lore of China and Japan, to the point that is interesting, admirable, and understandable to the western people.