

Hugo Vlad Ravenlock; Mockingbird

The Robin Hood Who Stole from the Rich and Paid with His Life.

By Detective_Kana

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They cast him out, a broken thread,
Forgotten child, better off dead.
But from the dirt, he rose and burned,
A lesson cruel, a fate hard-learned.

He led the lost with steady hand,
Stole from the rich, reclaimed the land;
A spark among the beaten throng,
A knife against the house of wrong.

He loved them still—he struck them low,
The blood of kin his final blow.
He gave his name, he gave his breath,
And smiled upon his house's death.

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“Dark Side (Part 2)”

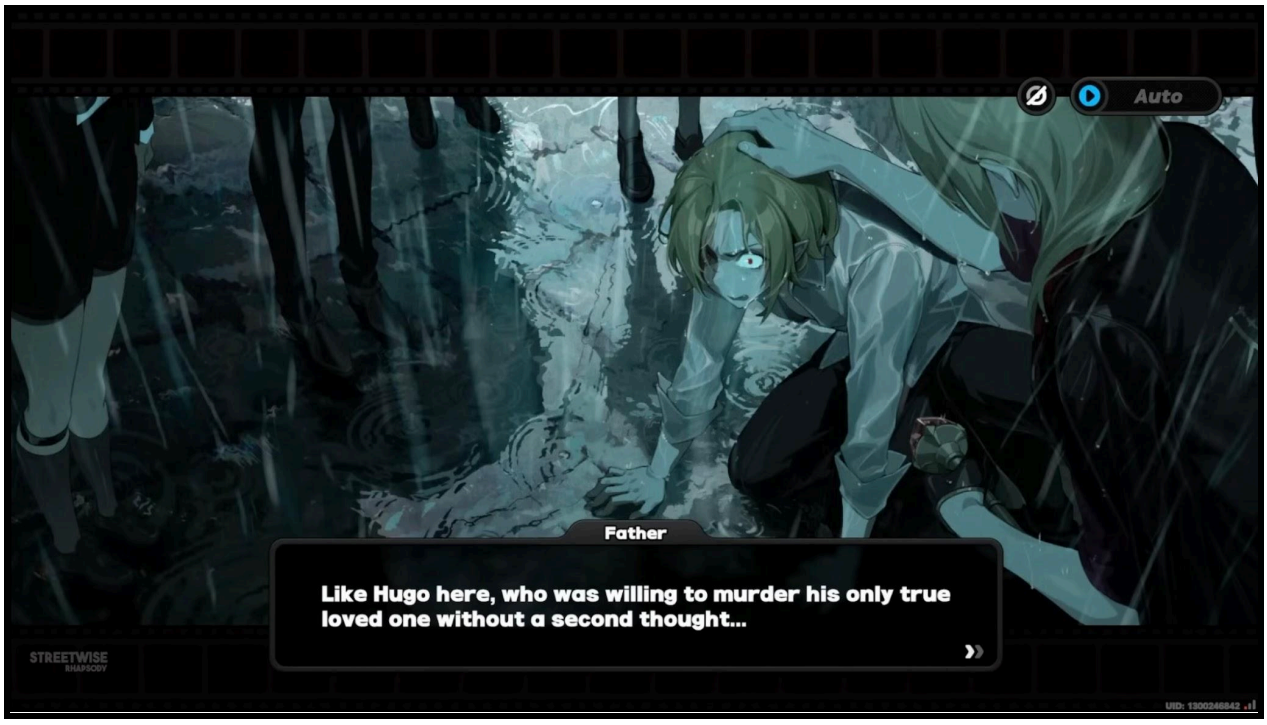
We’re pulled into another piece of Hugo’s past.

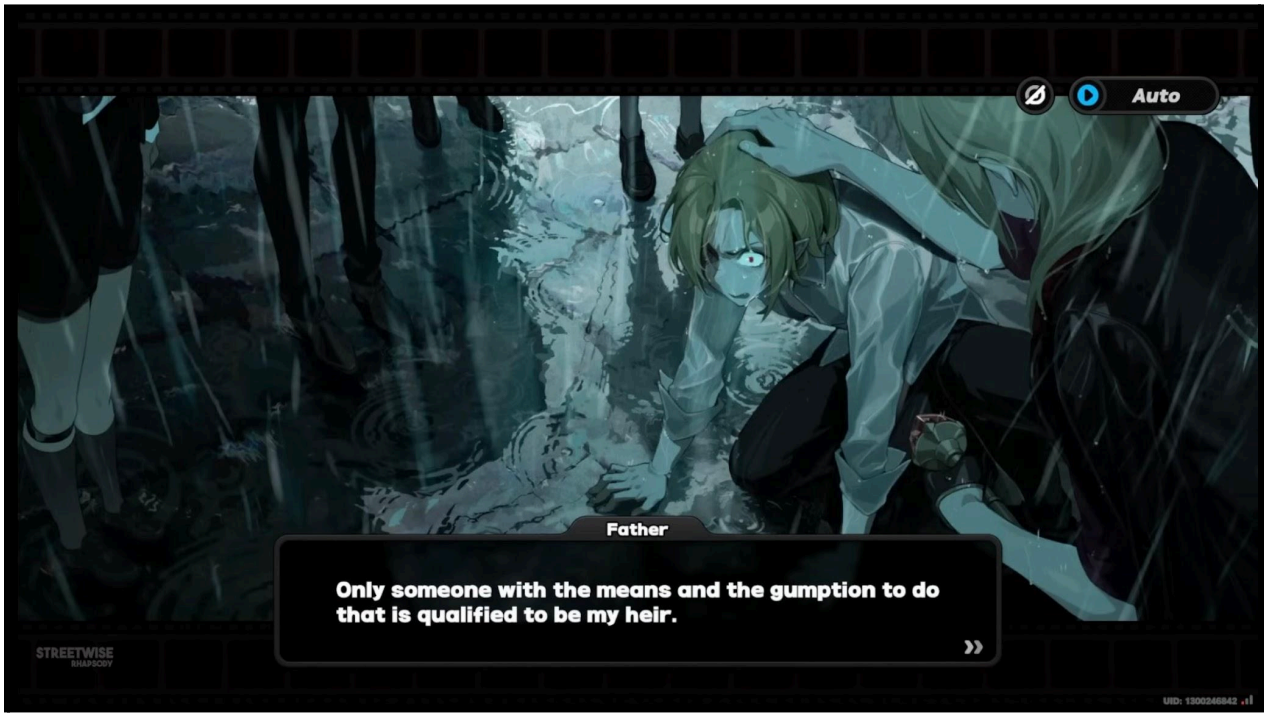
Rain pours down as Hugo lies beaten on the ground, surrounded by his siblings—each one furious, grieving, accusing. He’s just killed Serena, the only sibling who ever showed him real kindness. The others scream that even she didn’t deserve it. But Hugo doesn't deny it.



He owns it.

“I… I killed her,” he says.





Then their father steps forward… and praises him.

Killing the only one who truly loved him? That's what made him worthy. Ruthless enough to inherit everything. Hugo is named the top sibling for the month. The rest? Sentenced to their usual punishments for falling behind.

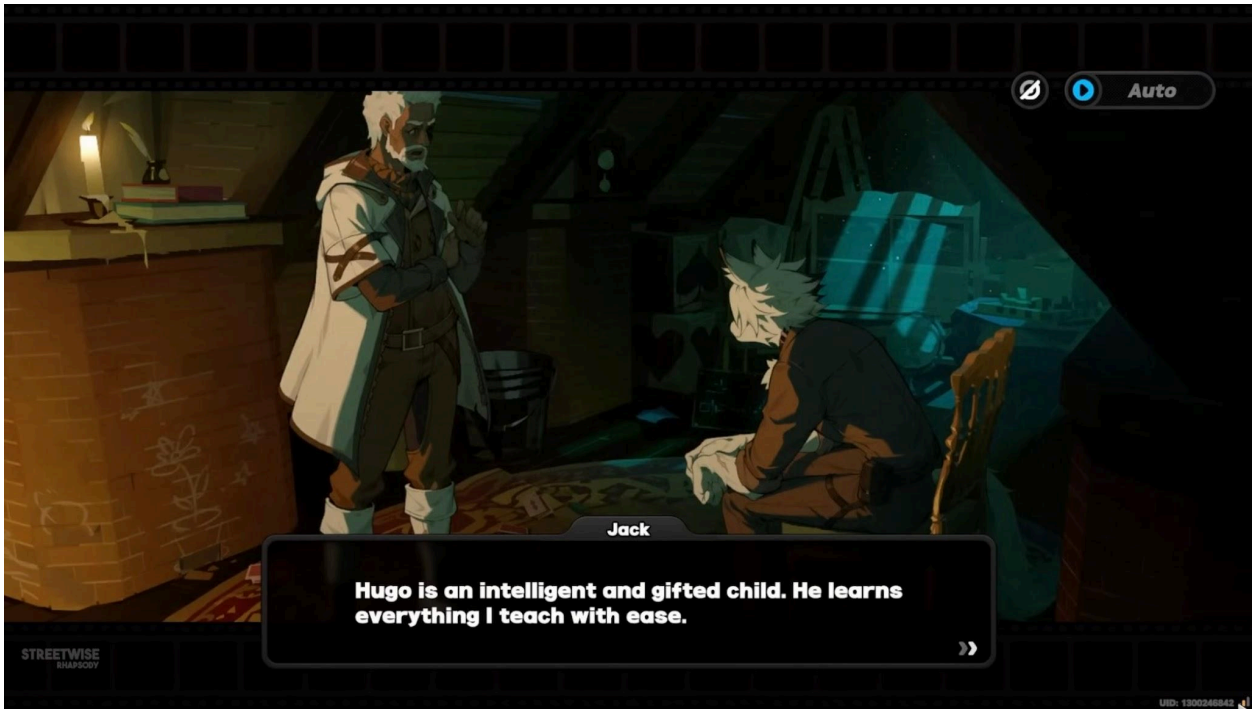
The twisted reward system reveals itself: love is weakness. Cruelty is currency.

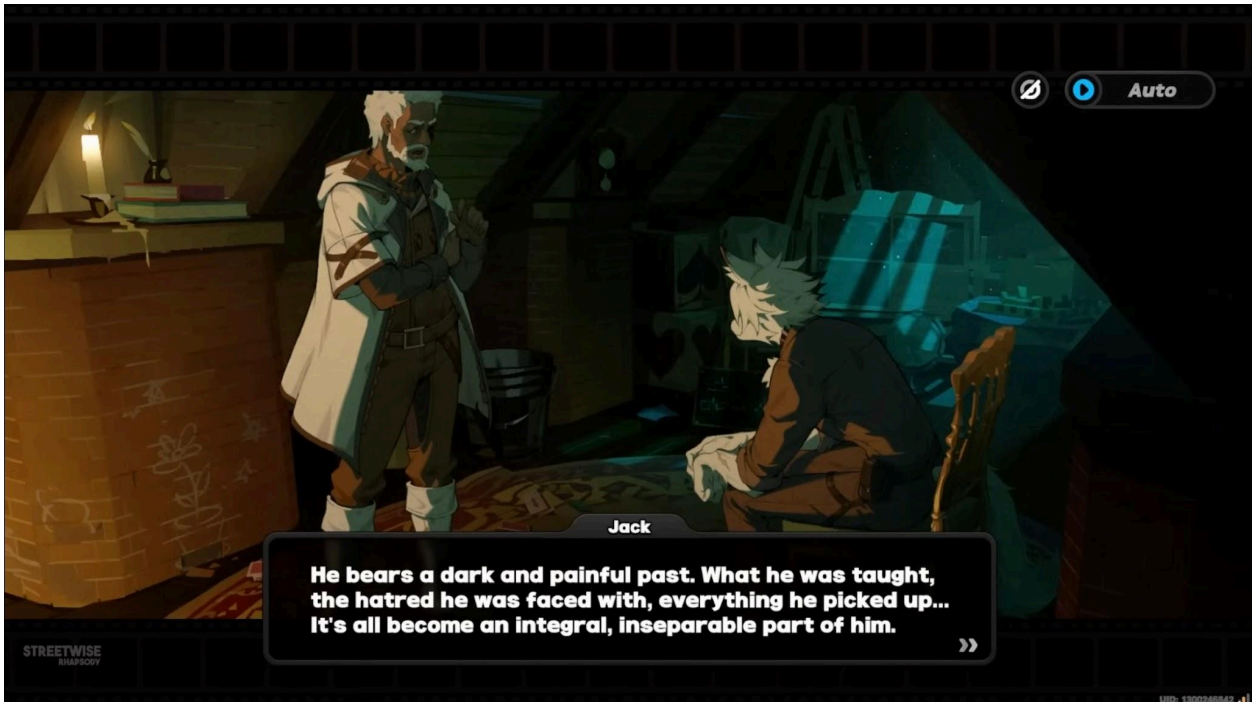
And Hugo? He learned early what it takes to win.

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“Before Taking the Stage (Part 1)”

At some point in the past, Jack pulled Lycaon aside for a serious conversation—one that stuck.





He spoke of Hugo, a prodigy who grasped every lesson of the Phantom Thief life with terrifying precision. But brilliance wasn't the problem. It was an obsession—a path carved from the trauma of his family's death, one that defined everything he became.

Jack's warning was clear:If Hugo keeps walking this road—unbending, unchanging—then Lycaon needs to be ready.

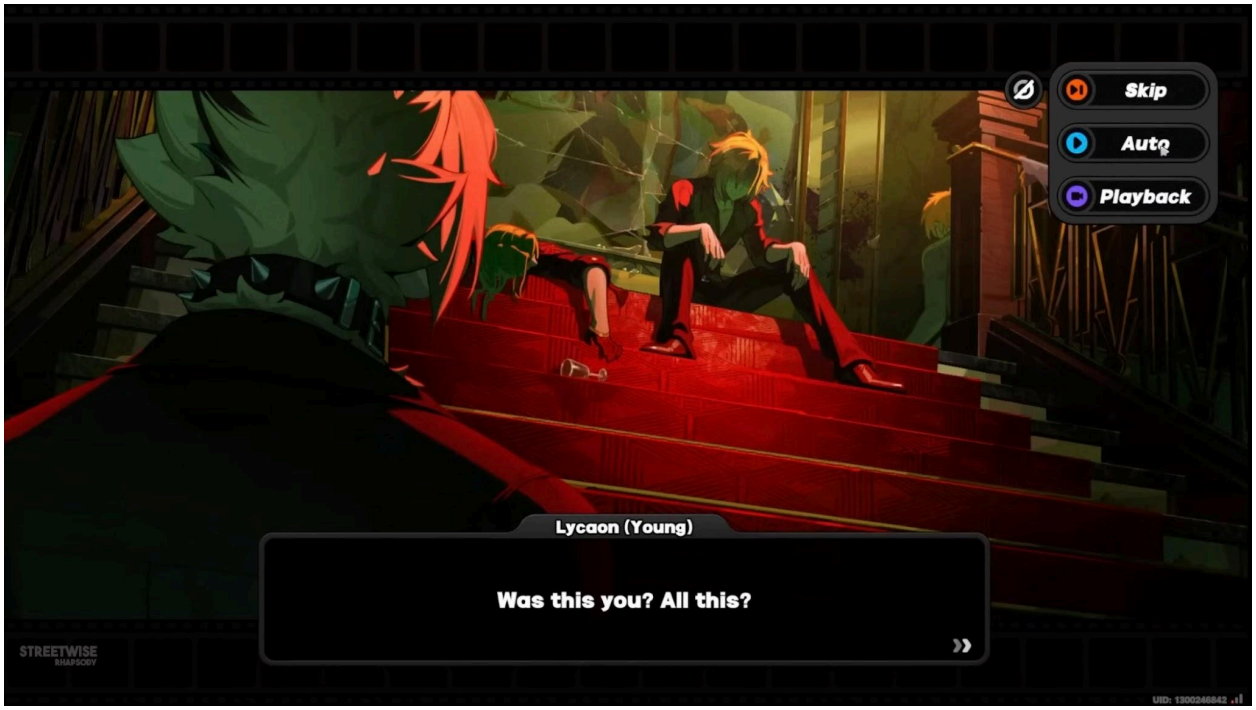
But not out of vengeance. Out of necessity.

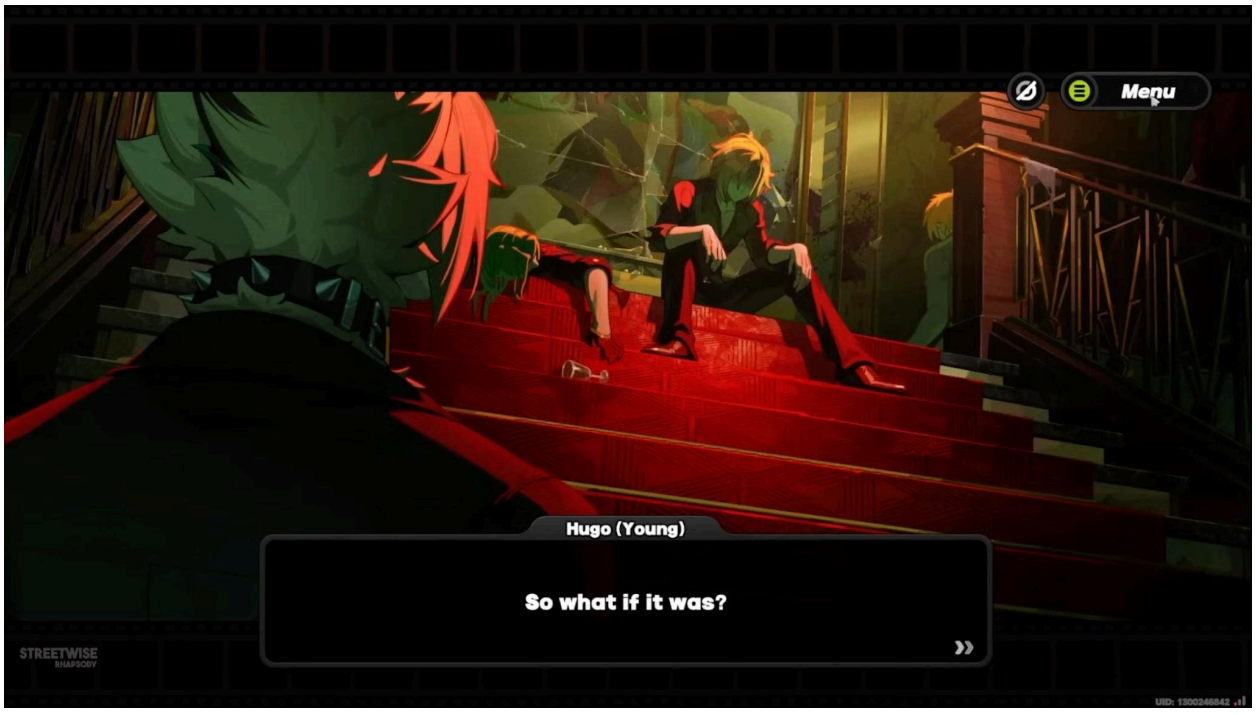
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"Destined to Meet Again (Part 3)"

We witness the moment it all unraveled—the day Lycaon walked away from Mockingbird for good.

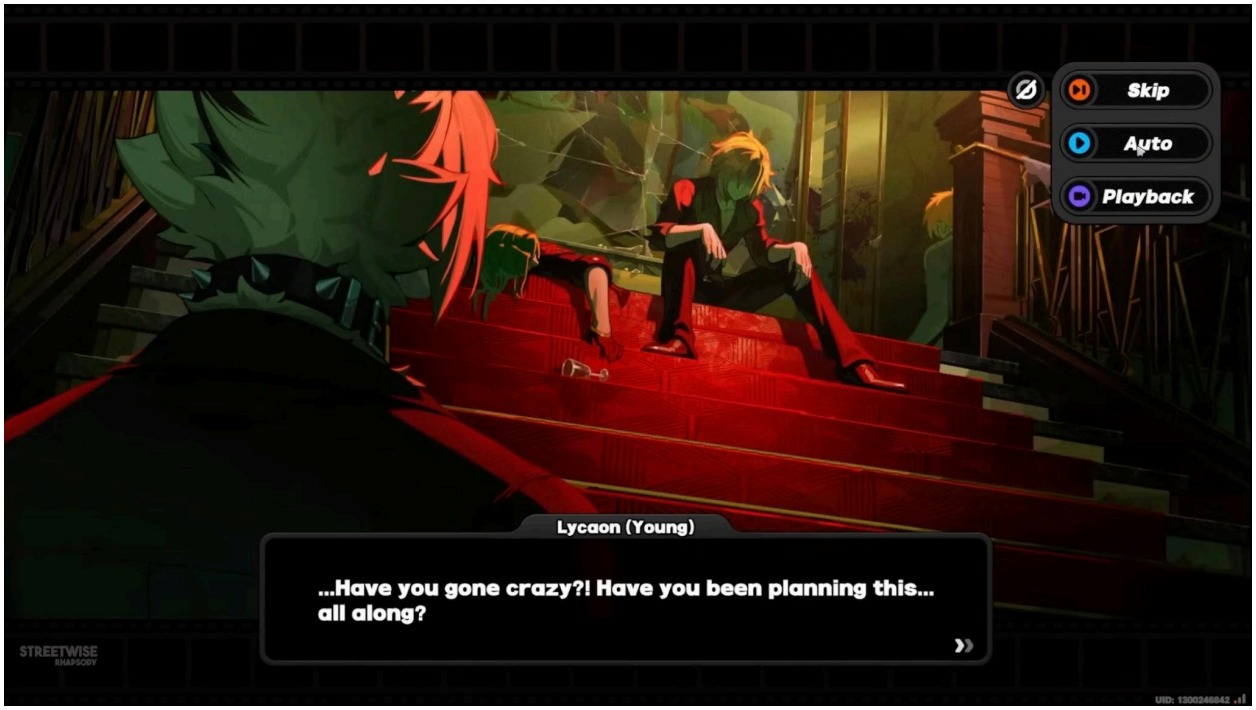
He finds Hugo surrounded by the bodies of his own family, the room soaked in blood. At the center, Hugo sits in eerie stillness, untouched by the horror around him.





Lycaon asks the obvious question: “was this you? All this?” But Hugo gives only a vague, dismissive reply—dodging without denial, as if the truth doesn’t matter anymore.

And that’s when it clicks.



This wasn’t Hugo’s fall. It was his origin. Everything—his mindset, his cold logic, his sense of justice—was born here. That day didn’t break him. It defined him.

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“The Day of Brilliant Wishes”



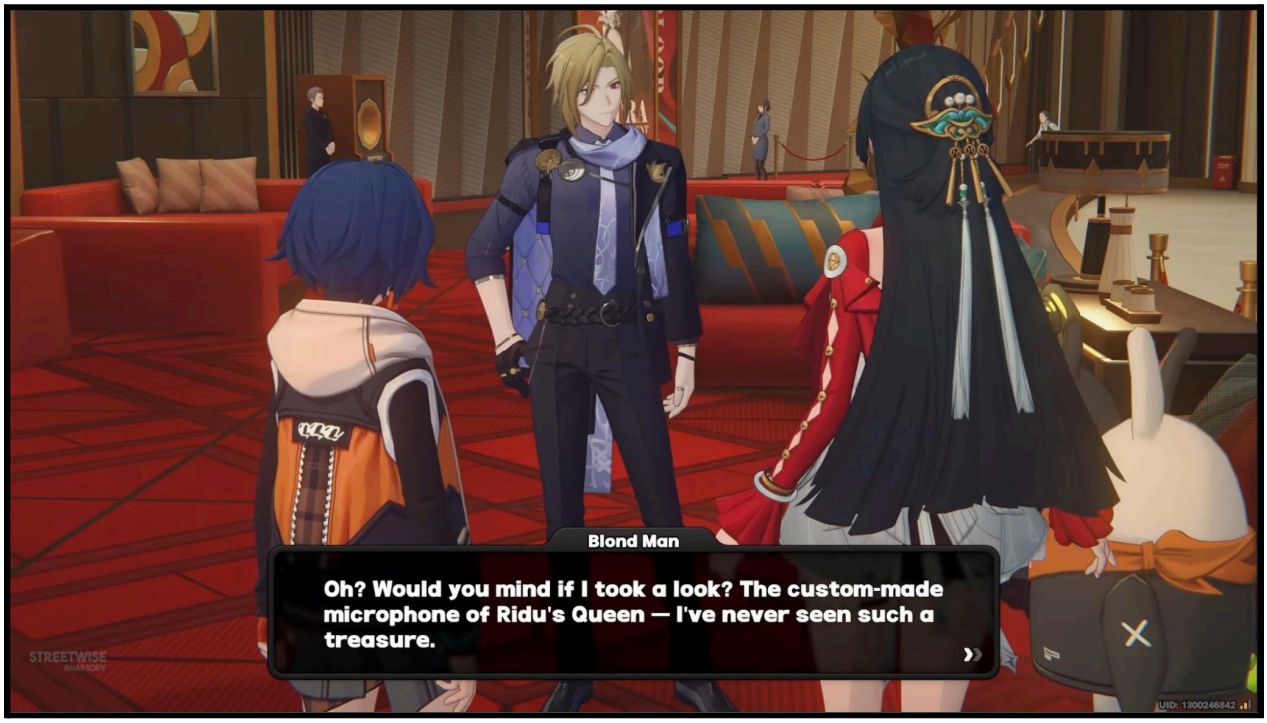


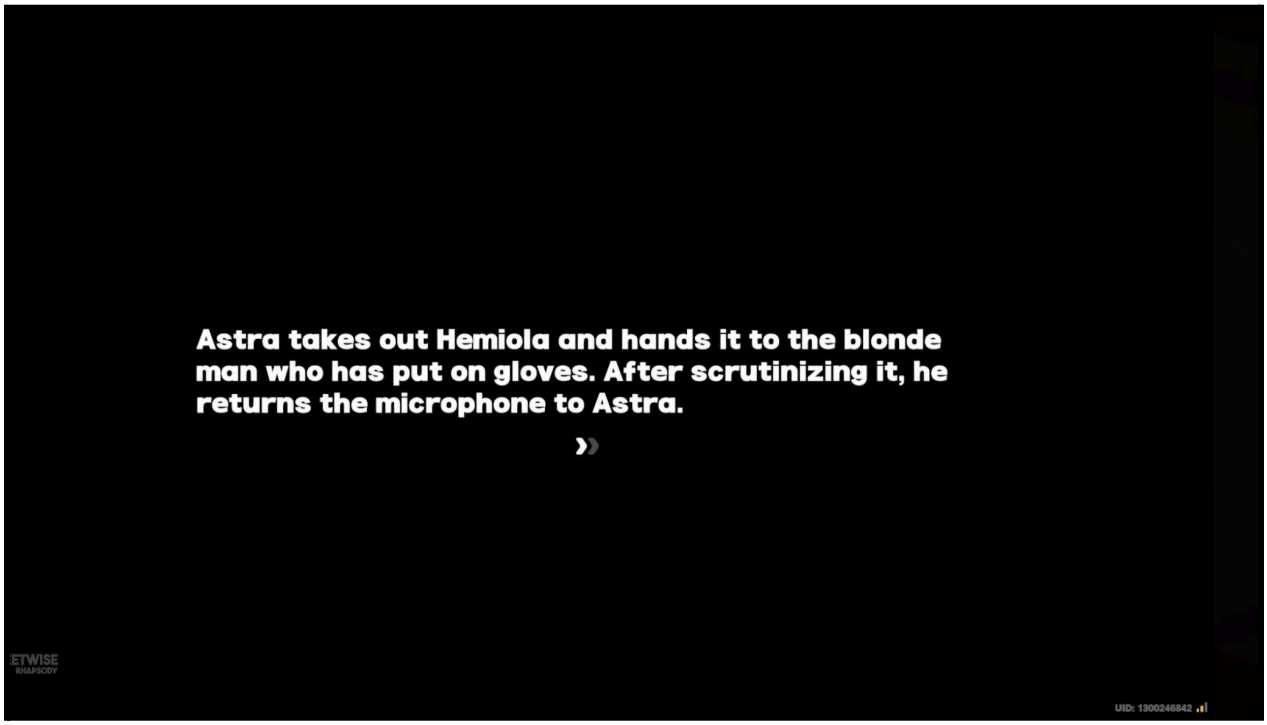




Our first genuine interaction with Hugo takes place during *"The Day of Brilliant Wishes"* event, where Eous faces Robin in the semi-finals. Before the match, Hugo confronts both Astra and Phaethon, who had previously encountered Robin. When Hugo attempts to reintroduce himself, he shuts down the idea, dismissing the need for any further establishment between them and simply referring to himself as Robin's partner. Despite this, Astra reveals her true identity, a fact

Hugo clearly recognizes. He then proceeds to question the nature of Astra and Phaethon's relationship, to which Phaethon confirms it. Astra attempts to shift the topic, but Hugo eagerly takes the opportunity to delve deeper into what happened during Astra's concert, asking for her account of the events.



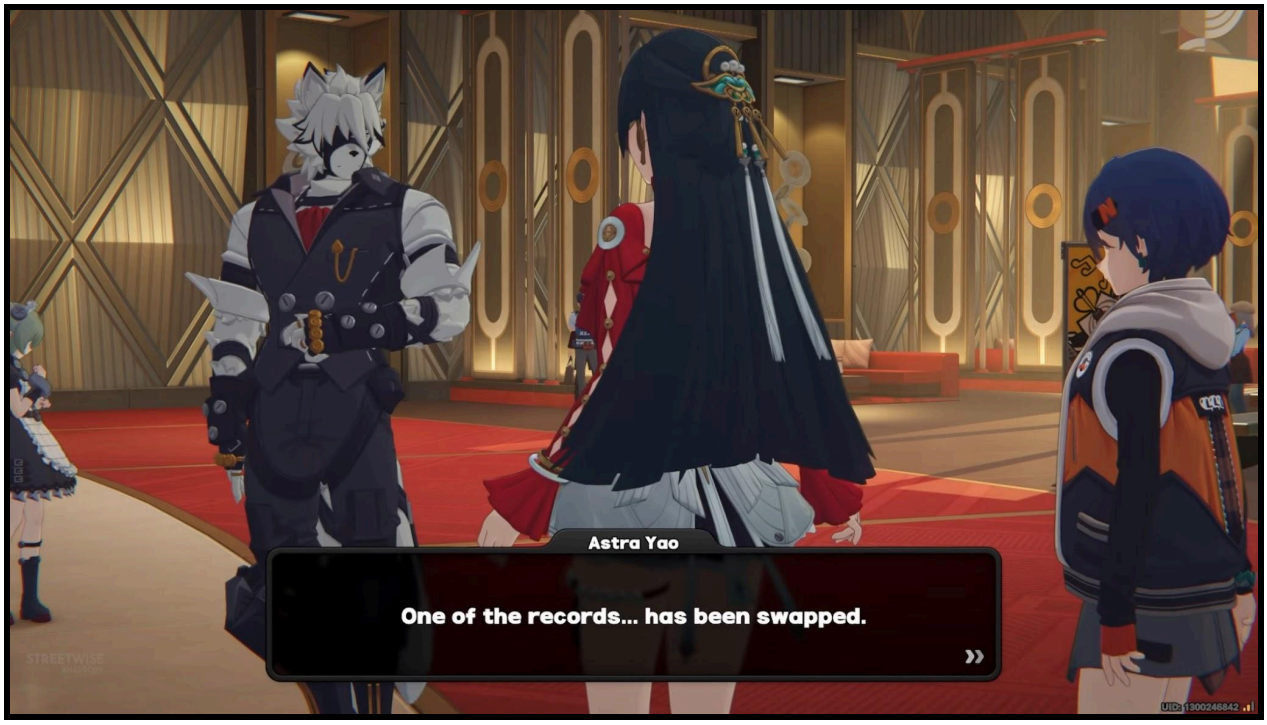


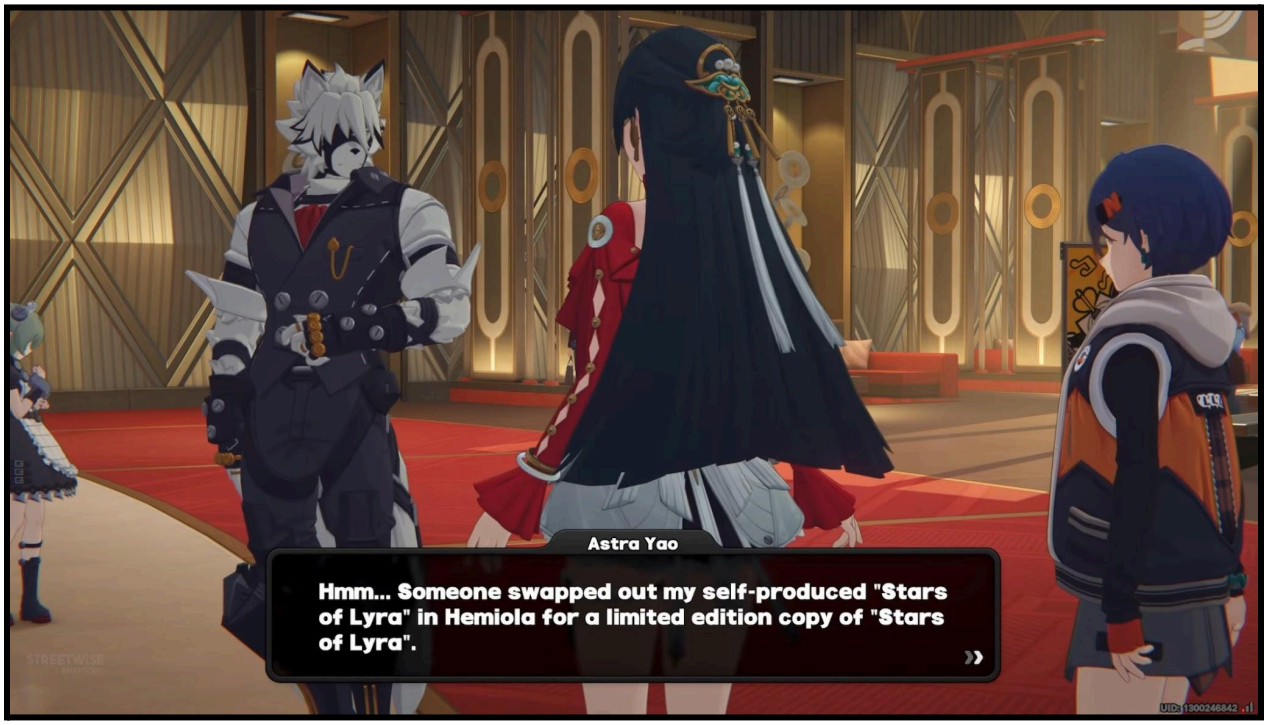
Phaethon, sensing Hugo's intent, begins to question his motivations. Hugo reveals his true identity as a collector, one who values priceless artifacts, such as rare stories. At first hesitant, Astra eventually agrees to share what transpired, drawing particular interest from Hugo about Astra's voice and the Harmonic Core used to save everyone. When Astra explains that her microphone was custom-made with Joran's Legacy now stored within it, Hugo requests to examine it. In front of them, he carefully dons gloves and inspects the mic, before simply returning it to Astra with praise and then leaving.

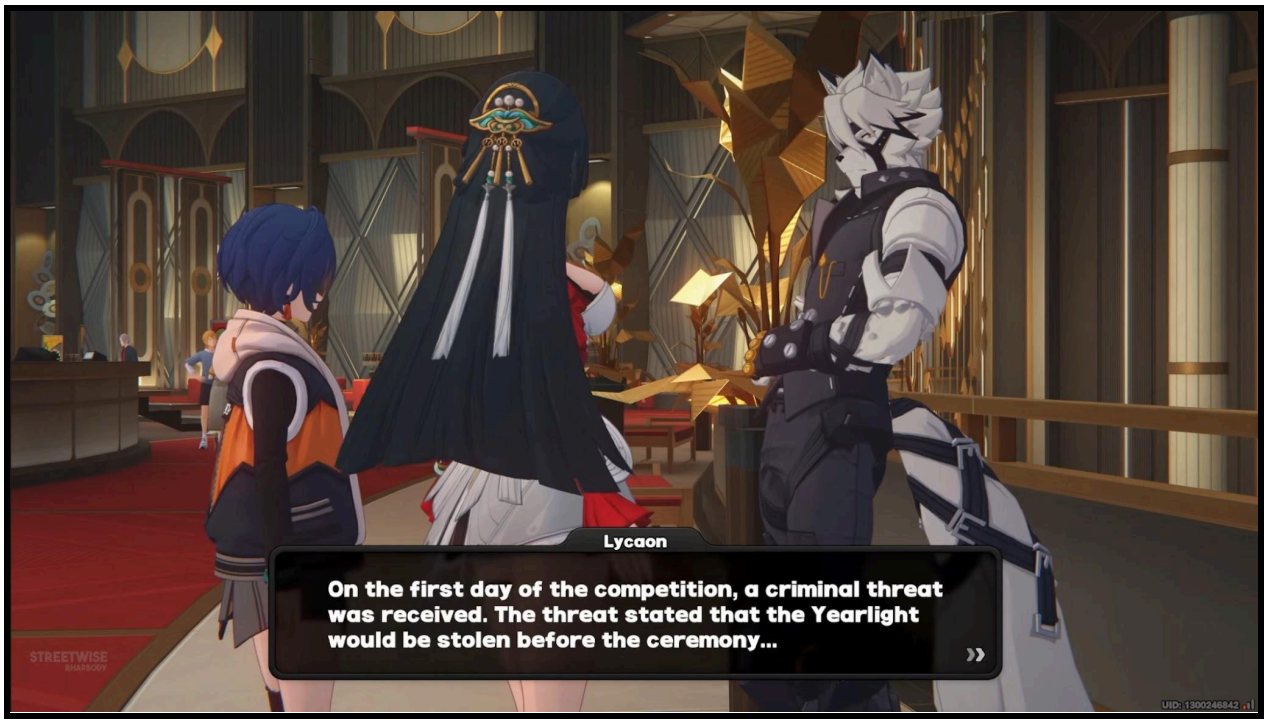


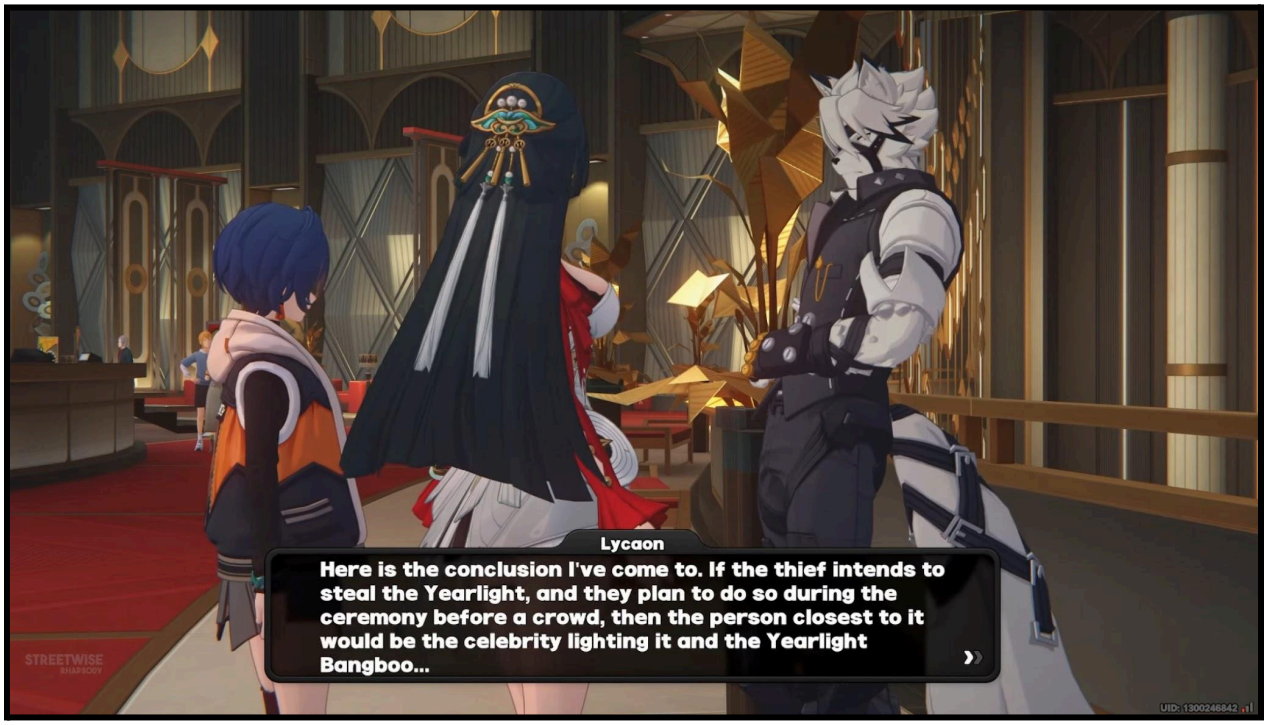


While Astra and Phaethon remark on Hugo seeming not to be a bad person, they both note a discrepancy between his behavior and his actions. They specifically point out that he had called the concert event “horrifying” without showing any sign of it. The conversation shifts to the competition, where it ends in a tie, but as the organizers try to determine what happened, it’s revealed that Hugo and Robin had withdrawn from the competition without offering any explanation. Phaethon finds this behavior odd and asks Astra to check the Hemiola, only to find that it is still there and seemingly untouched.


Astra Yao
One of the records... has been swapped.


Astra Yao
Hmm... Someone swapped out my self-produced "Stars of Lyra" in Hemiola for a limited edition copy of "Stars of Lyra".



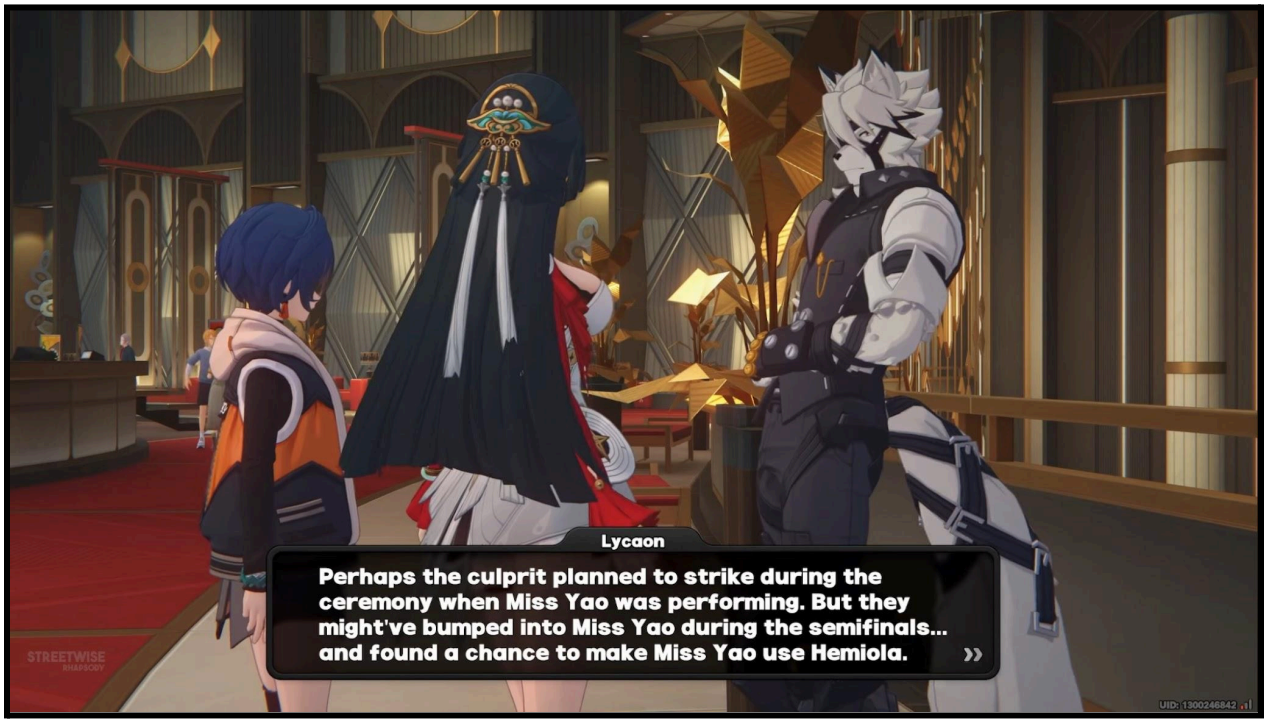


However, upon Lycaon's request, they revisit the Hemiola with more scrutiny. Phaethon questions a spare disk beneath the main record, as the Hemiola allows for disk swapping. It is then that Astra realizes that one of the records has been swapped. Although the other two disks remain unchanged — one with Joran's song and the other with her own *"Stars of Lyra"* — had been replaced with a limited-edition version, far more expensive than her self-produced copy.

Lycaon reveals that he had been tasked with keeping the Yearlight safe after receiving a threat from a criminal who vowed to steal it before the ceremony. Victoria Housekeeping had concluded that the thief would strike during the ceremony, amidst a large crowd, meaning the winner of the competition would be the likely target.







This, however, was a diversion — the real opportunity came when Hugo and Robin encountered Astra earlier. Lycaon's final question is why the thief would replace it with something more expensive. The answer is simple: the thief viewed the item in a completely different light than others. With that, Hugo's plan is revealed to have been successfully carried out.

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“A Gentleman’s Visit (Part 1)”

The beginning of their first proper interaction sees Hugo making a call before entering Random Play, immediately presenting himself as a high-class individual — which, to be fair, he is. He starts with what seems like a simple introduction, offering broad compliments about the store and highlighting every aspect in a flattering light. He even makes casual remarks about well-known figures visiting a place like theirs, calling it a significant achievement.



While it may seem like a straightforward introduction, there’s more to it beneath the surface. Starting with praise and flattery — especially given his high profile and enigmatic demeanor — serves an important purpose: it helps him come across as someone who understands their business’s position, building an immediate sense of connection. I believe this is his primary goal at this stage.





Additionally, by mentioning the store's wide range of customers, Hugo appears to be subtly gauging Phaethon’s reaction to such an unusual situation from an outsider’s perspective. At the same time, he frames it positively, setting the stage for a deeper rapport. As we'll see in their

ongoing conversation, he continues using this tactic to gradually close the distance between them.



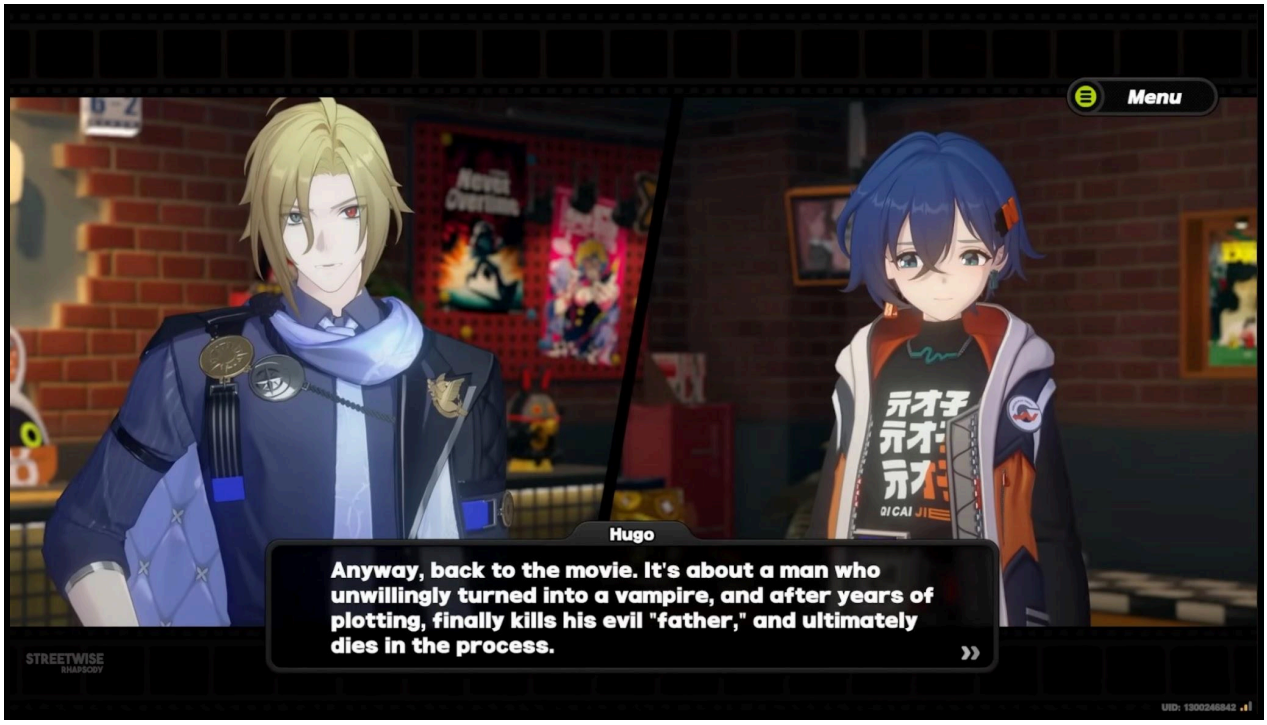


After a brief exchange, Hugo brings up a rumor supposedly circulating around Random Play — something called "Children of Devils." This elicits a slight reaction from Phaethon, who seems confused at first. Hugo notices their reaction and comments on it before explaining that he was actually referring to a vintage videotape of the same name, which he’s been searching for without success; no store seems to carry it. I believe this part of their conversation also holds more significance than it initially appears.





Speaking of "Children of Devils," I think it carries several possible meanings that aren't entirely clear yet. Phaethon's reaction, along with the possibility of it connecting to Carole Arna, suggests some deeper understanding of their past — even if only faintly. Hugo picks up on their hesitation and presses the topic a bit further, but Phaethon quickly redirects the conversation. This could be a way for Hugo to gauge their reactions, or simply a tactic to use their momentary distraction to steer the discussion where he wants it to go.



Later events help reveal that the videotape is a fake, created to talk about Hugo's life and his goals after years of planning. This deception was intentional — another method of testing Phaethon's understanding and preparing for what's to come. Hugo's knowledge of Phaethon's reactions is crucial to his plan. Finally, the introduction of a seemingly rare videotape helps reinforce Hugo's later words, lending credibility to his later proposal.

As a final move, Hugo decides to rent every movie available as a sort of investment from a collector's perspective. This naturally leads into a discussion about the upper class, as Hugo — much like Phaethon with their store — is also a collector. He jokes about the different tiers of the upper class he's interacted with, even mentioning, half-seriously, that some of his connections deal in human organs. Hugo then teases Phaethon, asking if the joke scared them, to which they respond by revealing they've experienced far crazier things.

Using this exchange as the last piece he needs, Hugo shifts the conversation toward more serious matters. He points out that with such high-profile individuals frequenting the area, it only makes sense to take advantage of the opportunities they present. He then mentions an upcoming major industry auction — one that might very well feature rare collectible videotapes — and casually adds that if Phaethon is interested in attending, they should let him know.


Menu
Hugo
Your store is like a collector's gem in itself. Please, consider my payments here as an investment in a collector's prized find.
TWISE
RHAPSODY
UID: 1300246842


Menu
Hugo
Because of my work, I happen to know some of New Eridu's upper echelon. Some even collect... human organs.
TWISE
RHAPSODY
UID: 1300246842



Hugo’s strategy here is clear: by renting every available videotape, he creates one final connection between himself and Phaethon, subtly reinforcing their shared experience with high-class individuals. He uses this opportunity to make a halfhearted joke — another way to gauge Phaethon's reaction and get a read on their comfort with the topic. This naturally steers the conversation toward Phaethon’s own connections, setting the stage for the real goal: introducing the upcoming auction.

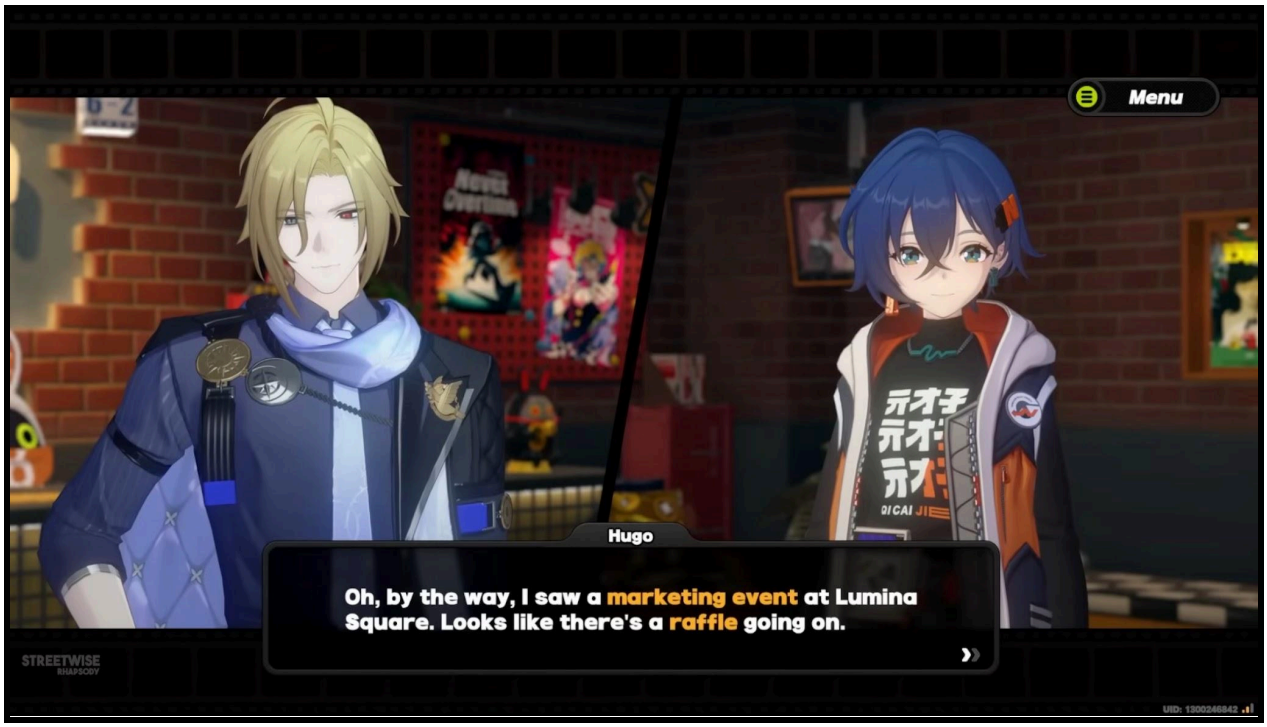

Menu
Hugo
Haha, guess I was worried for nothing. With so many high-profile individuals visiting here, I'm sure you're well-connected and experienced in various fields.
STREETWISE
RHAPSODY
UID: 1300246842


Menu
Hugo
Speaking of which, there's a big industry auction coming up. They'll probably have lots of collectibles, maybe even rare videotapes not on the market.
STREETWISE
RHAPSODY
UID: 1300246842



By casually mentioning that the auction might feature collectible videotapes, Hugo cleverly ties it back to the earlier planted idea — the fake "Children of Devils" tape that had already captured Phaethon's curiosity. He finishes by suggesting they reach out to him if they're interested, effectively forcing them to make the next move. This not only keeps the momentum of their growing connection, but also ensures Phaethon's interest leads them directly into Hugo's larger plan.

As their conversation draws to a close, Hugo offers one final piece of information before taking his leave. He casually mentions a marketing event happening at Lumina Square, noting that there's a raffle taking place — with the possibility of something interesting tied to the "upper class." Before departing, he leaves Phaethon with an ominous and deliberately vague remark: "There are always secrets hiding behind the light."





It’s clear that Hugo’s mention of the Lumina Square event is yet another carefully placed lure, designed to guide Phaethon toward a location of interest. He continues to weave the topic of high-class individuals throughout their conversation, maintaining a consistent thread that he's been subtly reinforcing. It's even possible that Hugo is deliberately using prior knowledge of

Phaethon's habits — such as their attendance at events like the "Bangboo Beauty Contest" — to predict their likely behavior and ensure the bait is tempting enough.



This is another "line and sinker" tactic: carefully cast, almost casual in presentation, but purposefully meant to draw Phaethon in. Meanwhile, Hugo's ominous final line — *"There are always secrets hiding behind the light"* — serves as a cryptic hint: a clue pointing toward another clue that has yet to fully reveal itself.

To wrap up Hugo's encounter and his first proper introduction, along with what we can infer from the knowledge we have: Hugo had already gathered some level of information on Phaethon from their previous encounter. Whether it's knowledge of their hidden identity or simply background details, he approaches them while feigning no prior memory. He presents himself as a notable figure — a respected collector — and immediately praises Random Play, while slipping in sly comments about the influential people spotted around its location.

From the start, Hugo deliberately works to close the distance between them, fostering a sense of familiarity. He introduces the fake videotape — "Children of Devils" — either to stir up a reaction from Phaethon, to build a conversational bridge, or perhaps both. Through their response, he quietly gauges Phaethon's thoughts, subtly tying it to larger events yet to be fully revealed.

Once he extracts what he needs — insight into Phaethon's mindset — Hugo neatly closes that thread by renting every videotape in the store. Framing it as a collector's investment, he

seamlessly pivots the conversation to his connections, testing Phaethon's reaction once again. Finding them largely unfazed, as he intended, he seizes the moment to shift the spotlight onto Phaethon's own possible connections, naturally bridging into the topic of the upcoming auction.

Having planted the seed of interest, Hugo offers one last incentive: mentioning the marketing event at Lumina Square, leaving it as an enticing option before making his exit. Every step, every word was deliberate — a slow weaving of familiarity, curiosity, and planted opportunities designed to pull Phaethon deeper into his larger scheme.

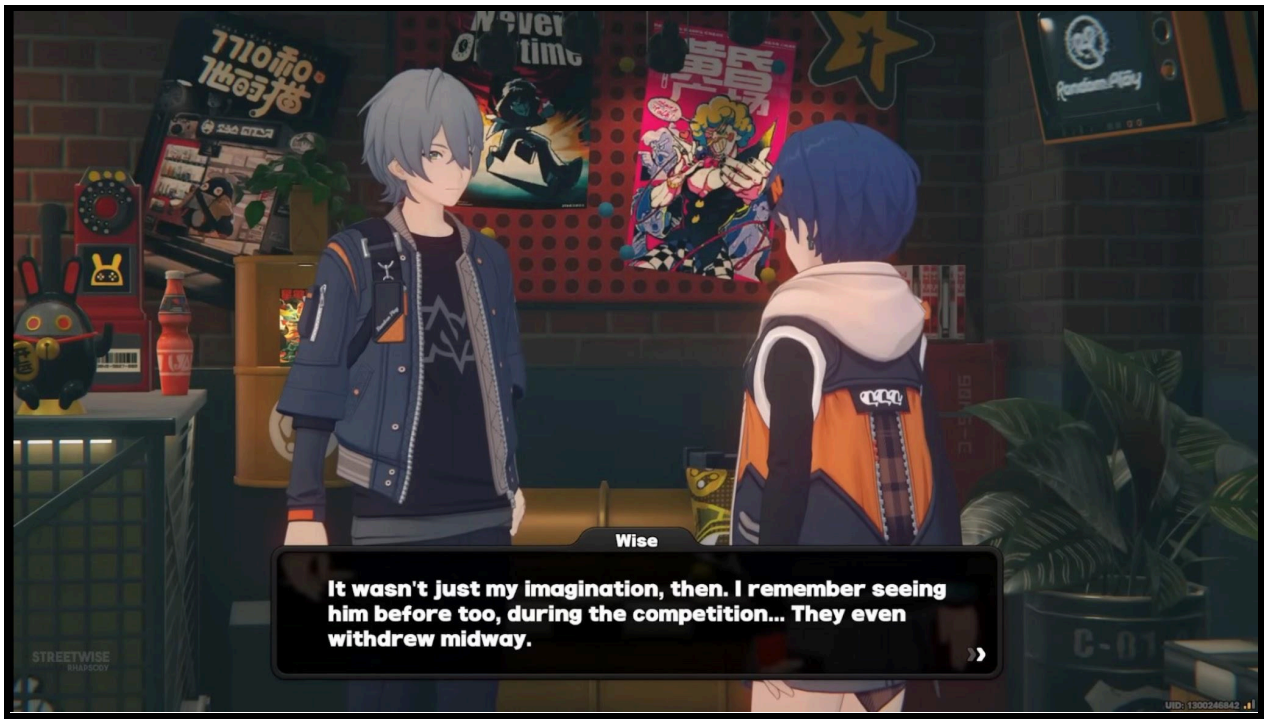
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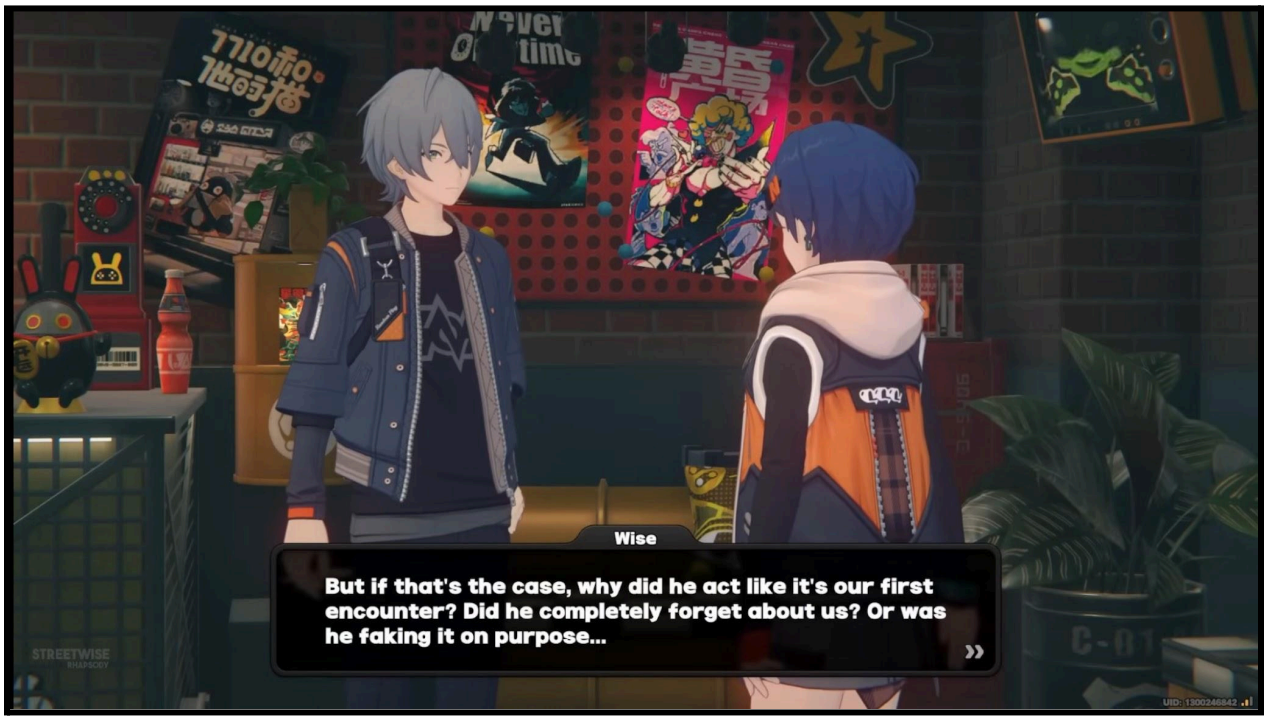
"A Gentleman's Visit (Part 2)"



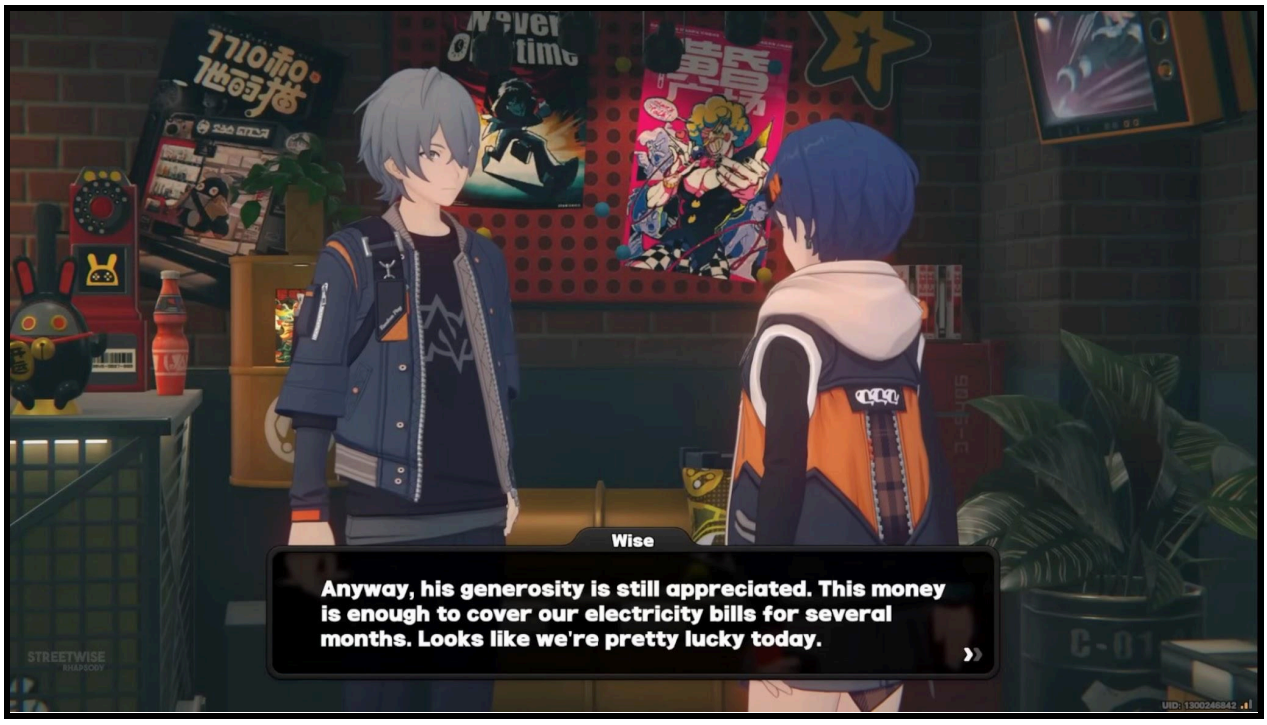


The conversation that follows after Hugo leaves the video store only further validates my previous points. Wise (the second Phaethon as of this point) immediately comments on Hugo's suspicious behavior — a detail that's blatantly obvious at a glance, but critical in confirming Belle's (the main Phaethon as of now) lingering suspicion that they had indeed met Hugo before.

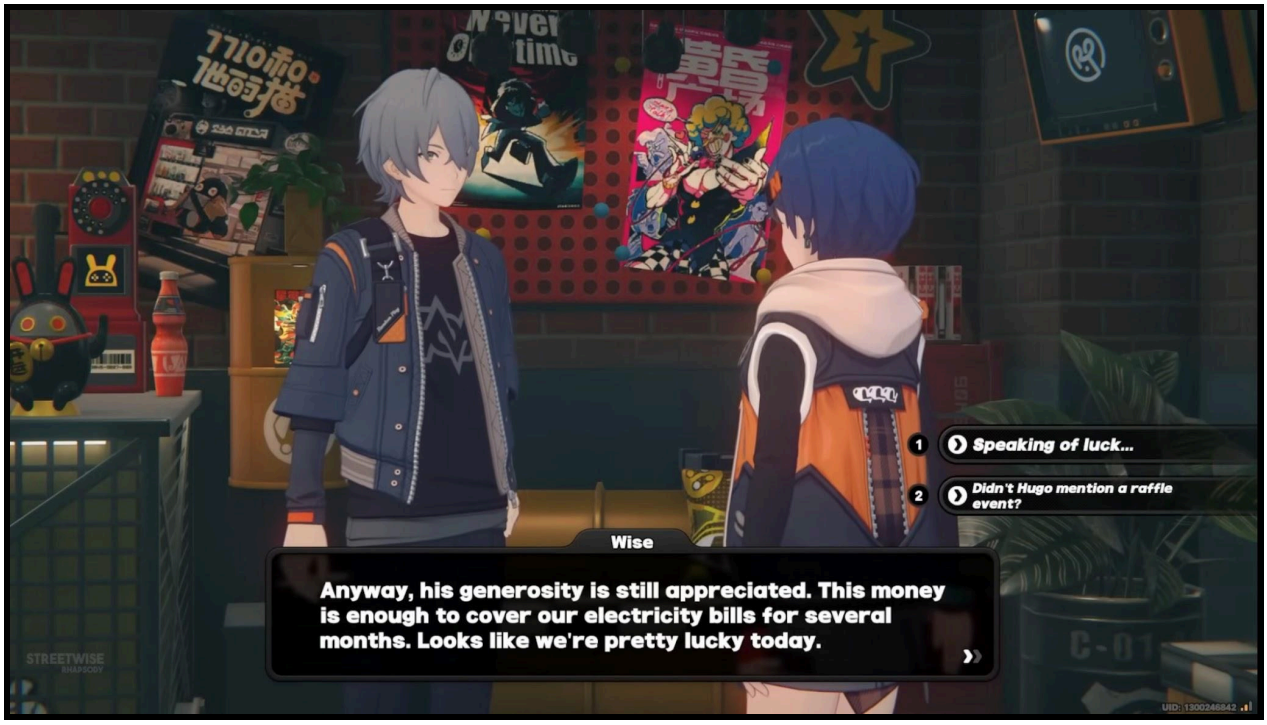


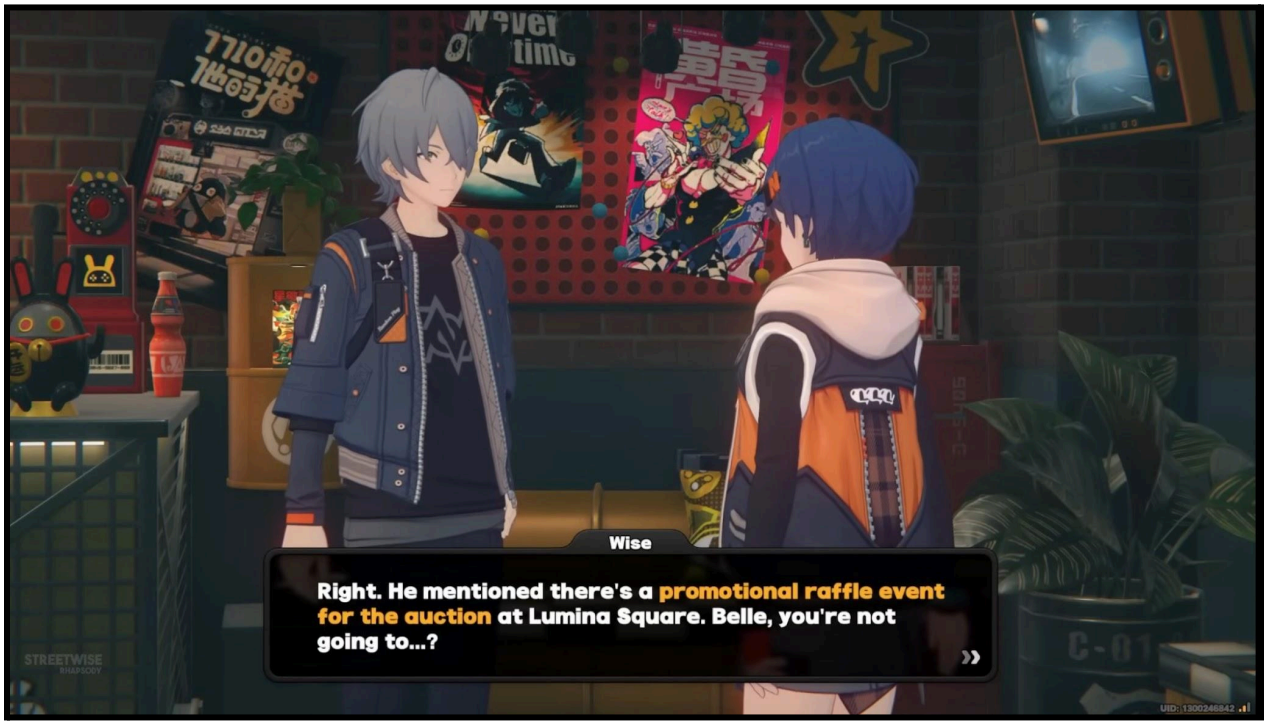


Wise raises the crucial question: was Hugo genuinely unaware of their previous meeting, or was he faking his ignorance? It doesn't take much to realize that the implication is clear — Hugo is faking, continuing the careful performance he has maintained throughout the encounter.



Hugo’s strategy of building a notable connection with Belle proves effective, particularly through his repeated acts of "generosity." Wise even begins brushing off their earlier doubts about Hugo, precisely because of those acts. Hugo's subtle manipulation works: the suspicious behaviors that might otherwise have raised alarms are overshadowed by the impression of kindness and investment that he intentionally cultivated.



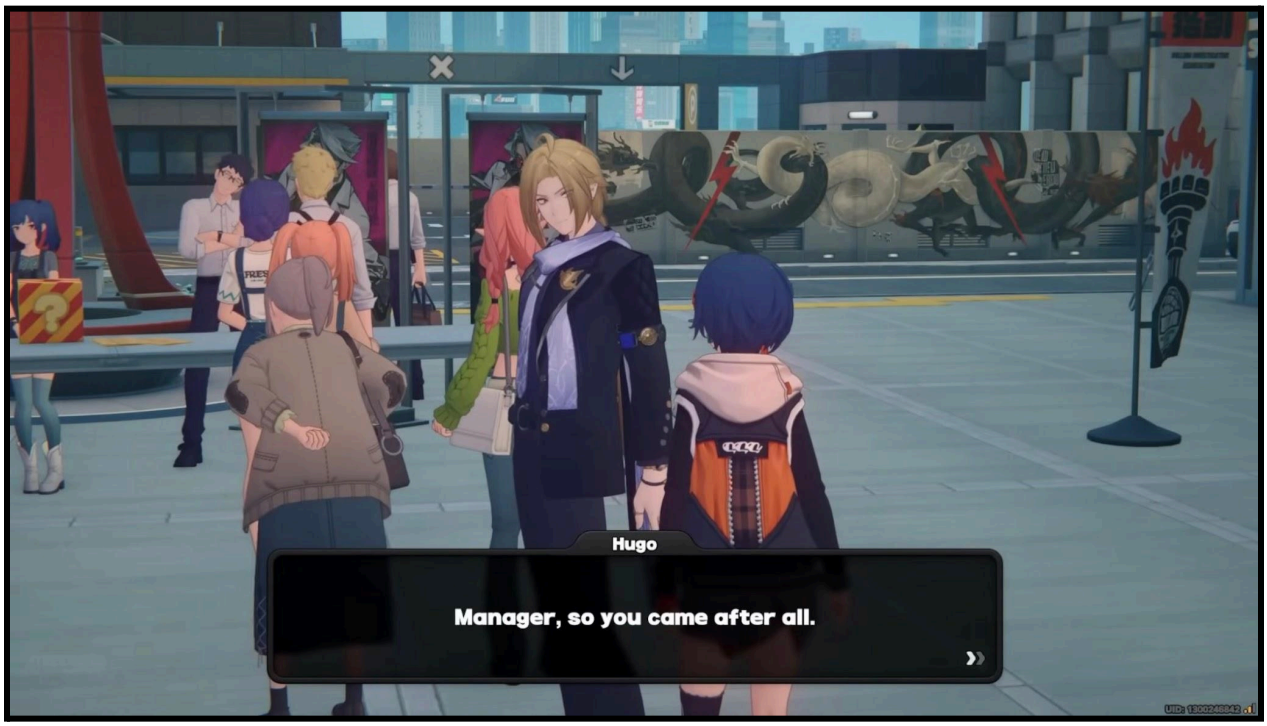


One point that remains uncertain is whether Hugo anticipated Wise mentioning "luck," or if he simply left enough openings in the conversation to allow for it. Either way, the effect is the same — the casual mention of luck gives Belle a reason to recall Hugo’s parting words, sparking a clear, visible interest. Even the dialogue options offered to Belle reflect that the thought was seeded successfully, as she would have excused attending for multiple reasons regardless.

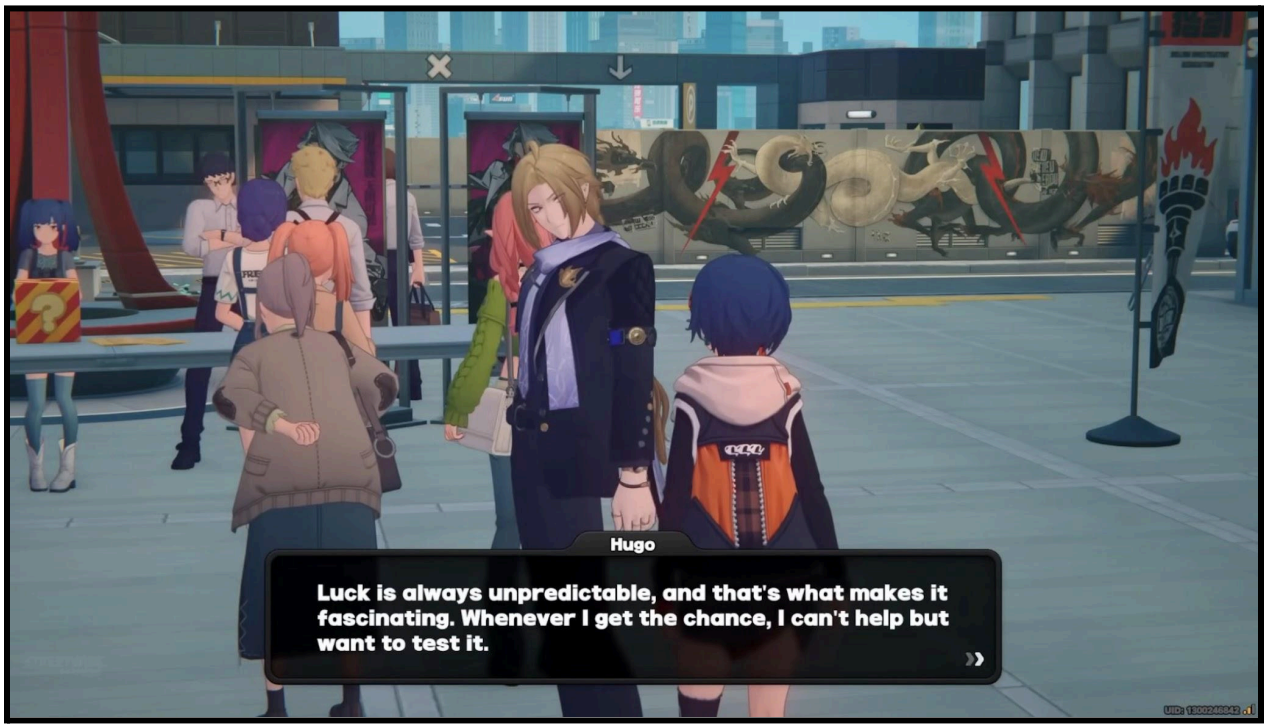
Ultimately, Belle leaves the store intrigued — exactly as Hugo had intended. Every step of the interaction, from the false ignorance to the carefully placed temptations, was orchestrated to lead her into taking the next step on her own.

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“A Gentleman’s Visit (Part 3)”







Belle eventually finds herself at the raffle event, where she meets up with Hugo once again. Hugo casually notes her appearance and brings up the idea of "testing one's luck," just as the opportunity to participate arises. However, the situation quickly escalates when Curtis arrives,

attempting to cut in line while bragging about his prestigious family name. Things take a sharp turn when Curtis realizes his wallet is missing and immediately accuses Belle of stealing it.





Before tensions can rise further, Hugo steps in, calmly criticizing Curtis for making baseless accusations. Belle then engages Curtis in a "debate," systematically breaking down his

arguments by targeting the weaknesses of his personality — a confrontation that highlights her sharp, analytical thinking. Hugo observes Belle's approach with interest, noting her ability to adapt her strategy based on the person she’s facing. His reaction subtly implies that he was already familiar with Curtis’s character and personality even before this encounter, observing both Belle and Curtis carefully.

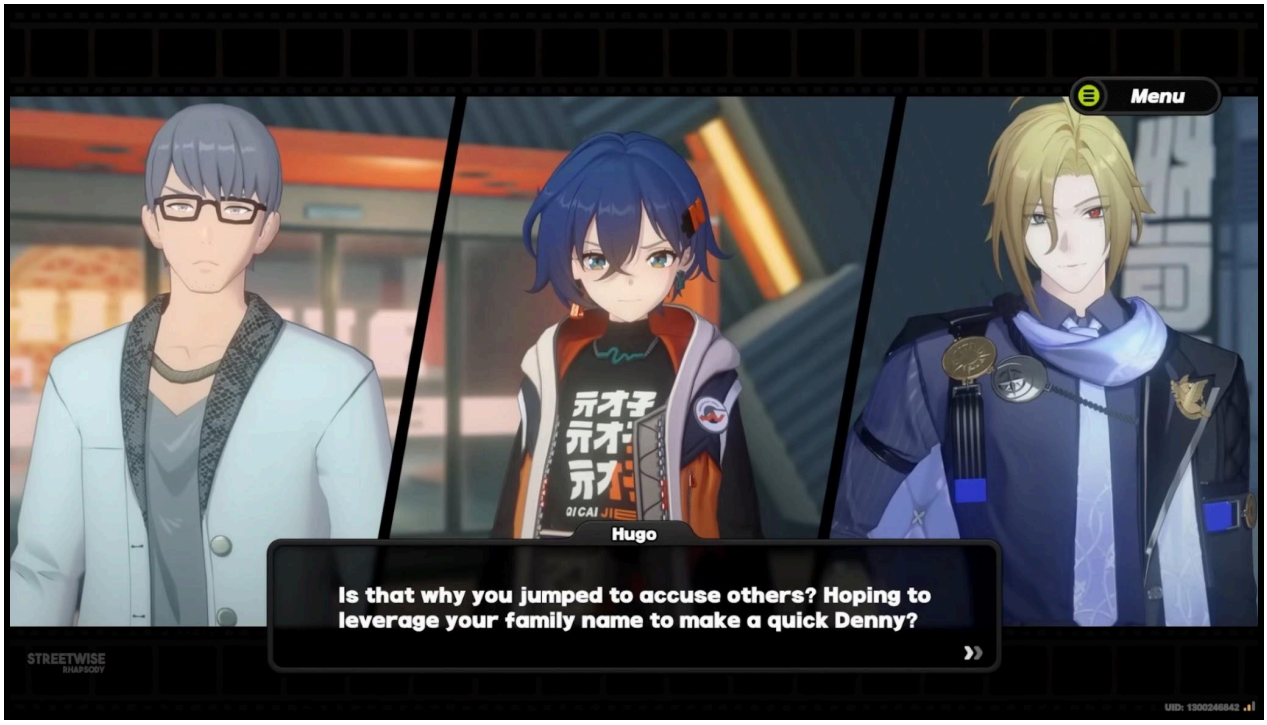



Menu
Hugo
Your outfit, while elegant, shows un-ironed creases and noticeable signs of wear. You've likely worn it for a long time.
STREETWISE
RHAPSODY
UID: 1300246842


Menu
Hugo
Plus, the wet ink on your cuffs suggests that you rushed straight here from your workplace — likely so you wouldn't miss today's raffle.
STREETWISE
RHAPSODY
UID: 1300246843

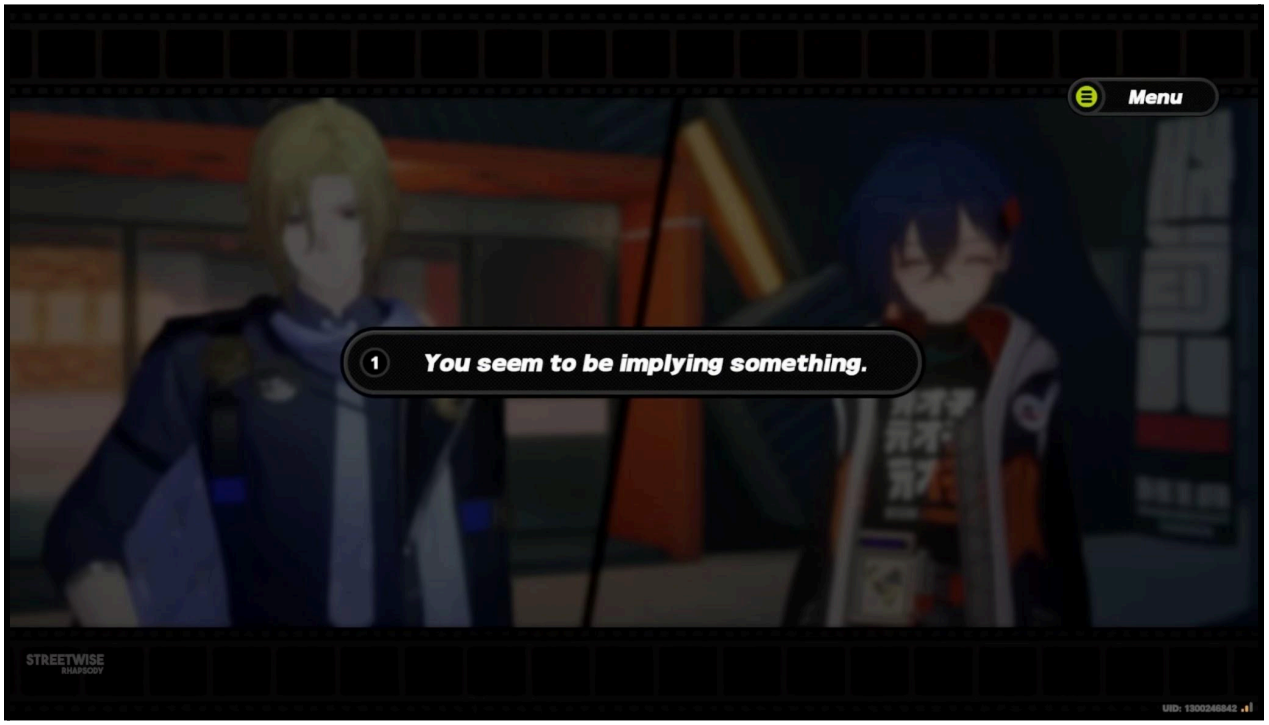

Menu
Hugo
All in all, it's clear you're not well off and quite careless — chances are you lost your wallet yourself, and it probably didn't hold much cash.
STREETWISE
RHAPSODY
UID: 1300246842


Menu
Hugo
All in all, it's clear you're not well off and quite careless — chances are you lost your wallet yourself, and it probably didn't hold much cash.
STREETWISE
RHAPSODY
UID: 1300246842



To completely dismantle Curtis's accusations, Hugo adds the final blow with a thorough and elaborate analysis. He points out the creases and signs of wear on Curtis's clothes, deduces the timeline from the faded quality, notes the wet ink staining Curtis's cuffs, and ties it all together to reveal that Curtis likely didn't even have his wallet to begin with. Instead, Curtis was probably trying to use his family name as leverage to scam someone for easy money. Cornered with no argument left, Curtis is forced to retreat and leave the scene.


Menu
Hugo
That's why sometimes I don't mind resorting to unconventional methods to right the wrongs.
STREETWISE
RHAPSODY
UID: 1300246842


Menu
1 You seem to be implying something.
STREETWISE
RHAPSODY
UID: 1300246842





Belle thanks Hugo for his assistance, commenting that the situation might have dragged on endlessly without his help. However, Hugo humbly deflects the praise, stating that Belle handled it herself — he merely provided a slight push at the end. As they talk further, Hugo explains his view on conflicts like these, describing how rational observation can often turn a volatile

situation around. He even subtly hints that he might have had a larger hand in the situation than it first appeared — a detail that Belle quickly picks up on. Hugo, staying true to his nature, brushes off the implication to avoid "spoiling the fun."







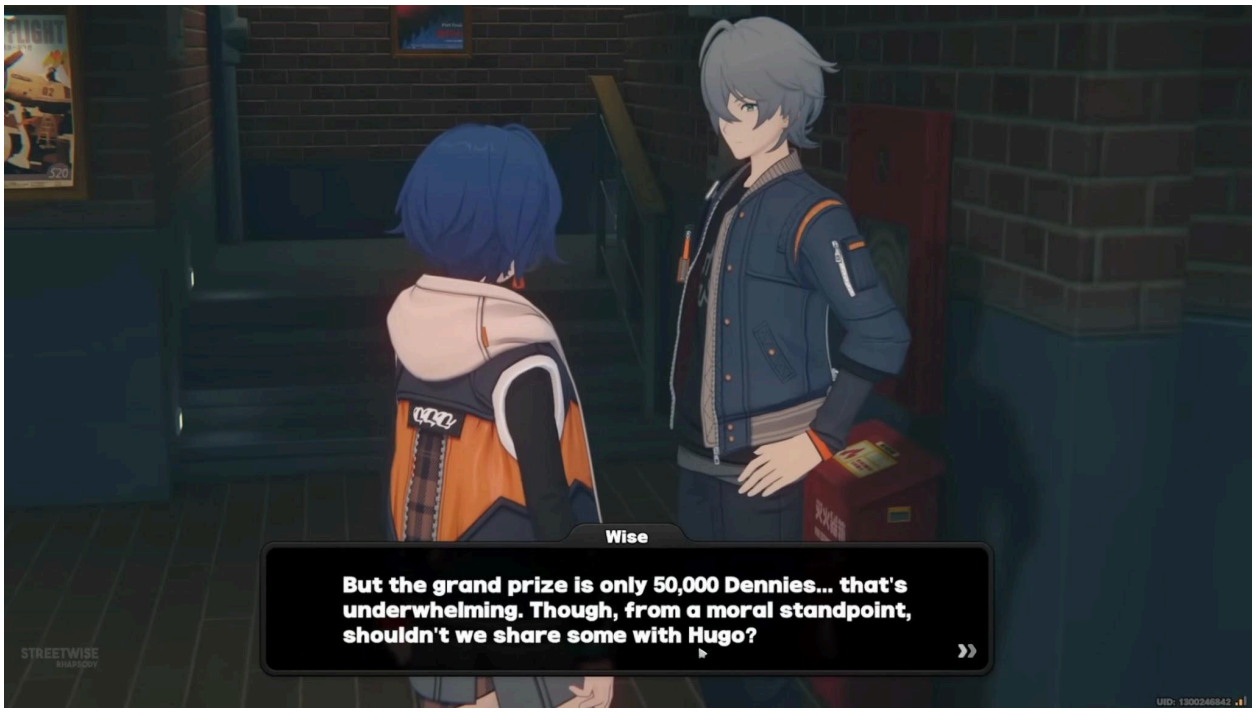


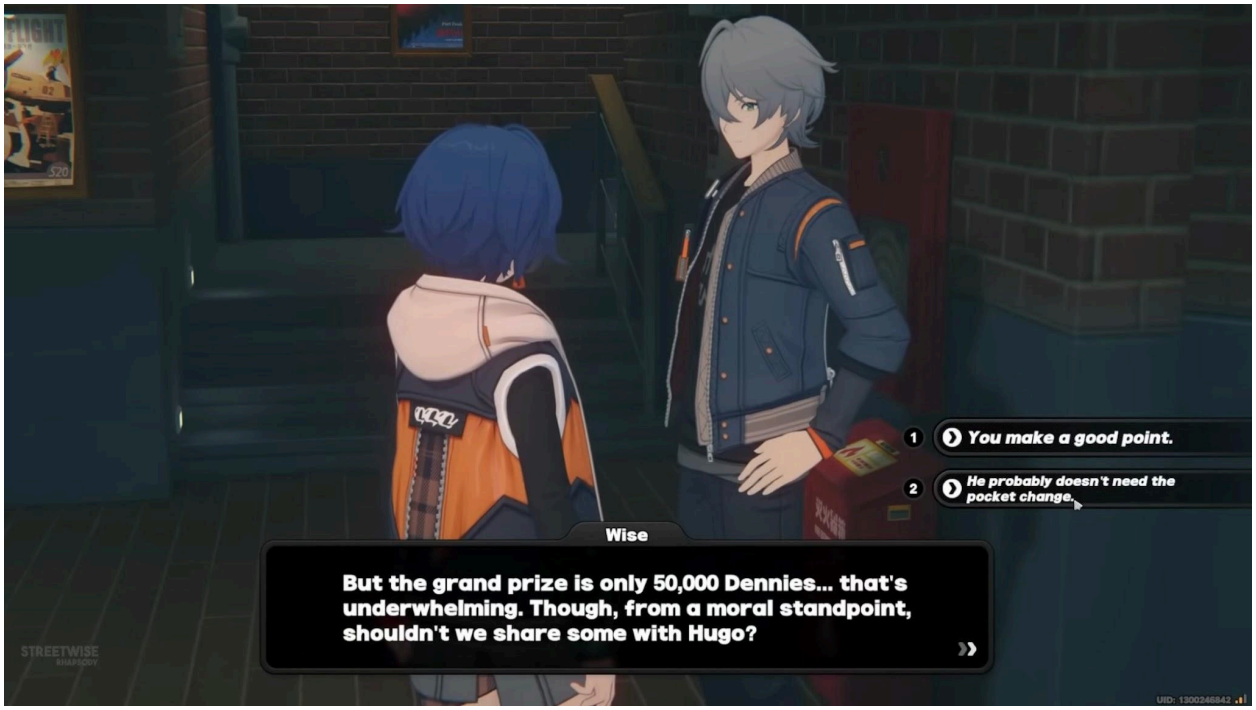
To mark the occasion, Hugo hands Belle his own raffle ticket before explaining the basics of *Ravenlock*, the next step of the unfolding events while indiscriminately giving everyone pieces of change that was stolen from Curits. After Hugo leaves, Belle soon realizes that the ticket he gave her was the winning one — a final, quiet gesture showing that Hugo had been orchestrating the

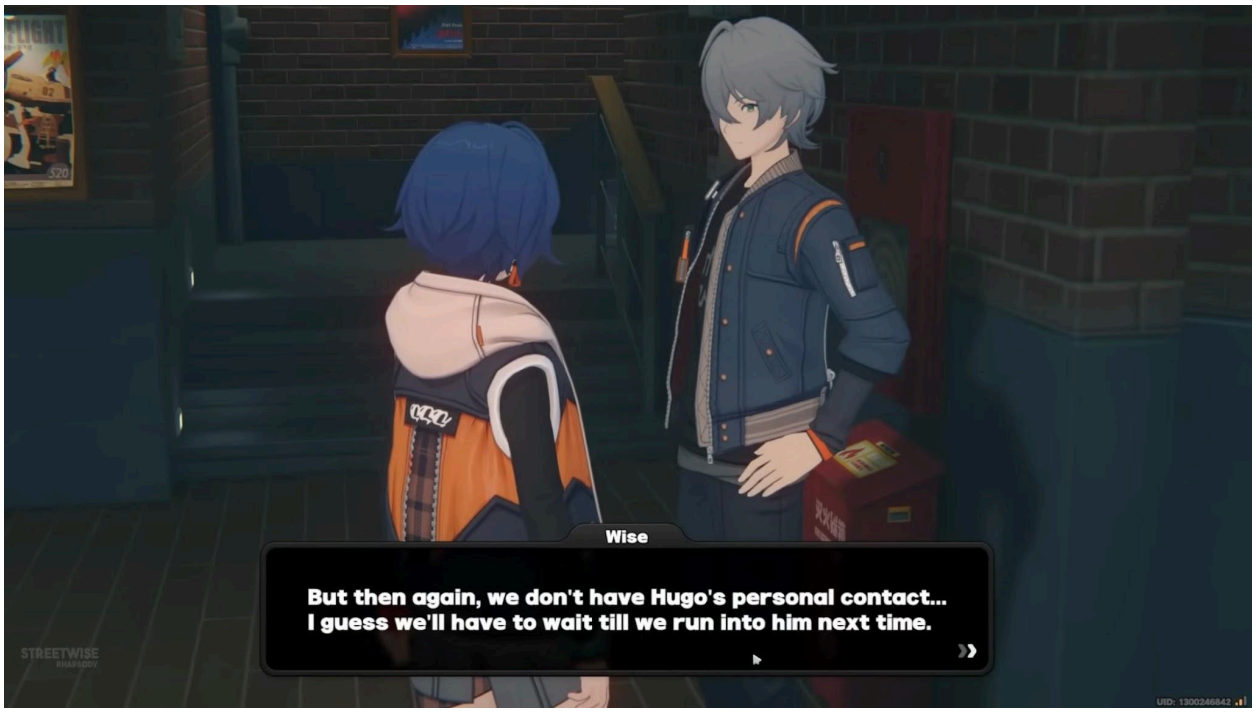
situation all along, ensuring that Belle would be pushed just a little further into his carefully constructed path.

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“A Gentleman’s Visit (Part 4)”







After returning to the video store, Belle talks with Wise about her lottery winnings, and both agree that they should share some of the prize with Hugo, since it was his ticket that won. That's when they realize—they don't actually have any way to contact him. So, they decide to wait until their paths cross again.

It’s difficult to say exactly how he did it, but it becomes clear that Hugo somehow rigged the lottery in his favor, managing to acquire the winning ticket in a way that feels too calculated to be chance. This is further supported by a later event: they need Hugo’s help to get invited into an exclusive auction.

Interestingly, during their initial meeting, Hugo subtly left behind a clue for how to reach him—something only possible for someone holding the winning ticket. He knew they’d try to find him eventually, and the question of how to contact him becomes crucial as the next part of the story unfolds.

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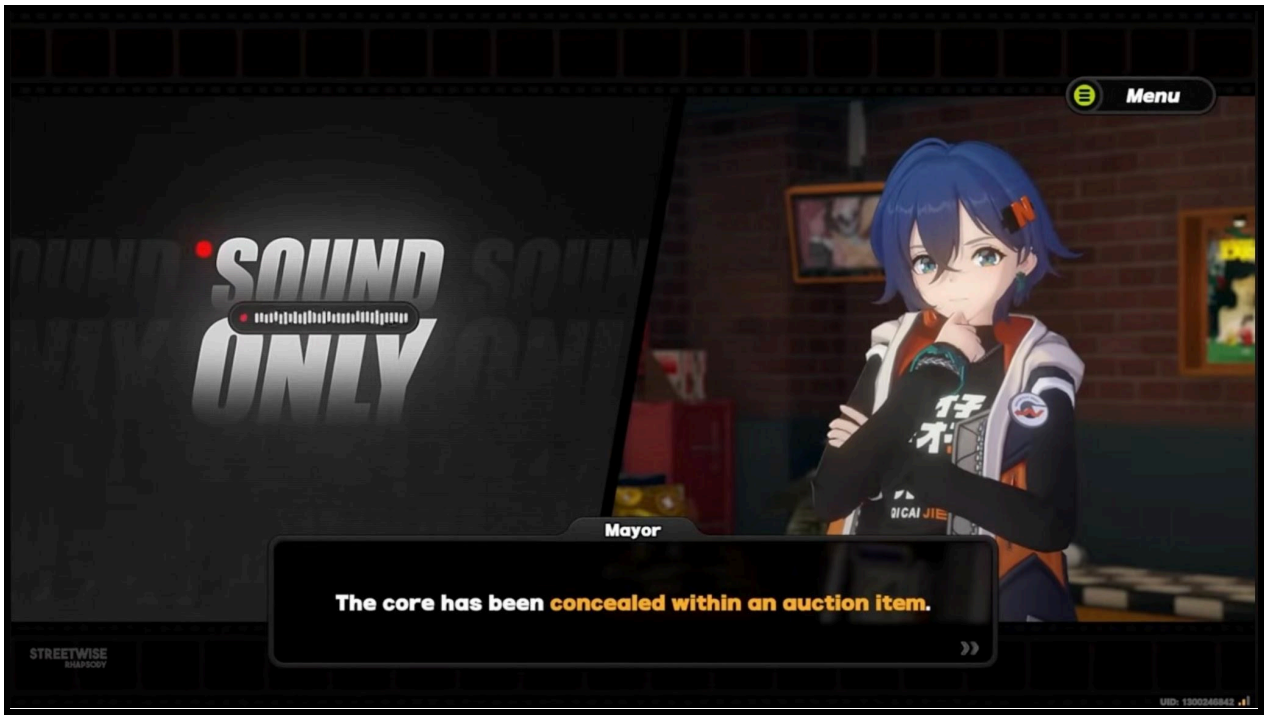
“With great power comes great… (Part 1)”

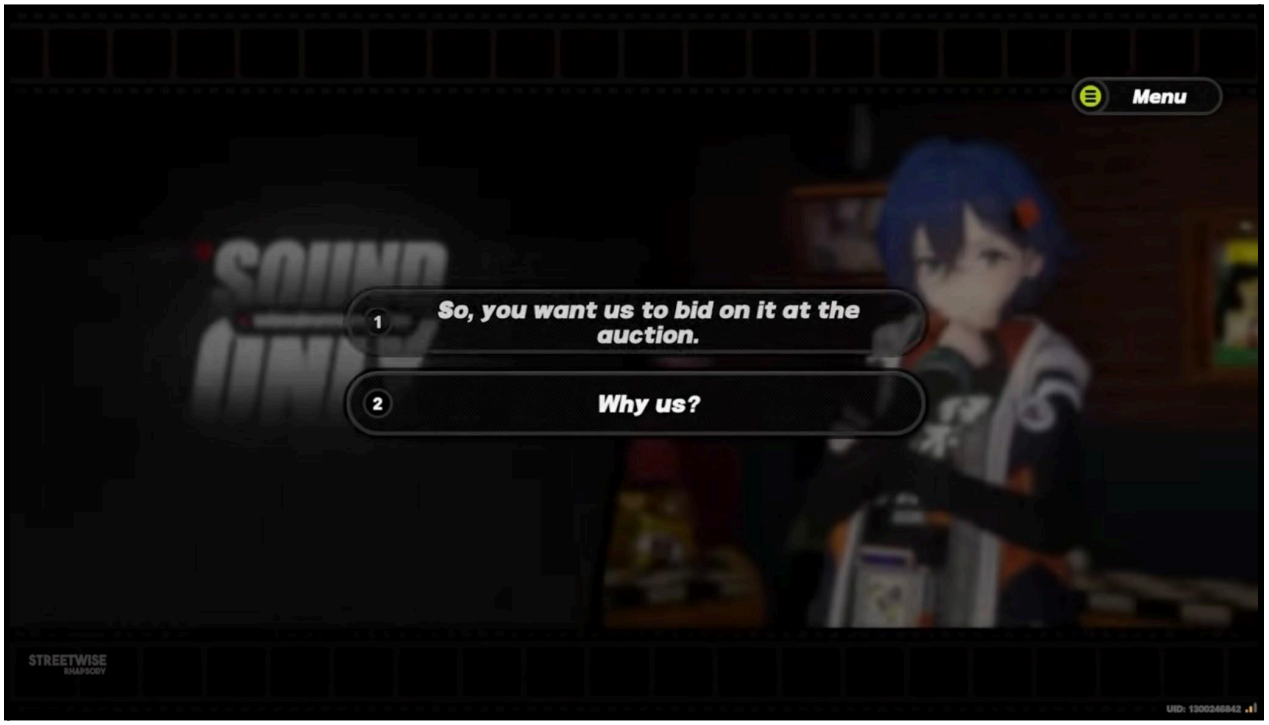




After Belle and The Mayor make contact at Lycaon's request, Belle gains the ability to enter the Hollows, adapting more quickly than Wise ever could. It's at this point that The Mayor reveals he had contacted Phaethon for a specific purpose: to attend a high-profile industry auction and secure a particular item up for bid.

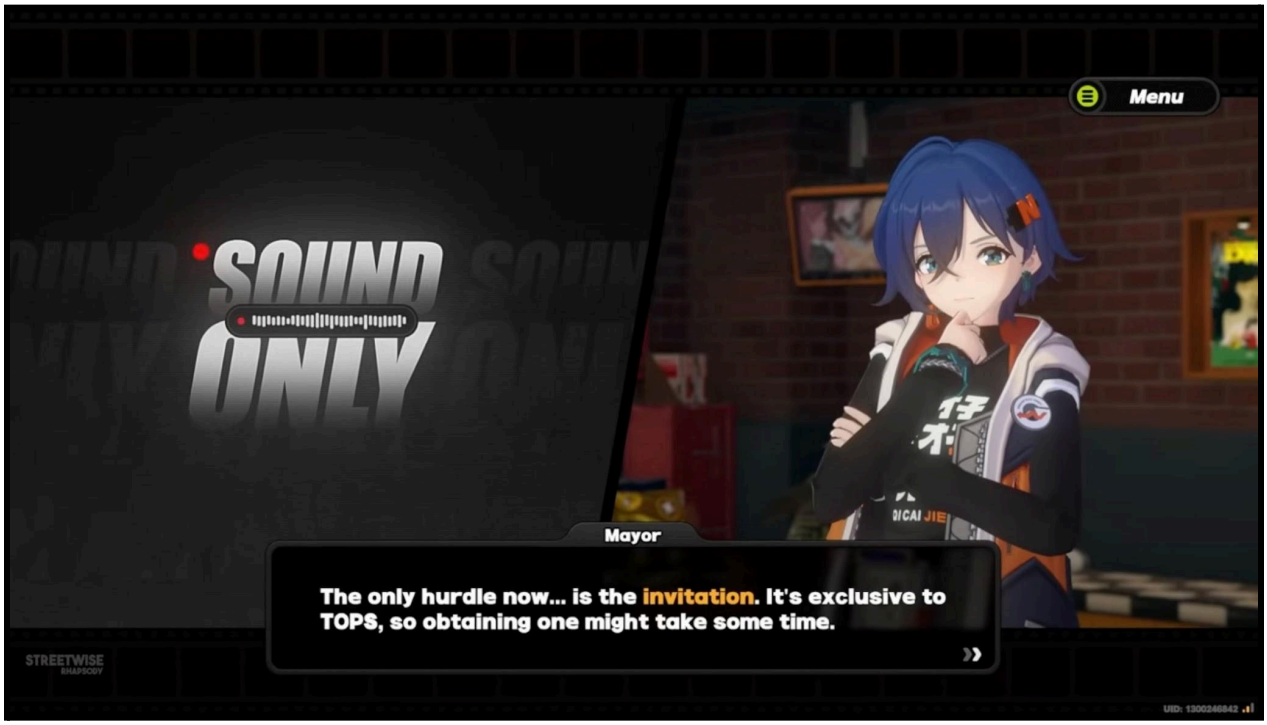
Belle immediately recognizes the auction, having heard of it before. However, The Mayor misinterprets her familiarity, assuming she knows about it due to her position as Phaethon—unaware that she only recently stepped into the role, even though he already knows who Phaethon is.





The Mayor goes on to explain that the auction ties directly into the Sacrifice, centering around a mysterious core that was stolen. It’s now hidden within the robe of a "hero" once affiliated with Joyous. Due to the political tension and the presence of a traitor responsible for the theft, The

Mayor asks Phaethon to attend in his place to maintain a low profile. His public status would make his participation too risky, both symbolically and strategically.

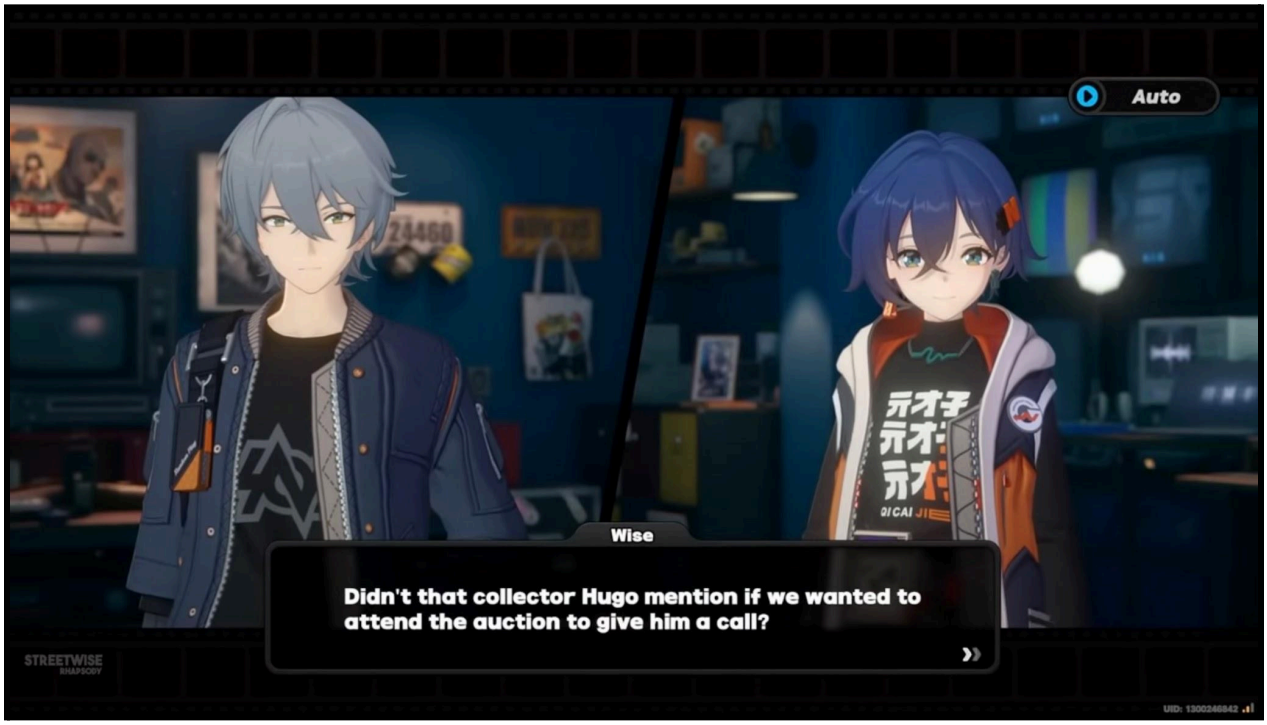


However, there's one major complication: acquiring an invitation. The Mayor emphasizes how difficult it will be to get one, reinforcing the stakes.

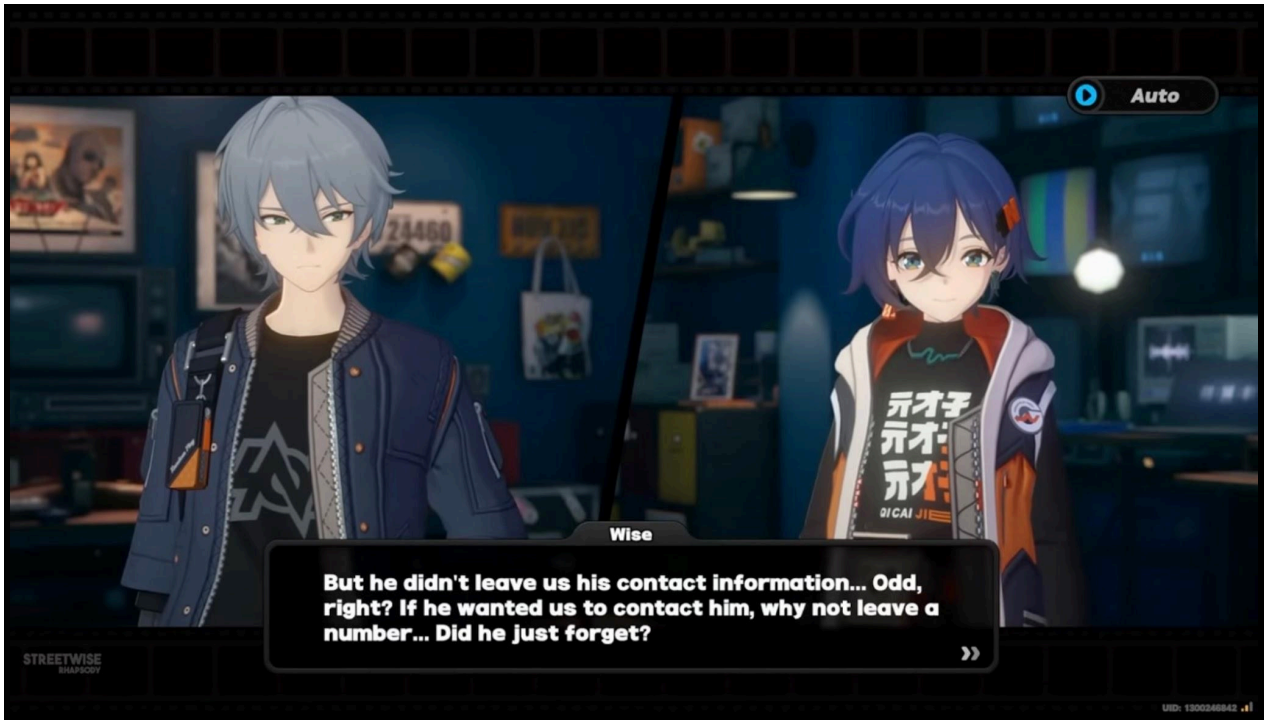
What's most notable about this exchange is that Hugo had already anticipated all of this. During his earlier conversation with them, he hinted at the need for an invitation—because he knew they'd end up needing one. As becomes clear through later revelations (and even more obvious during a replay), Hugo was the one who stole the Sacrifice's Core in the first place. He put it up for auction himself, orchestrating the entire situation to lure both The Mayor and Phaethon into action.

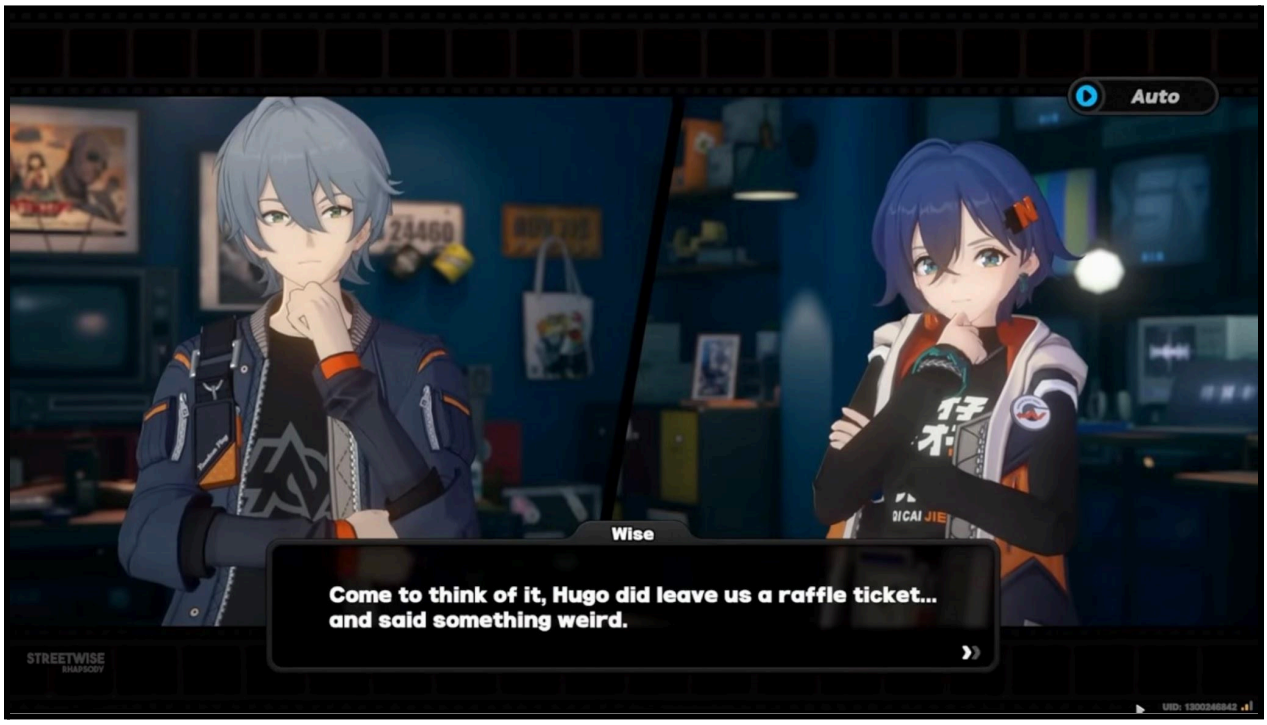
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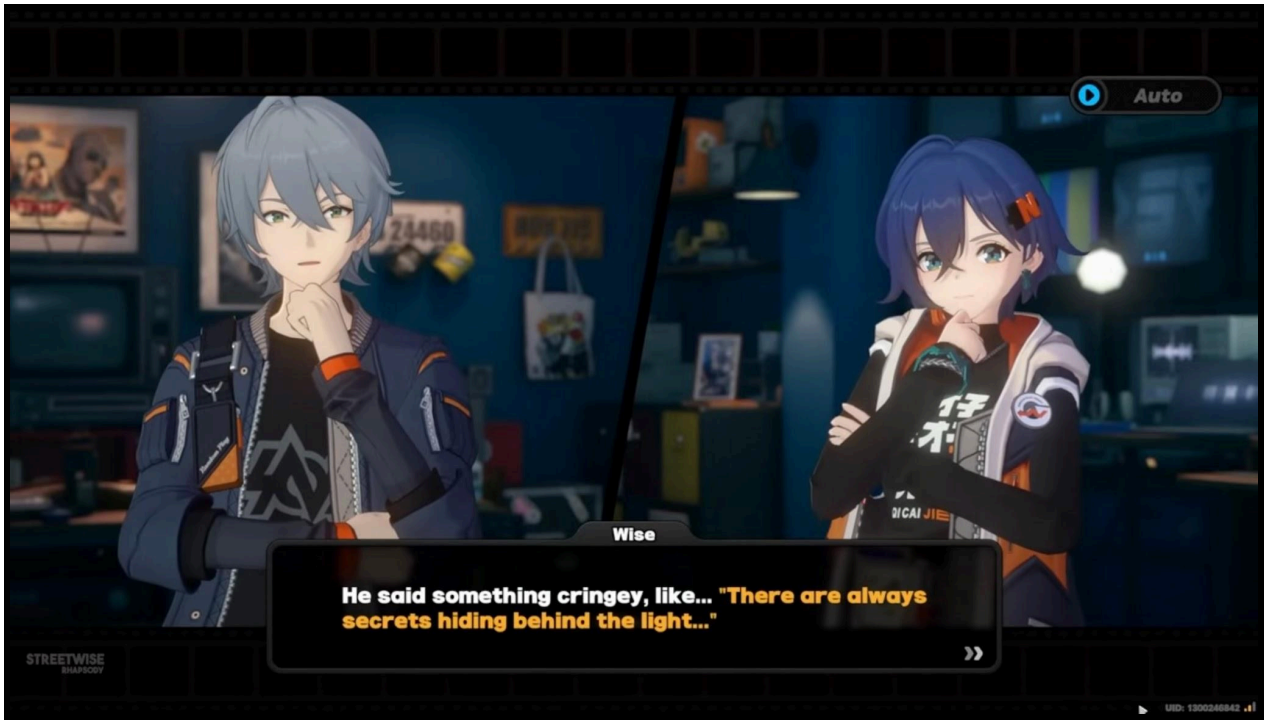
“With great power comes great… (Part 2)”

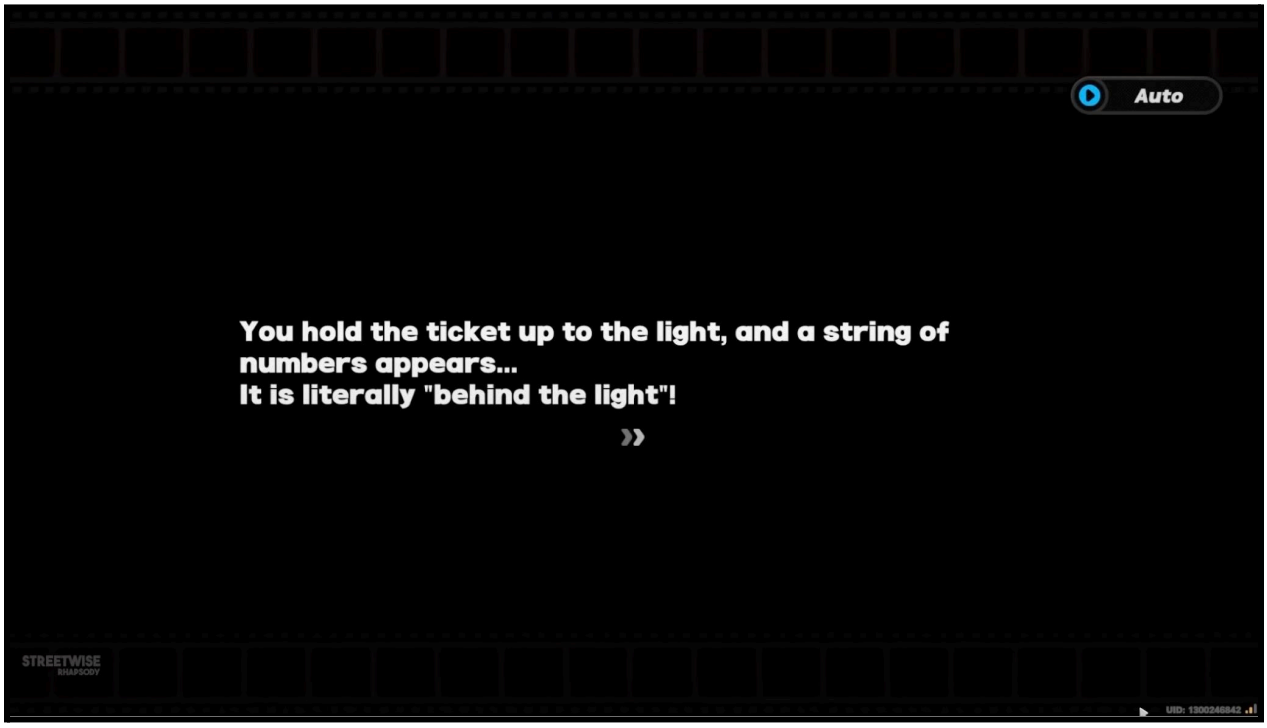


As soon as Wise gets a moment alone with Belle, he brings up Hugo—specifically, the cryptic things he said. It all seems too deliberate. Hugo's been planning something, perhaps for years, as hinted by his ominous "Children of Devils" tale. While it's doubtful he predicted every detail—especially those involving people he's never met—it's clear he crafted a blueprint, not for specific players, but for roles that needed filling. He adapts, manipulates, and nudges fate as needed.

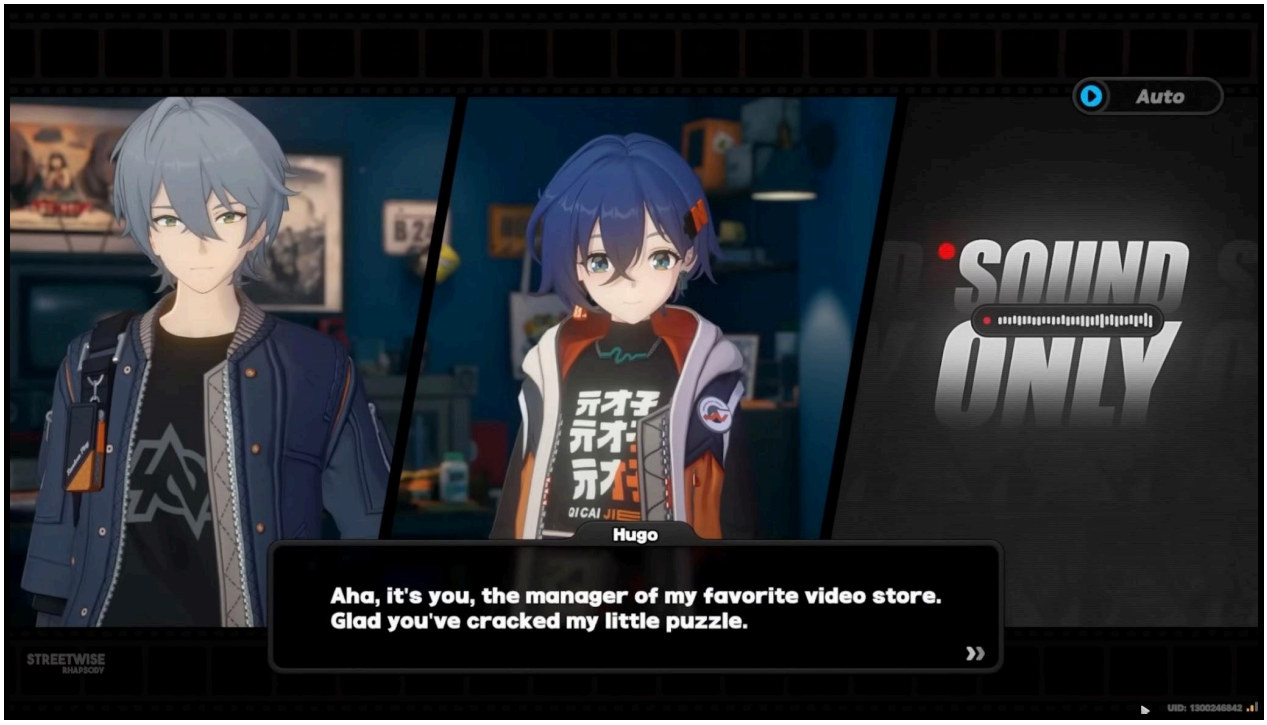

Auto
Wise
But he didn't leave us his contact information... Odd, right? If he wanted us to contact him, why not leave a number... Did he just forget?
STREETWISE
RHAPSODY
UID: 1300246842

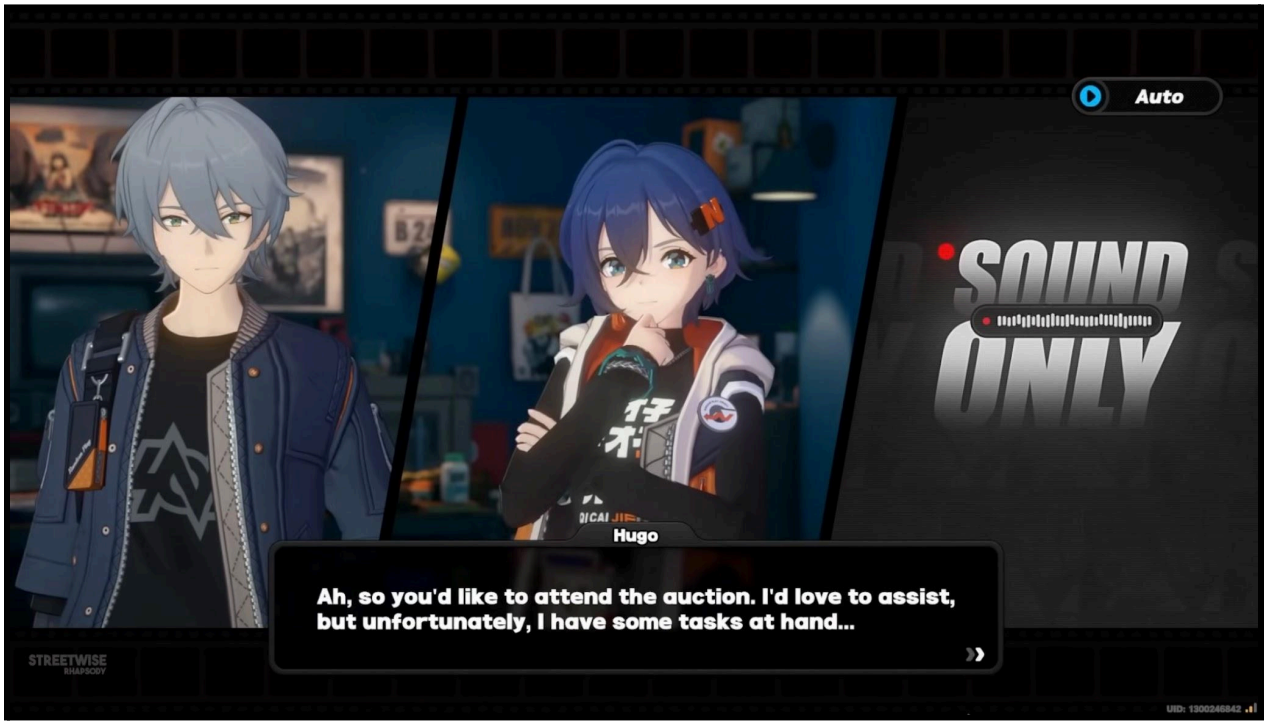

Auto
Wise
Come to think of it, Hugo did leave us a raffle ticket... and said something weird.
STREETWISE
RHAPSODY
UID: 1300246842

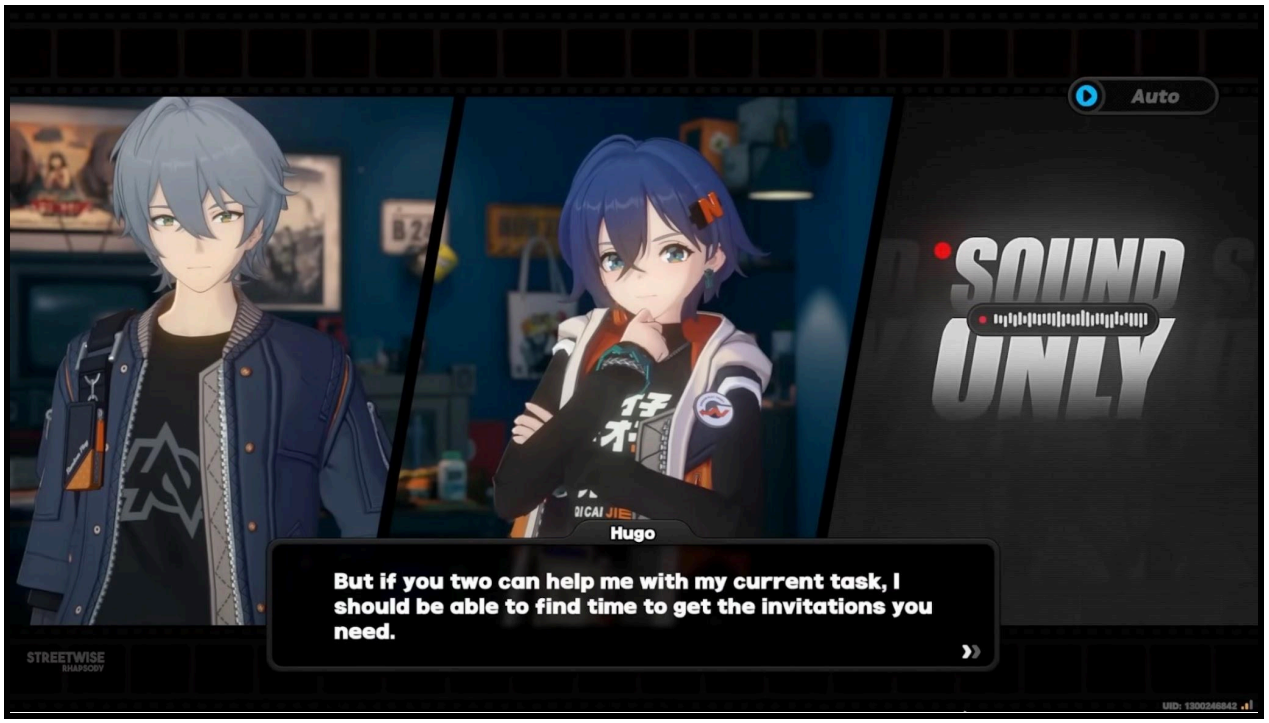




Wise admits he never received Hugo’s info, yet Belle suspects he left behind a clue. Recalling Hugo's parting words, they examine the ticket—and in the right light, his hidden message reveals itself. Puzzle solved. Hugo, ever the puppeteer, smiles from the shadows, awaiting their next move.


Auto
SOUND ONLY
Hugo
Aha, it's you, the manager of my favorite video store.
Glad you've cracked my little puzzle.
STREETWISE
RHAPSODY
UID: 1300246842


Auto
SOUND ONLY
Hugo
Ah, so you'd like to attend the auction. I'd love to assist,
but unfortunately, I have some tasks at hand...
STREETWISE
RHAPSODY
UID: 1300246842


Auto
SOUND ONLY
Hugo
But if you two can help me with my current task, I should be able to find time to get the invitations you need.
STREETWISE
RHAPSODY
UID: 1300246842


Auto
SOUND ONLY
Belle
What kind of task? Is it something I can handle? Nothing too dangerous, I hope...
STREETWISE
RHAPSODY
UID: 1300246842



When they reach out for invitations, Hugo declines—he’s tied up with a task. But he offers a deal: help him, and he’ll make it happen. Belle hesitates, wary of danger, but Hugo assures her it’s nothing like that. If they want answers, they’ll have to meet him in person.

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“With great power comes great… (Part 3)”





When they finally meet, Hugo wastes no time. He tells Belle exactly what he needs: shadow Hartman Ravenlock and report back with every detail. Not just surface-level observations—he wants specifics. Movements, mannerisms, anything unusual. In return, he'll deliver the coveted invitations.







Why? Hugo claims his sources suspect Hartman is orchestrating something dangerous behind closed doors. Belle, he points out, is a perfect candidate—an uninvolved outsider, legally untouchable. And with her ties to Pubsec, any suspicions could be thrown away. With that, Hugo departs, his calm confidence hinting that everything is unfolding exactly as he intended.



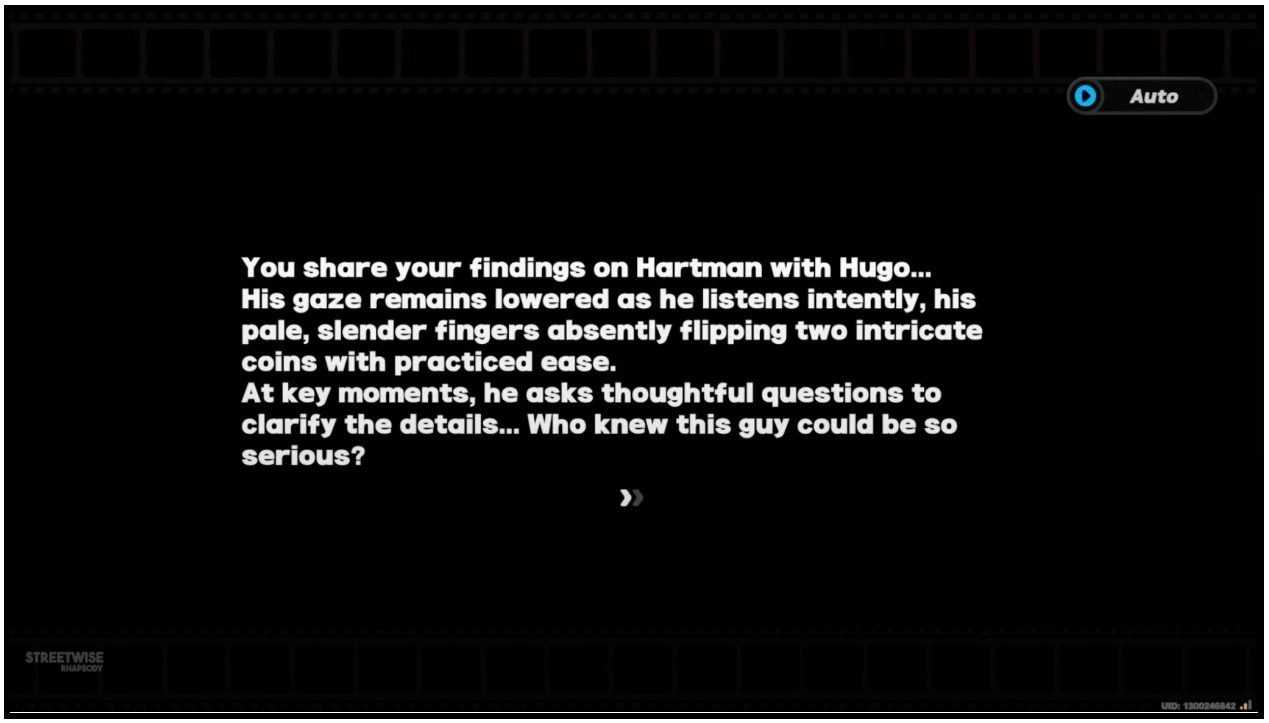


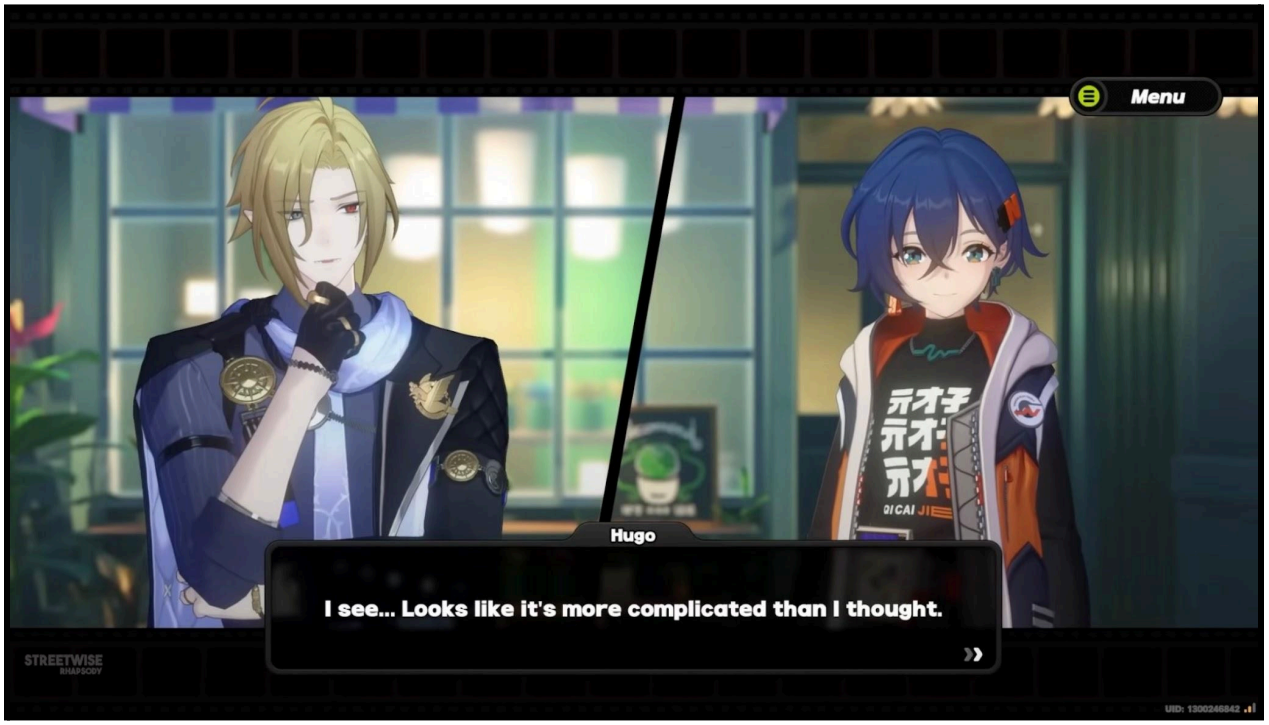
After he's gone, Orchidea quietly reflects on his strangely generous nature. He’s a regular at her flower shop, after all—a friendship born of chance and routine. Yet even that could be another example of his naturally well carried charm.

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“With great power comes great… (Part 4)”

Night falls, and the chase begins. Armed with Hartman’s stolen schedule—courtesy of Hugo—Belle follows him through the shadows, piecing together his secretive movements. It’s not just surveillance; it’s espionage with a purpose. Clues unfold, hinting at something far more calculated than mere paranoia. The pieces of a hidden scheme begin to take shape.


Auto
You share your findings on Hartman with Hugo...
His gaze remains lowered as he listens intently, his pale, slender fingers absently flipping two intricate coins with practiced ease.
At key moments, he asks thoughtful questions to clarify the details... Who knew this guy could be so serious?
STREETWISE
RHAPSODY
UID: 1300246842


Menu
Hugo
I see... Looks like it's more complicated than I thought.
STREETWISE
RHAPSODY
UID: 1300246842





By morning, Belle delivers her findings. Hugo listens intently, prying with sharp, deliberate questions until the picture becomes clear. Grimly, he admits it's worse than expected—but her intel was invaluable. As promised, he hands over the invitations. One was originally his, though he won't be attending. The other? Acquired through unnamed favors and backdoor dealings he

insists are better left unexplained. He makes light of the danger, but the tension in his eyes betrays the weight behind the joke.

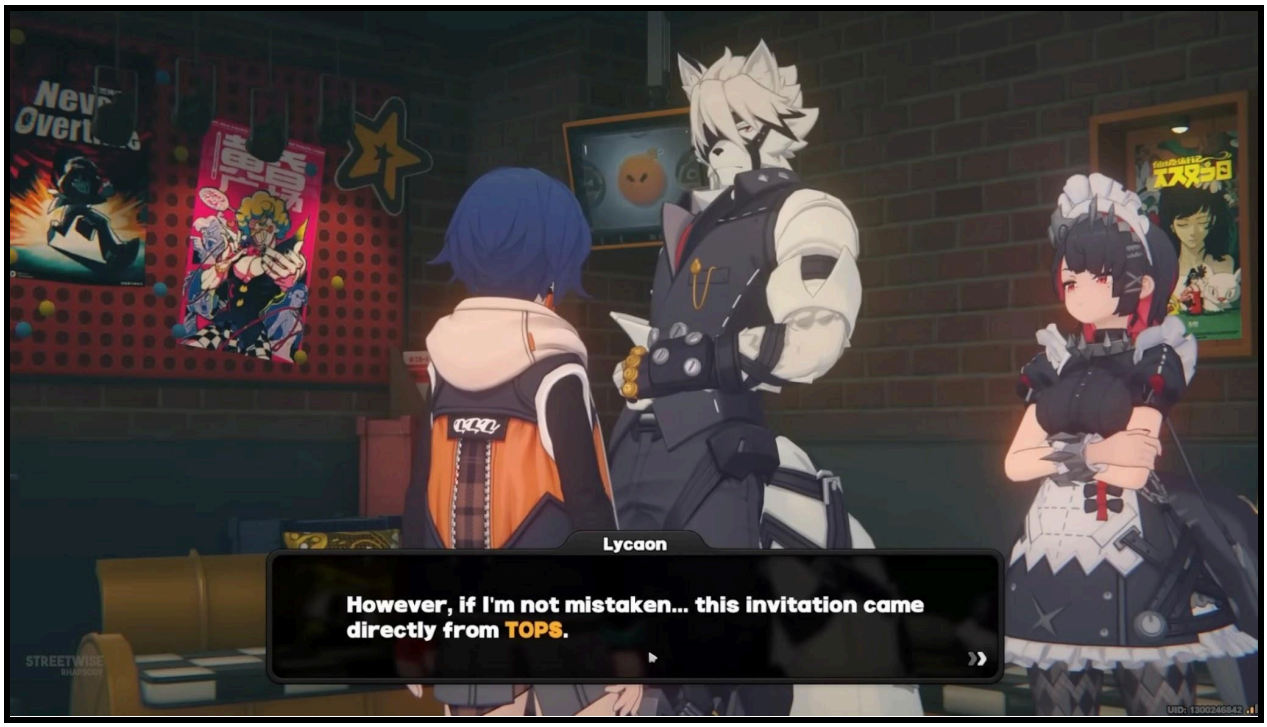






Then, a curveball—he asks Belle what she thinks of family. Her answer, sincere and warm, earns a knowing smile. “Just as expected,” he murmurs. He speaks briefly of himself, dropping just enough to stir curiosity before shifting to a quiet warning: steer clear of Hartman. Not just caution—foreboding. Hugo hints once again that he’s the one who’ll tip the balance of fate when the time is right.

With that, he vanishes into the wind.



Belle contacts Lycaon, confirming the invitations are secure. When they meet, Lycaon remarks on their origin—TOPS. The stage is set. The auction looms.

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“The Mysterious Young Lady’s Gaze”





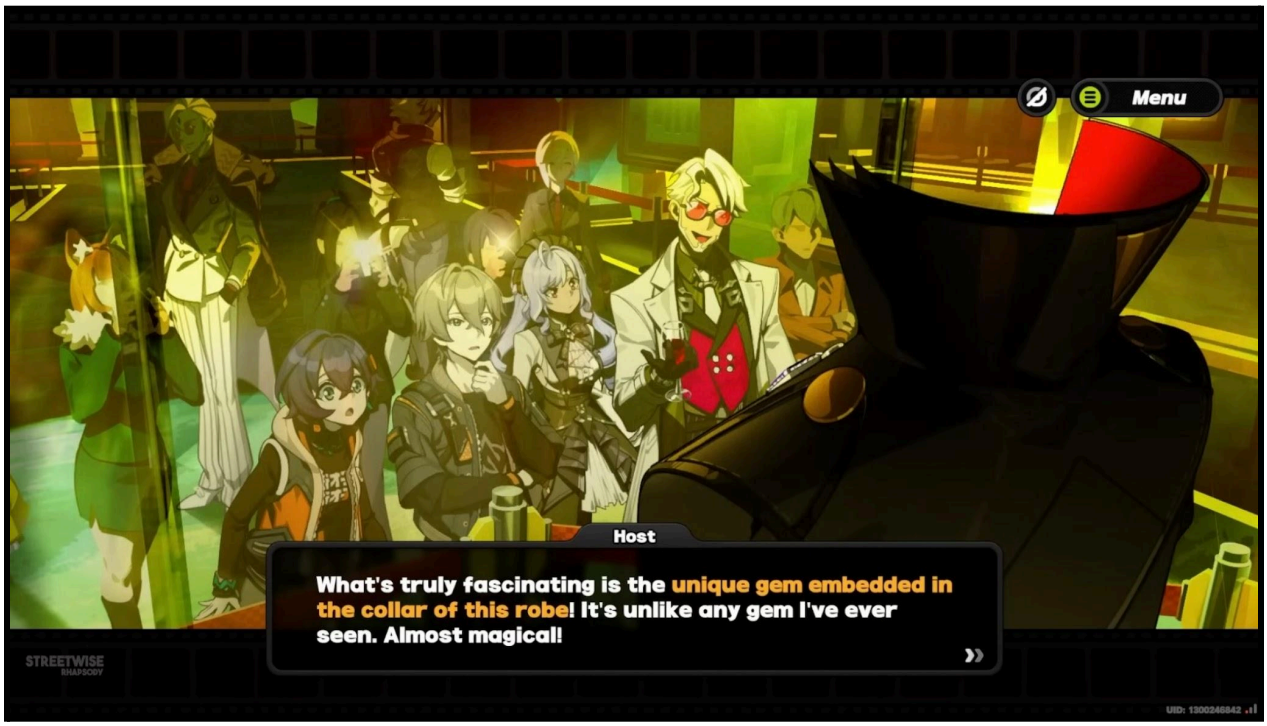


In a brief but striking debut, we meet Vivian—an elusive member of Mockingbird. She addresses Belle as the “Chosen One,” a title that raises more questions than answers. When pressed, Vivian offers no clarity, only a cryptic promise: in time, Belle will understand.

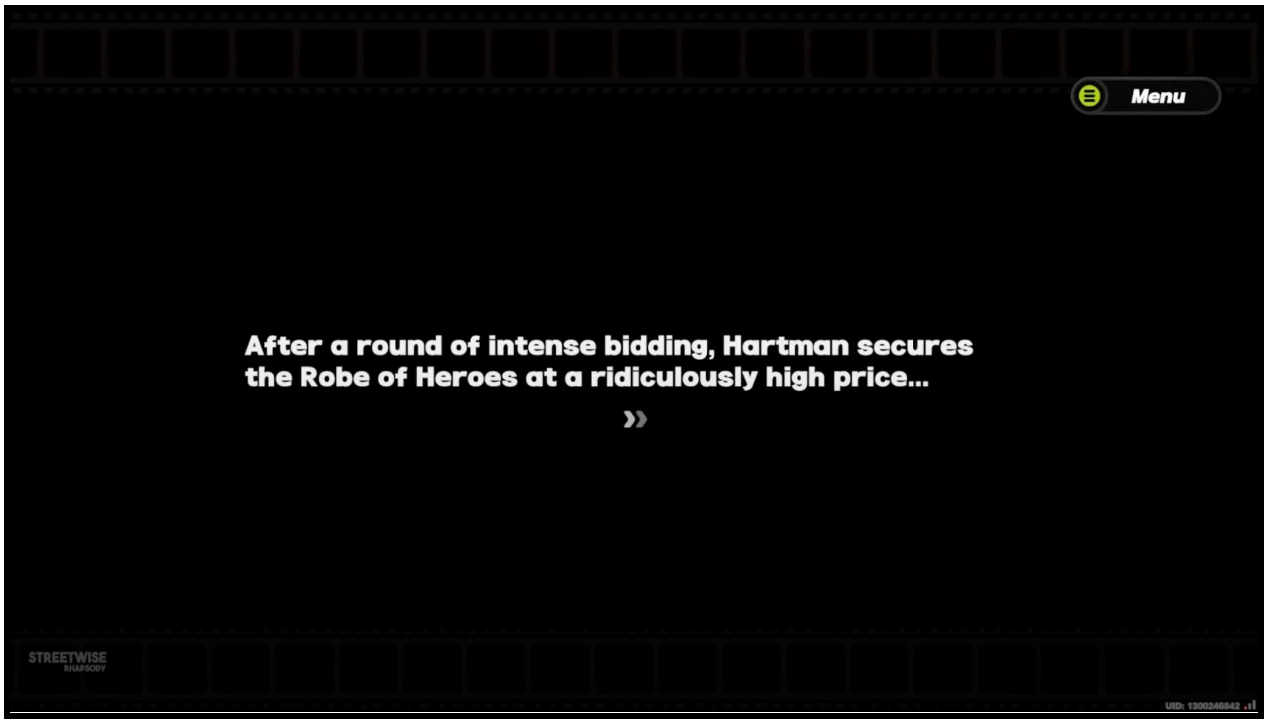
Amidst the auction’s opening, a woman claims to be the widow of one of the items up for bid, but Vivian swiftly silences her. The first half of the auction unfolds without mention of Hugo’s schemes—save for Vivian’s quiet presence, working from the inside, just as planned.

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“Phantom Thief in the Moonlight”







The second half of the auction opens with the Robe of Heroes—housing the very gem The Mayor desperately sought. Hartman, too, has his eyes on the prize, triggering a tense bidding war between him and Belle. In the end, Hartman wins, reveling in his victory with smug satisfaction.

But his celebration is cut short.







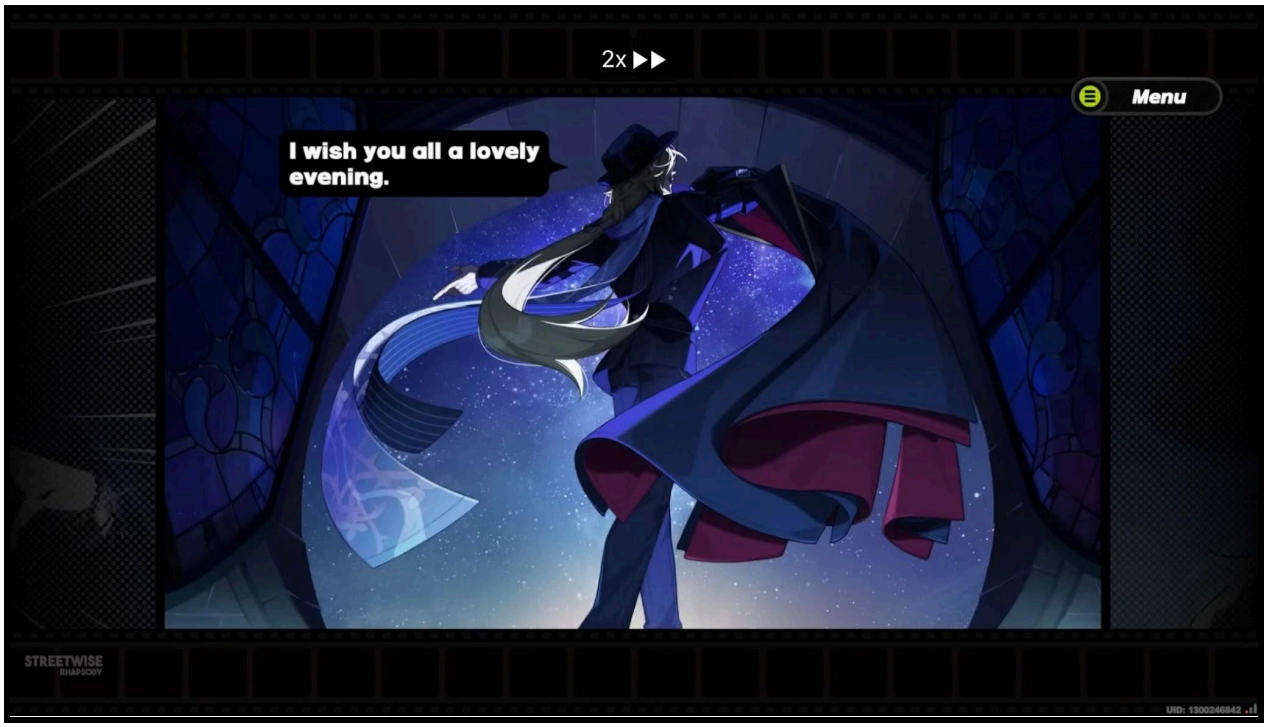
Wise receives a brief message from Hugo: “Look up.” The lights cut out.

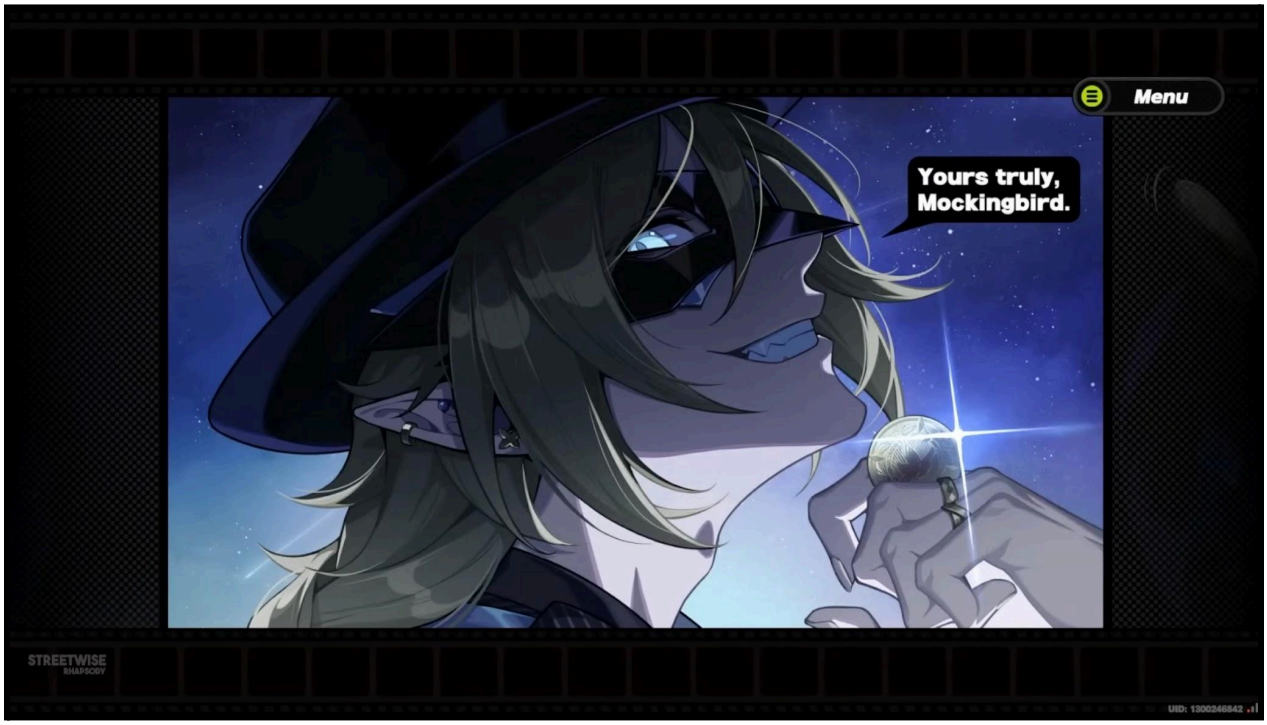
Panic erupts.



When the lights return, all eyes land on Hugo—center stage, calm, commanding. Hartman rushes to intervene, but Hugo brushes him off with a simple declaration: he's merely claiming what’s rightfully his. In his hands now rest the Robe of Heroes and the coveted gem.

Vivian watches silently from the sidelines, her expression unreadable.





With a theatrical bow and a parting line—“Wishing you all a lovely evening”—Hugo vanishes into the chaos.

The scene’s name even has the fitting title: “A Long-Planned Entrance.”

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“Destined to Meet Again (Part 1)”

In the aftermath of Hugo’s dramatic exit, Lycaon quietly confesses a past connection to Mockingbird. Belle, in turn, reveals she’s crossed paths with Hugo before.

Their conversation lingers on the enigmatic man at the center of it all. When Lycaon asks for thoughts on Hugo, two choices emerge—both circling the same truth: Hugo is complex. One path suggests he doesn’t seem inherently kind; the other, that he remains suspicious despite his helpful acts.



Lycaon nods, admitting he doesn’t fully understand Hugo’s motives. But one thing he’s certain of—he knows exactly where Hugo is heading next.

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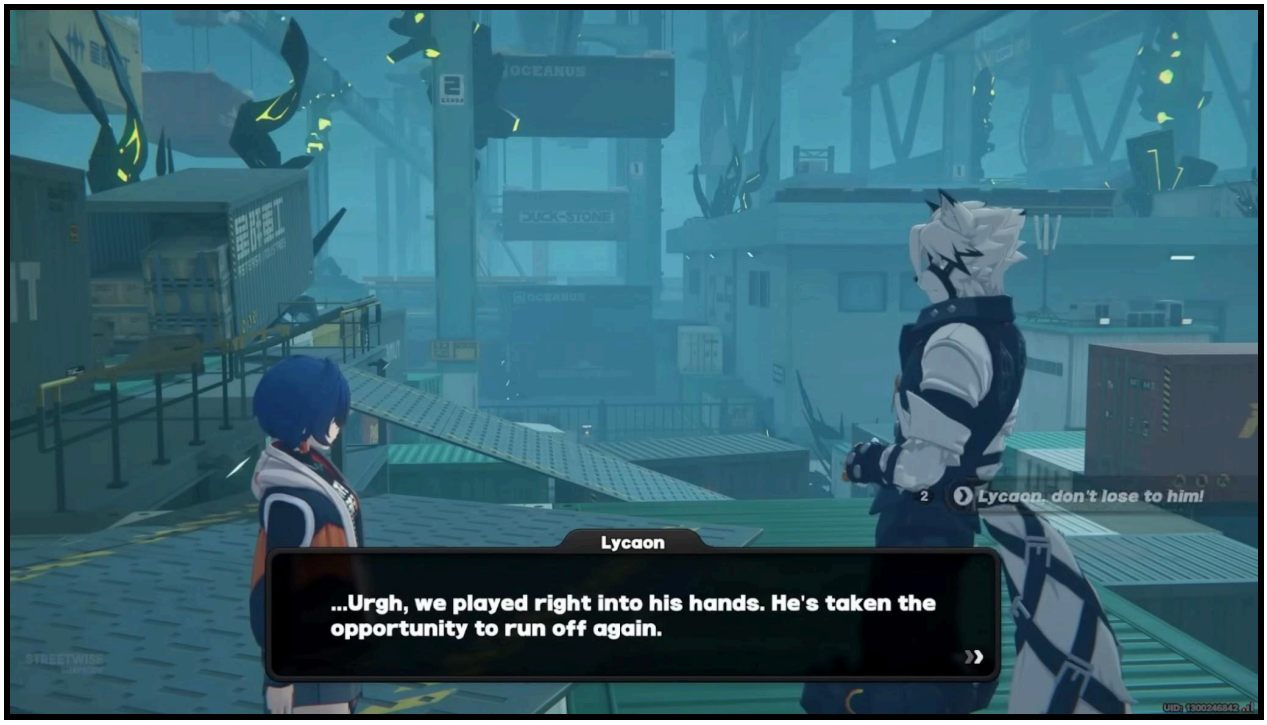
“Destined to Meet Again (Part 2)”



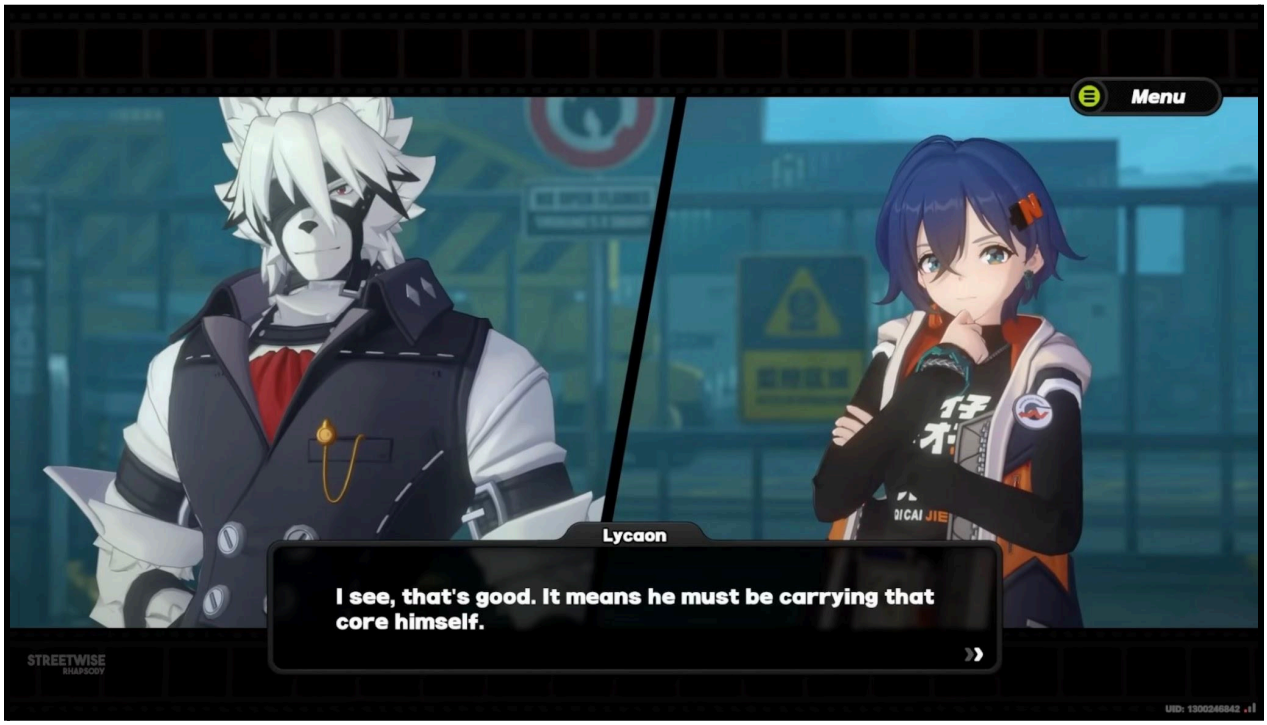
The chase for Hugo begins, with Lycaon leading the way. He explains the terrain—they’re navigating a Hollow, a twisting, unstable zone, and the port’s layout only adds to the complexity. But Hugo knows this place. His past with Lycaon gave him the experience to navigate it—and more importantly, to manipulate it.


K-STONE
Lycaon
He really went to great lengths to block our path...
STREETWISE
RHAPSODY


11378 / 12047
02 1396PTS
UPROAR
41.5m
·· Lycaon ··
It feels too easy. Almost as if... he let us through on purpose.
Q
E
Space
STREETWISE
RHAPSODY



Whether premeditated or improvised, Hugo blocks their path with precision, forcing them onto a seemingly easier route. That's when Lycaon realizes the truth: Hugo wanted them to go this way. While they're diverted, he circles back toward the entrance, gaining critical ground. They're forced to detour.



As they move, they skirt a cluster of Hollow Raiders. Lycaon wonders aloud if Hugo is working with someone new. Belle, however, confirms he's always been alone. That leads Lycaon to suspect Hugo is carrying the Hollow core himself—but we, the audience, know better. His theory misses the mark.

Eventually, the chase ends in a confrontation.

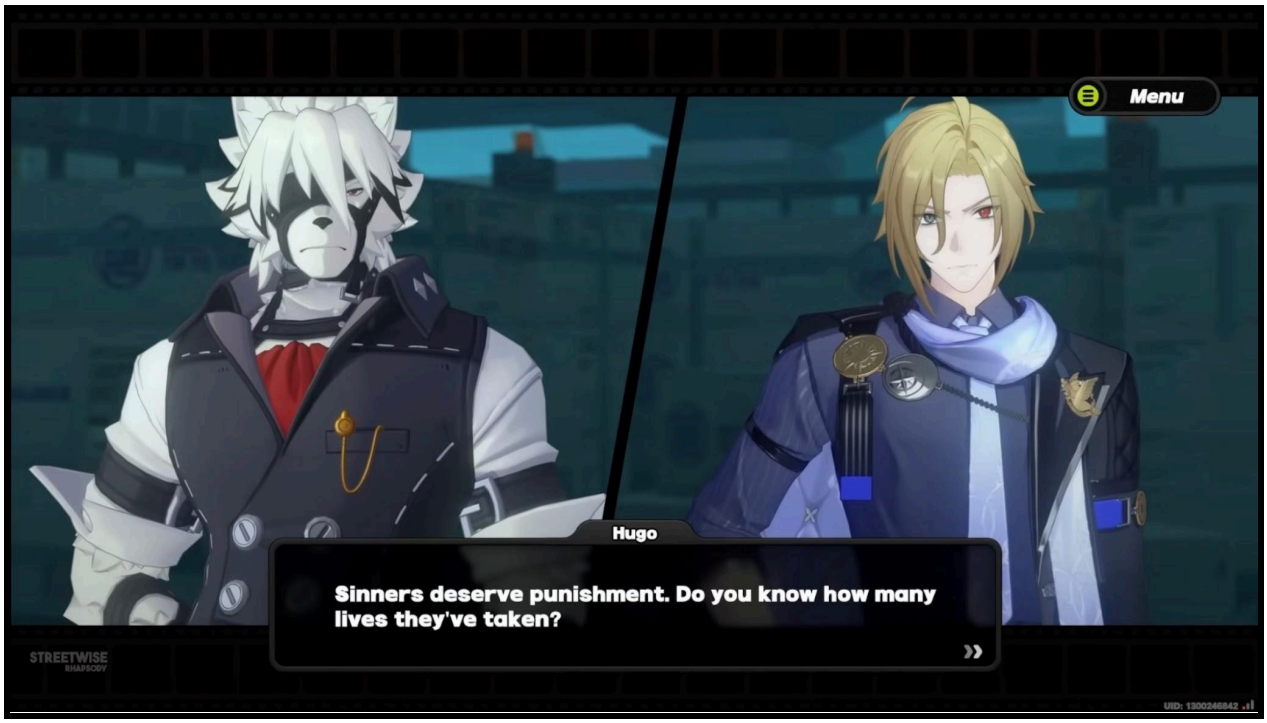
Lycaon and Hugo stand face to face—no weapons yet, only words. They speak of morality, justice, and the ideologies that define them. If there's a moment that encapsulates Hugo's philosophy, it's this.



Then chaos erupts. A group of raiders attempts to kill them both. Hugo effortlessly overpowers them—and moves to end them. Lycaon intervenes, urging him to stop and hand them over instead.


Menu
Hugo
They weren't planning to show you any mercy, yet you forgive them so easily.
STREETWISE
RHAPSODY
UID: 1300246842


Menu
Hugo
To hell with you and your foolish fantasies of being some almighty savior.
STREETWISE
RHAPSODY
UID: 1300246842





But Hugo snaps.

“They weren’t planning to show you any mercy,” he growls. “Yet you forgive them so easily..”

His words drip with conviction. In his eyes, sinners must pay. The story's long-threaded hints at his Robin Hood persona come to a head here—his justice is absolute, unforgiving, and entirely his own.

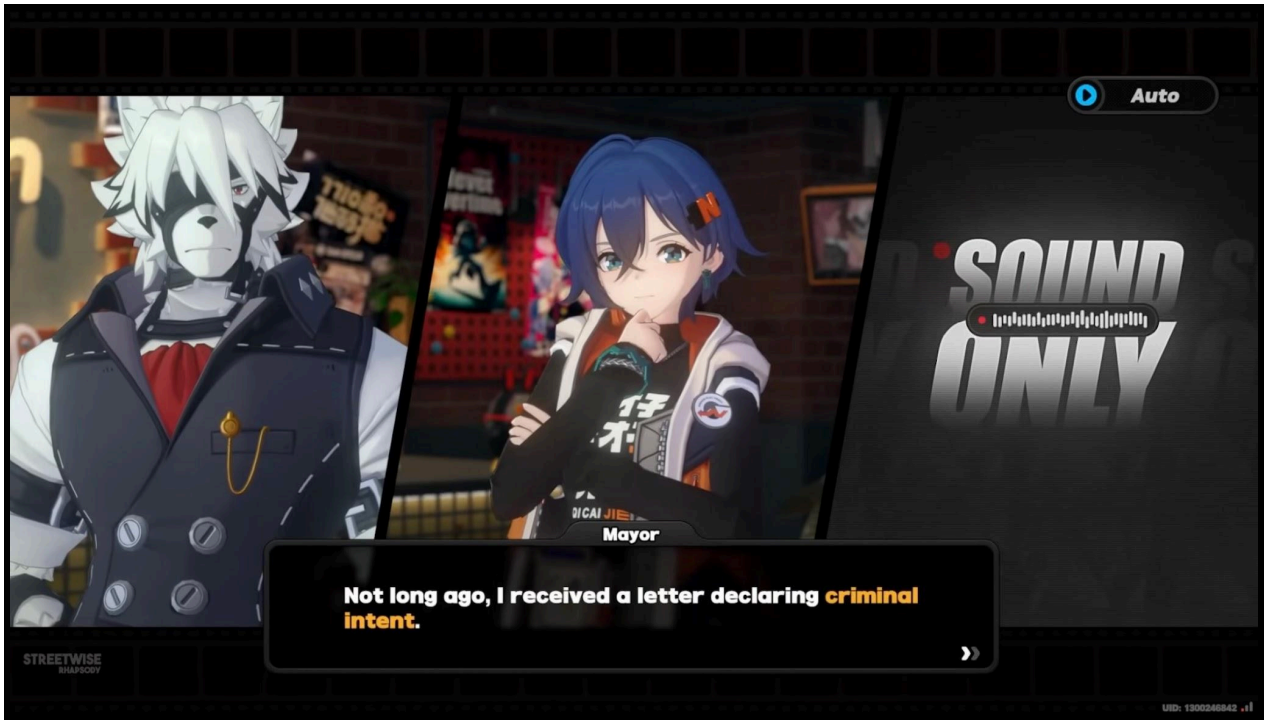
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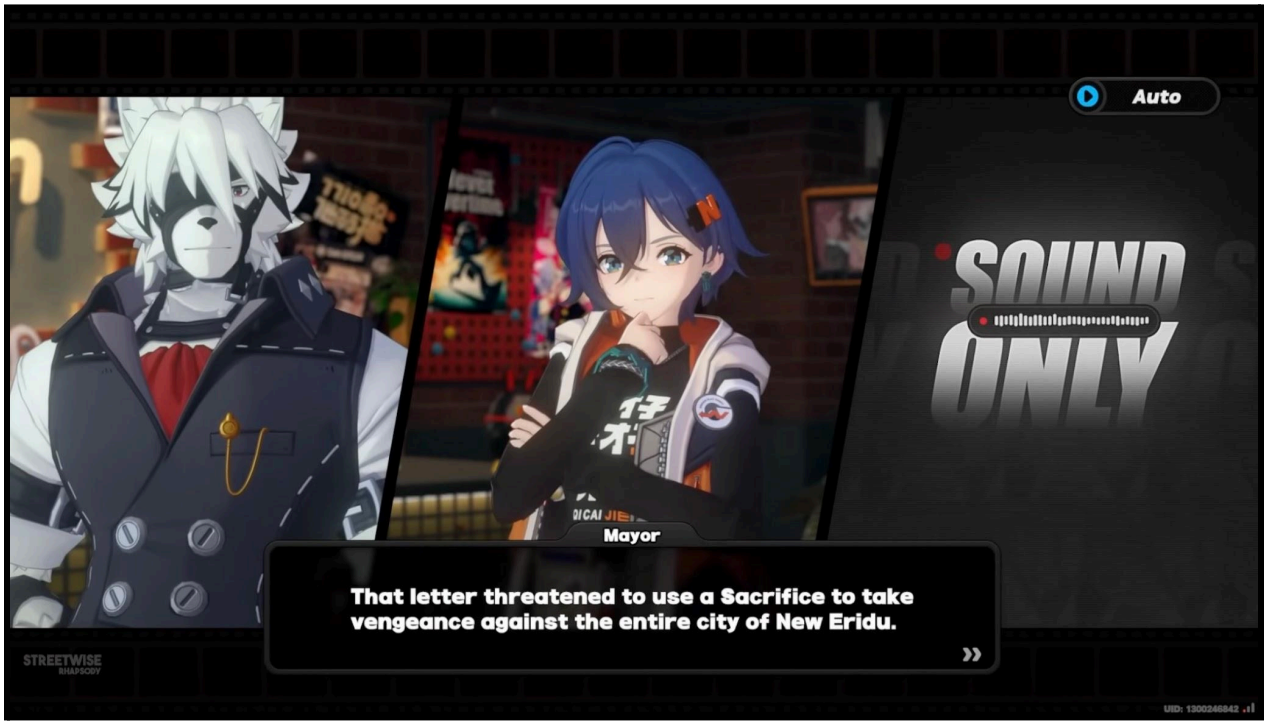
"Destined to Meet Again (Part 4)"

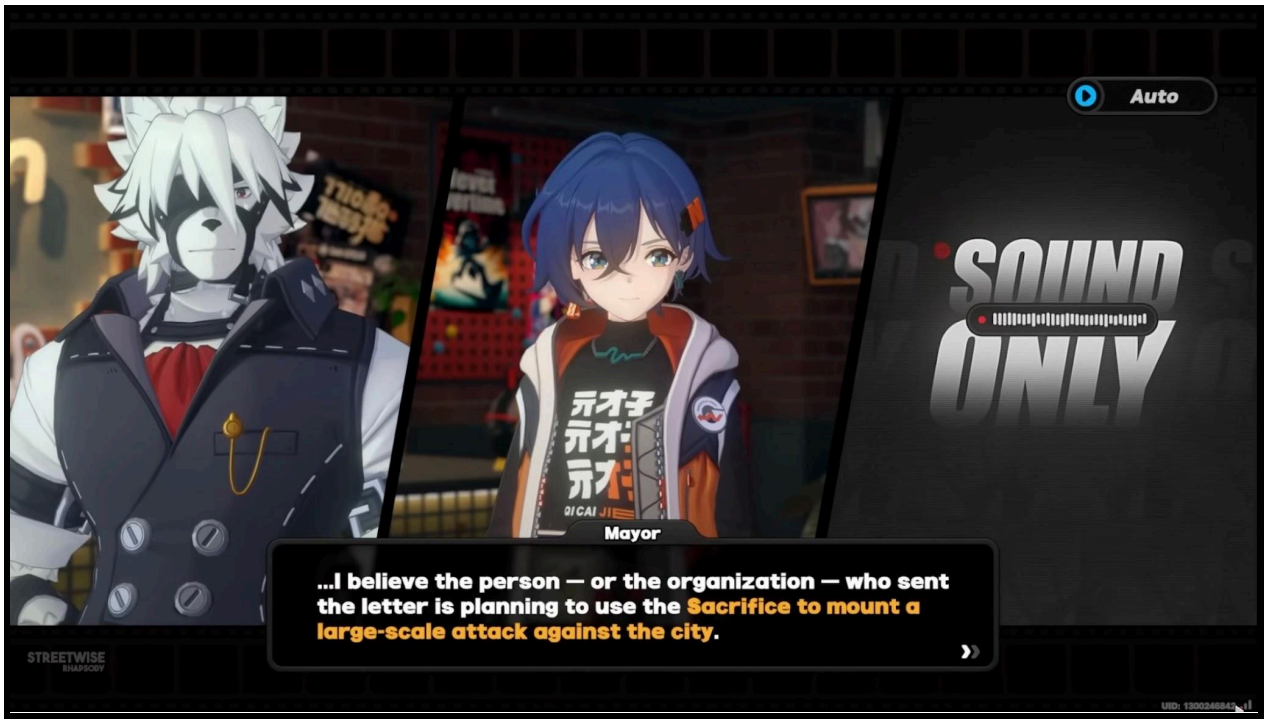


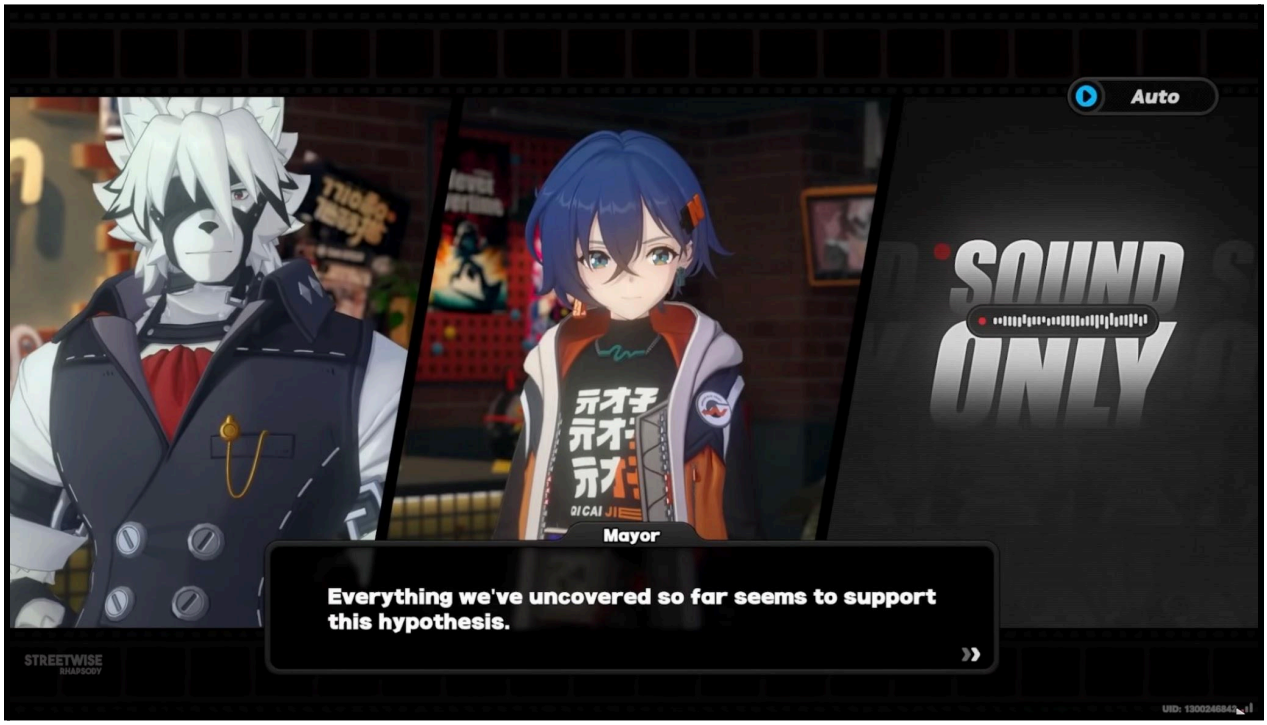
Lycaon finishes reflecting on the events of Part 3, the weight of it all finally sinking in. Hugo hadn't just manipulated the system—he'd used everyone around him, even Lycaon. And none of them had realized it until it was too late.

With Hugo now gone, Lycaon and Belle turn to The Mayor to lay everything out. At first, The Mayor is reluctant—especially about involving Belle any further—but ultimately, he relents.


Auto
SOUND ONLY
Mayor
Not long ago, I received a letter declaring criminal intent.
STREETWISE
RHAPSODY
UID: 1300246842


Auto
SOUND ONLY
Mayor
That letter threatened to use a Sacrifice to take vengeance against the entire city of New Eridu.
STREETWISE
RHAPSODY
UID: 1300246842





He reveals he received a letter laced with veiled threats and criminal intent, referencing a “sacrifice” and backed by evidence that made the threat all too real. Whoever’s behind this isn’t just targeting individuals—they’re cornering The Mayor himself, forcing him into the game.

.▪.₀.▪.°★▪.▪☆▪.°▪.₀.▪.

“Revenge Against New Eridu”

We get a glimpse into Bringer’s past—before his transformation—hinting that there’s more to his story than meets the eye. The conversation with Zhu Yuan and Section 6 wraps up, and just as we’re processing the pieces, Vivian reaches out.



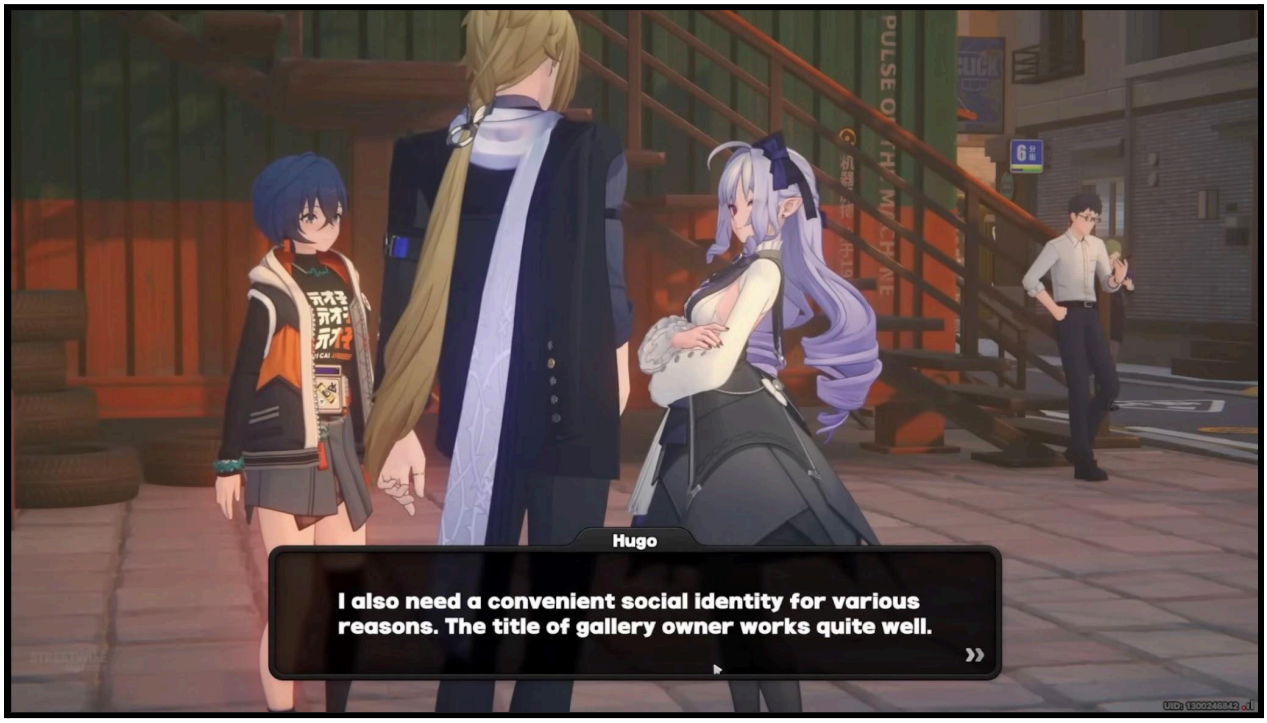


She hires us as a Proxy, immediately aware of the attack on New Eridu and the Sacrifice—details that shouldn't be common knowledge. Belle is taken aback, questioning how Vivian even knows about it. The answers are unclear. Maybe Hugo fed her this information as part of his ever-expanding schemes, or perhaps her own intelligence network within Mockingbird got wind of the plan. Either way, Hugo is involved—whether directly orchestrating or subtly influencing the outcome. His hand is in this plot, no matter how it plays out.

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“Dark Side (Part 1)”

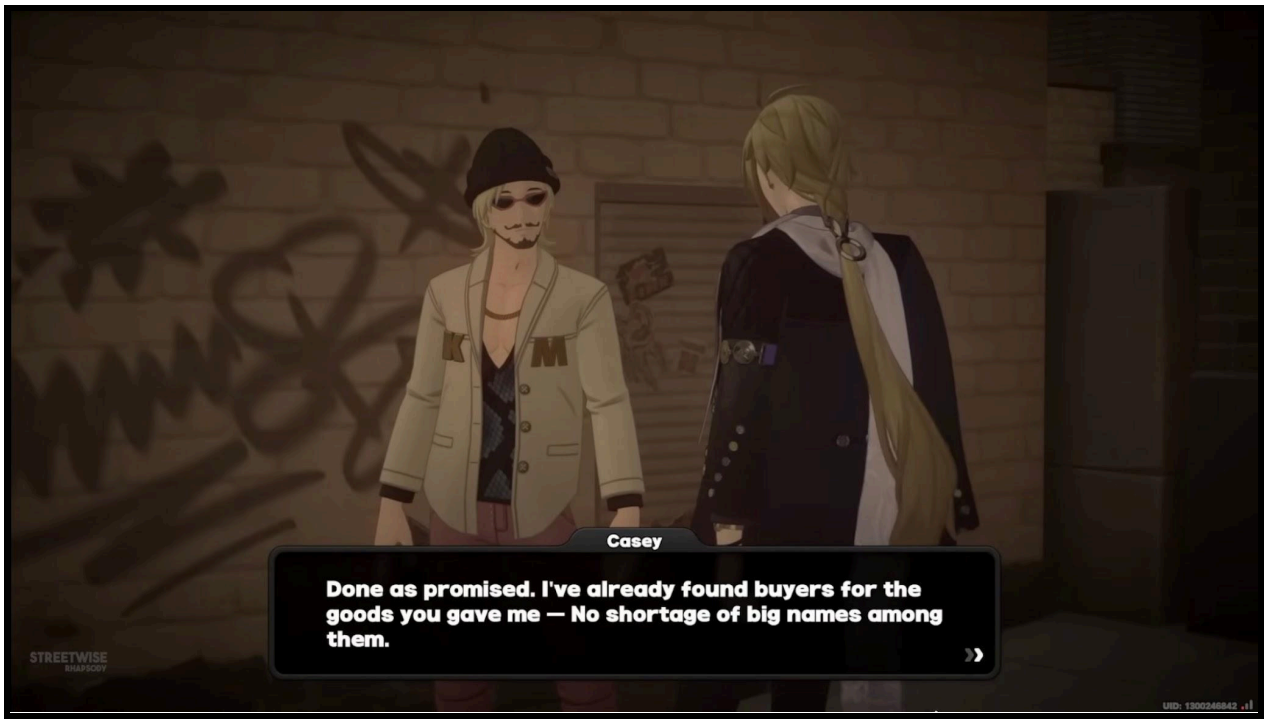


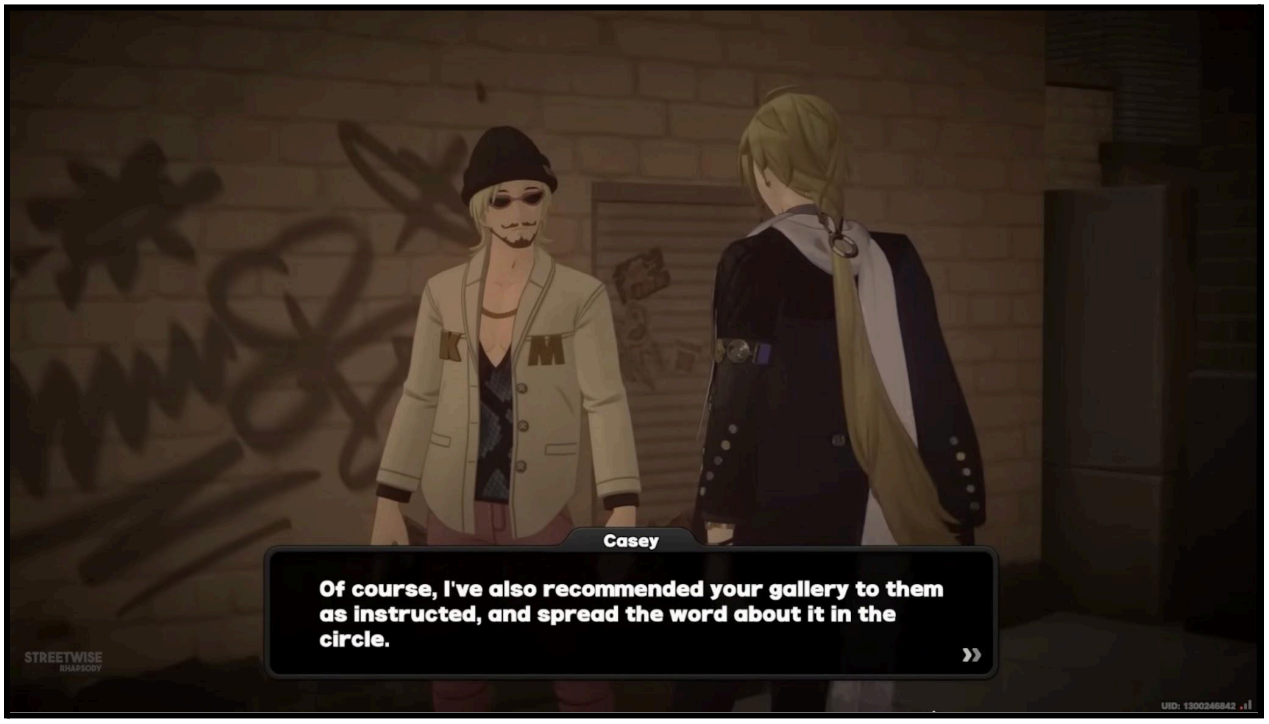


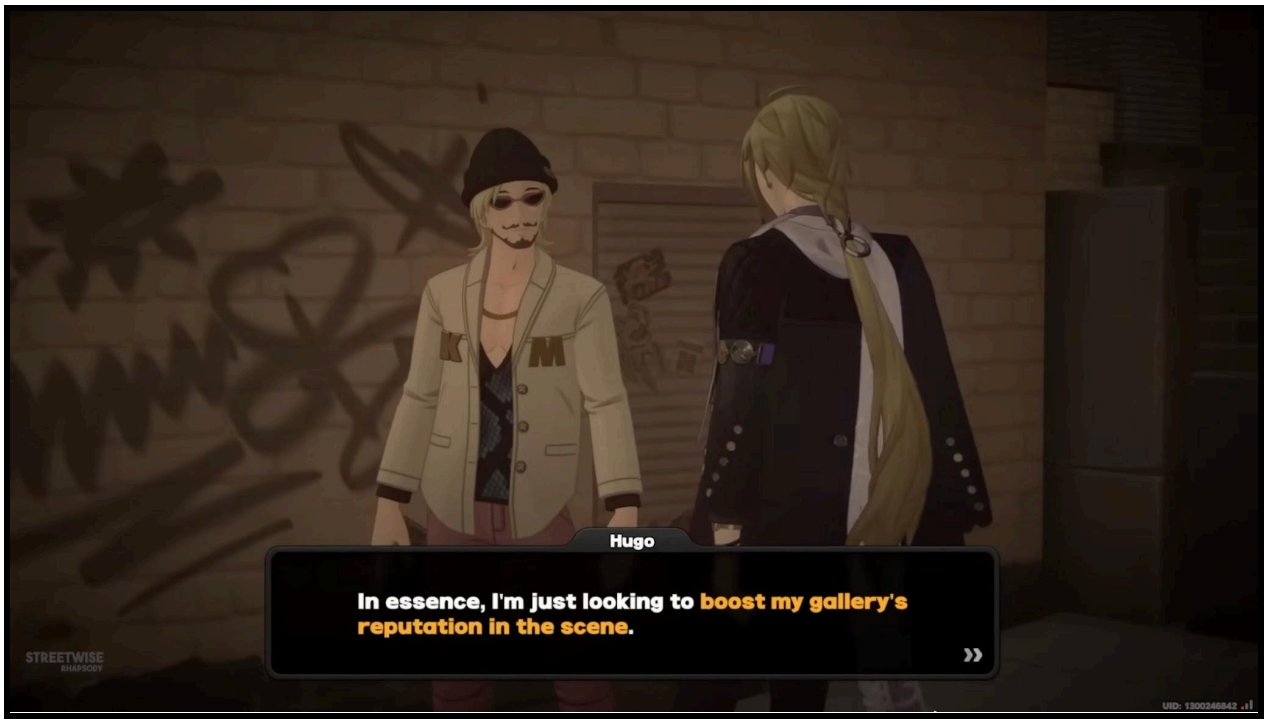


After “Unlucky Gift,” the trio returns to the video store. Hugo casually mentions he has to leave to tend to his gallery—prompting Belle to question if he actually owns one. He confirms he does, explaining it serves multiple purposes: a respectable front, a social lever, and a flexible tool for his wider plans. When Vivian presses if he's hiding anything, Hugo offers only a vague, open-ended response.

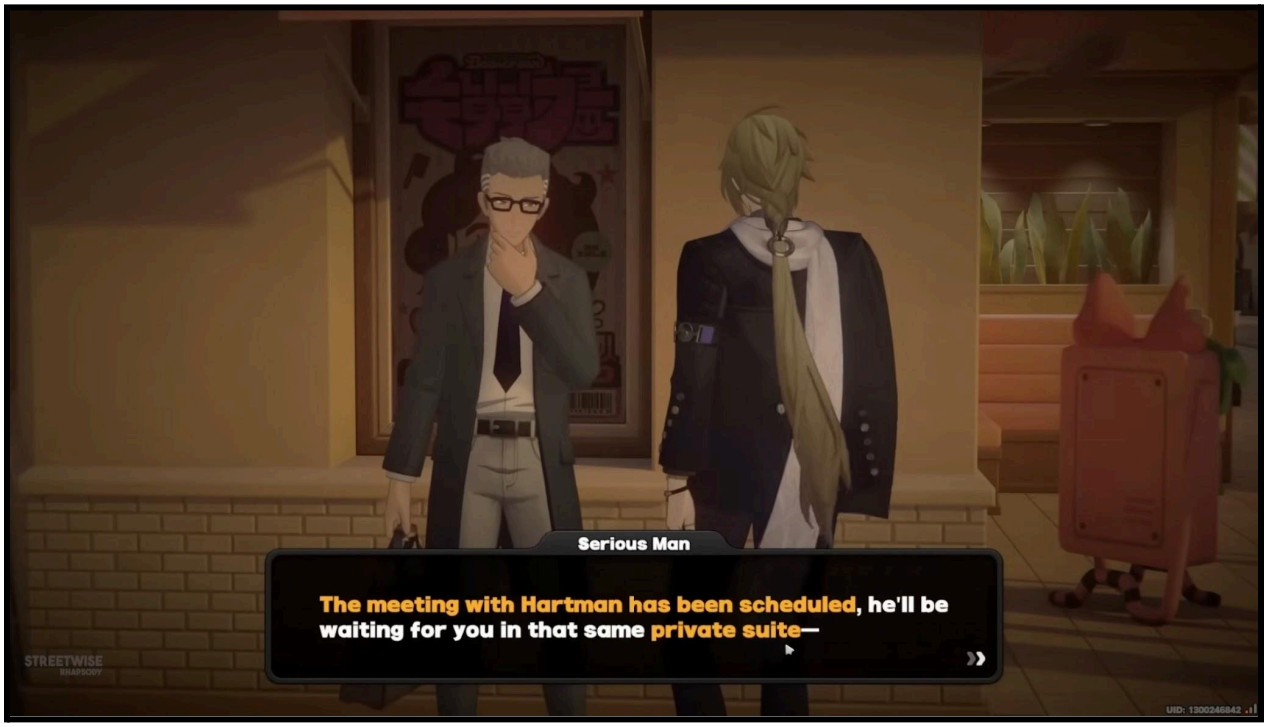
Then we jump back—just before Hugo entered the Hollow and reunited with Belle and Vivian. This is where the real groundwork was laid.

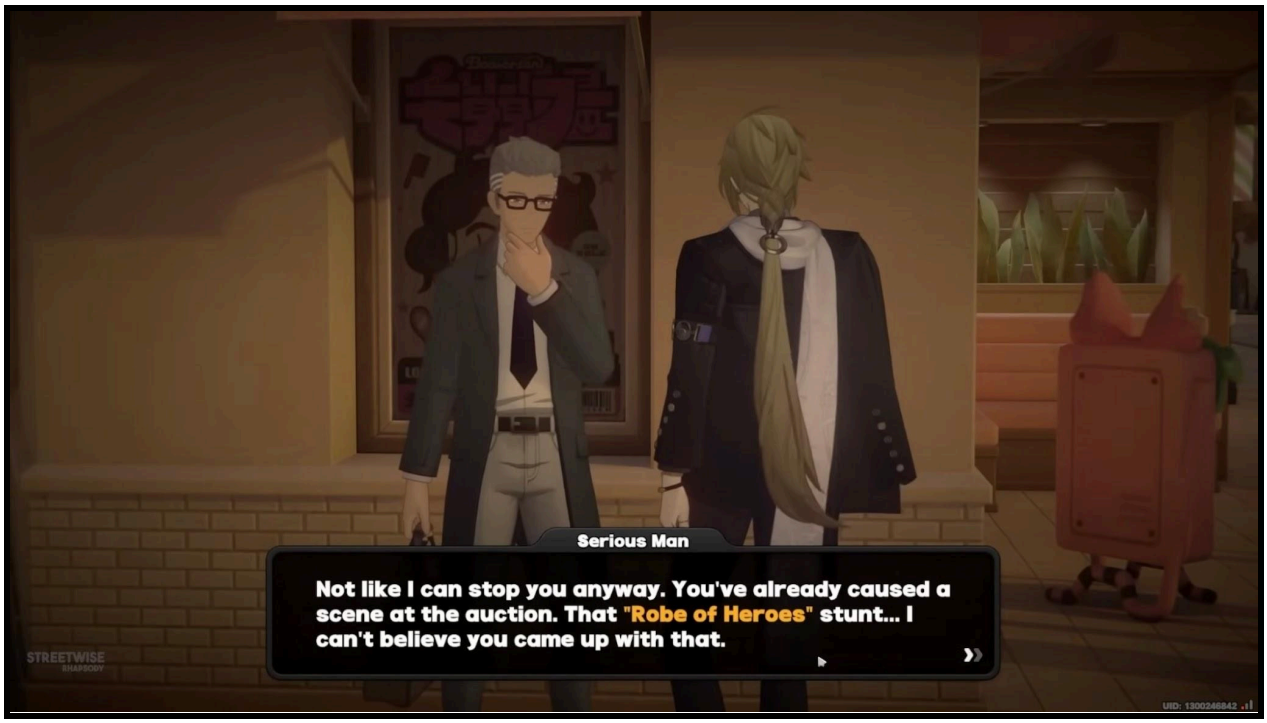

Casey
Done as promised. I've already found buyers for the goods you gave me — No shortage of big names among them.
STREETWISE
RHAPSODY
UID: 1300246842

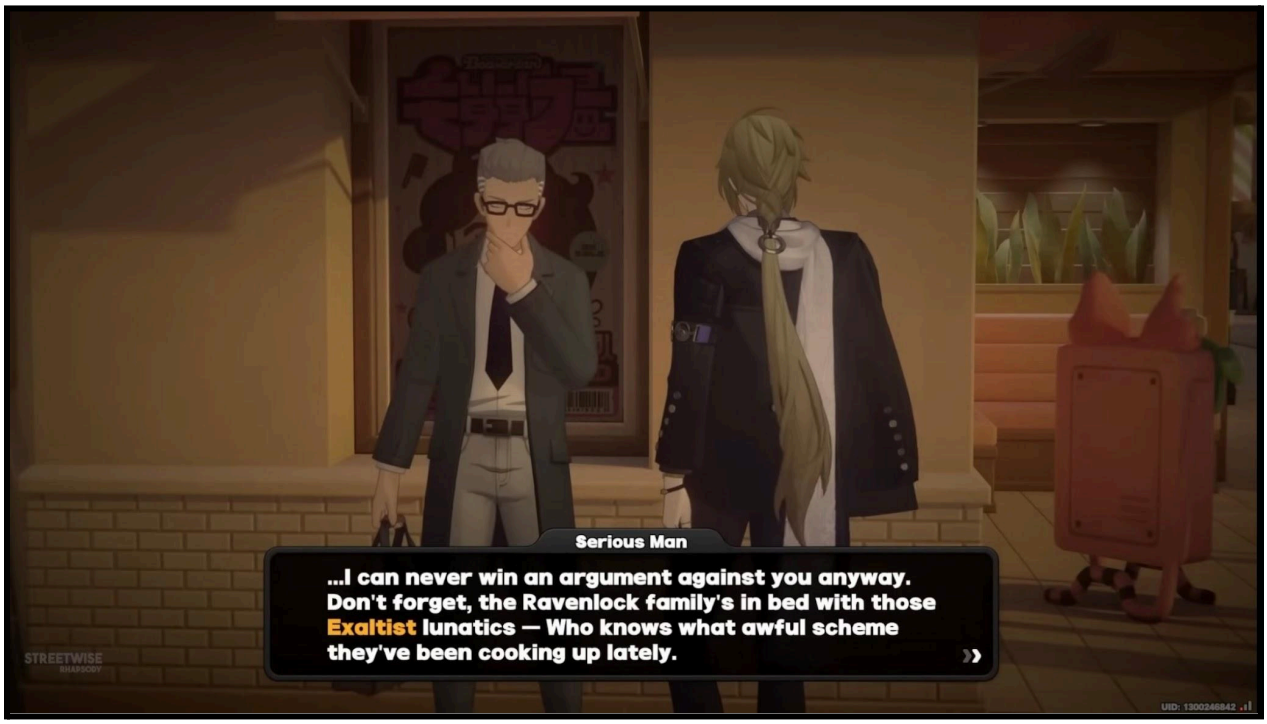

Casey
Of course, I've also recommended your gallery to them as instructed, and spread the word about it in the circle.
STREETWISE
RHAPSODY
UID: 1300246842



First, Hugo meets Casey, who's been helping sell Hugo's collectibles. Casey spreads them through their circles, just as Hugo intended—to boost Hugo's name. The plan works. His reputation grows, loud enough that even Hartman Ravenlocktakes notice.







Second, Hugo meets with a stern intermediary who schedules a meeting with Hartman himself. The man warns Hugo not to cross the Ravenlocks, but Hugo twists the conversation, leaving even the handler admitting defeat in debate.


Menu
Hugo
Not bad. Let me be honest with you, I have the Sacrifice Core that you're after.
STREETWISE
RHAPSODY
UID: 1300246842

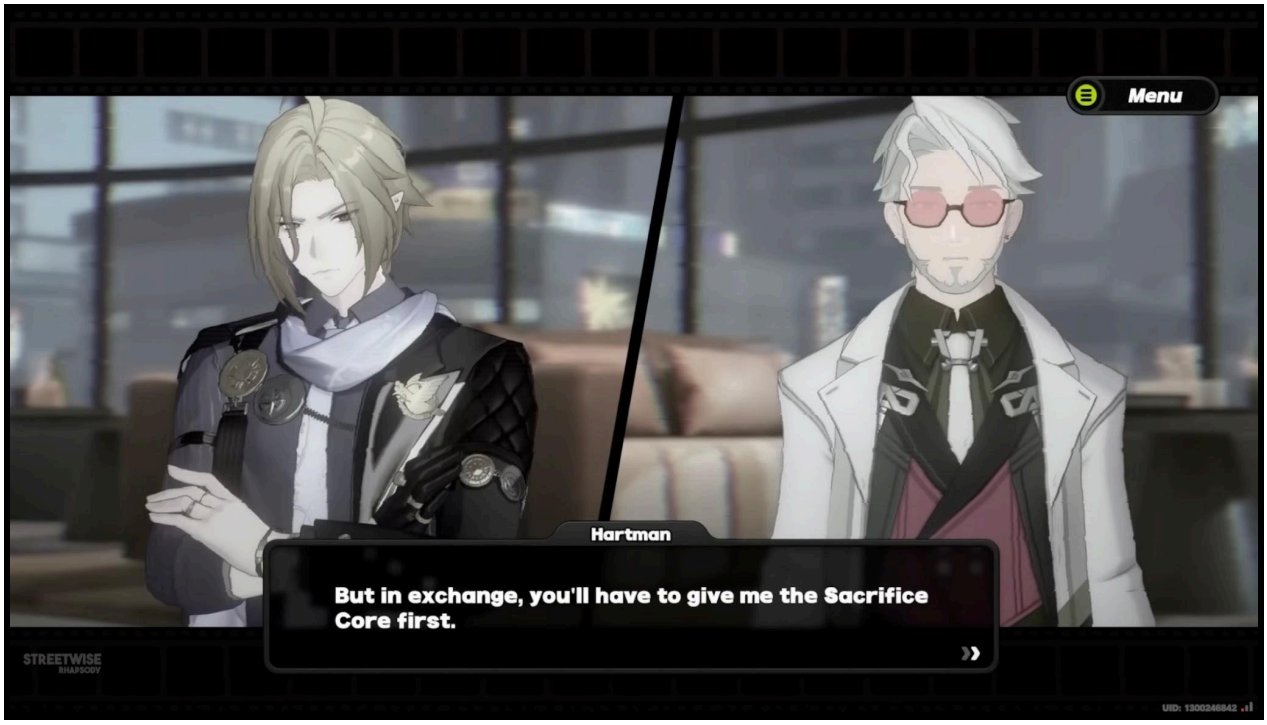

Menu
Hugo
I am Mockingbird.
STREETWISE
RHAPSODY
UID: 1300246842

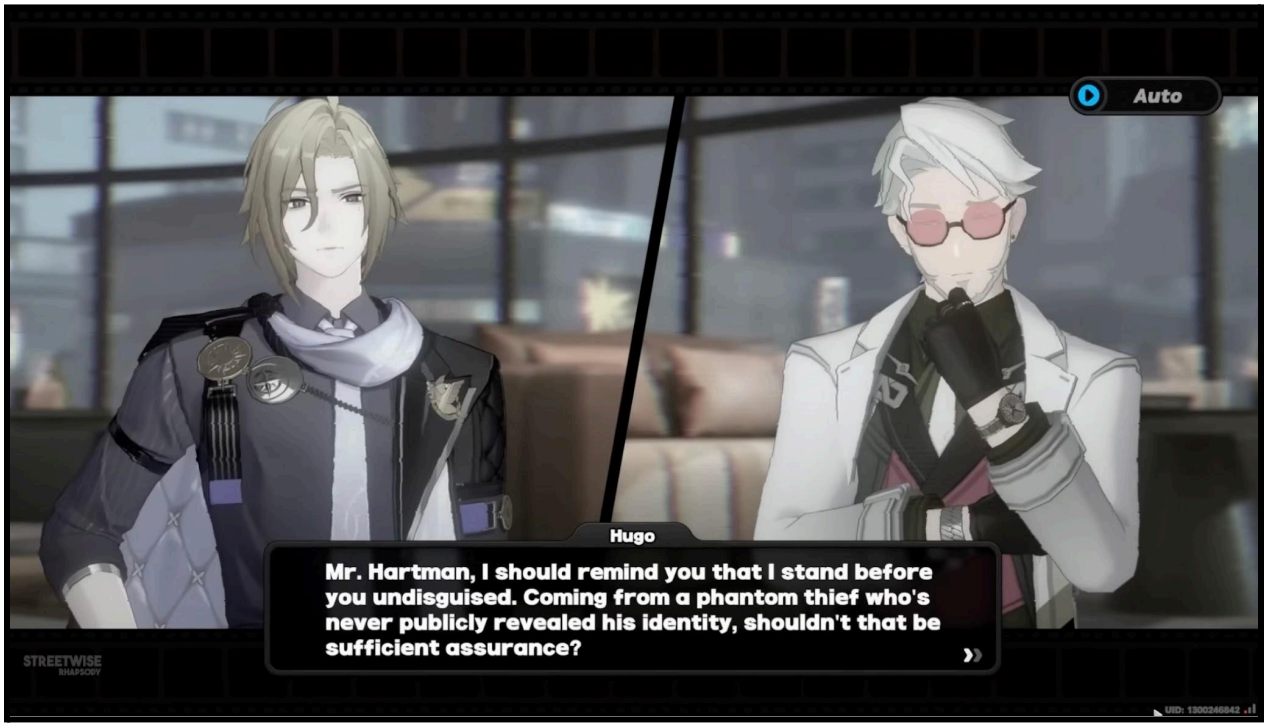

Menu
Hugo
Relax, my friend. As you know, if I can sneak into such a heavily guarded auction, then naturally, I can just as easily slip away right now.
STREETWISE
RHAPSODY
UID: 1300246842

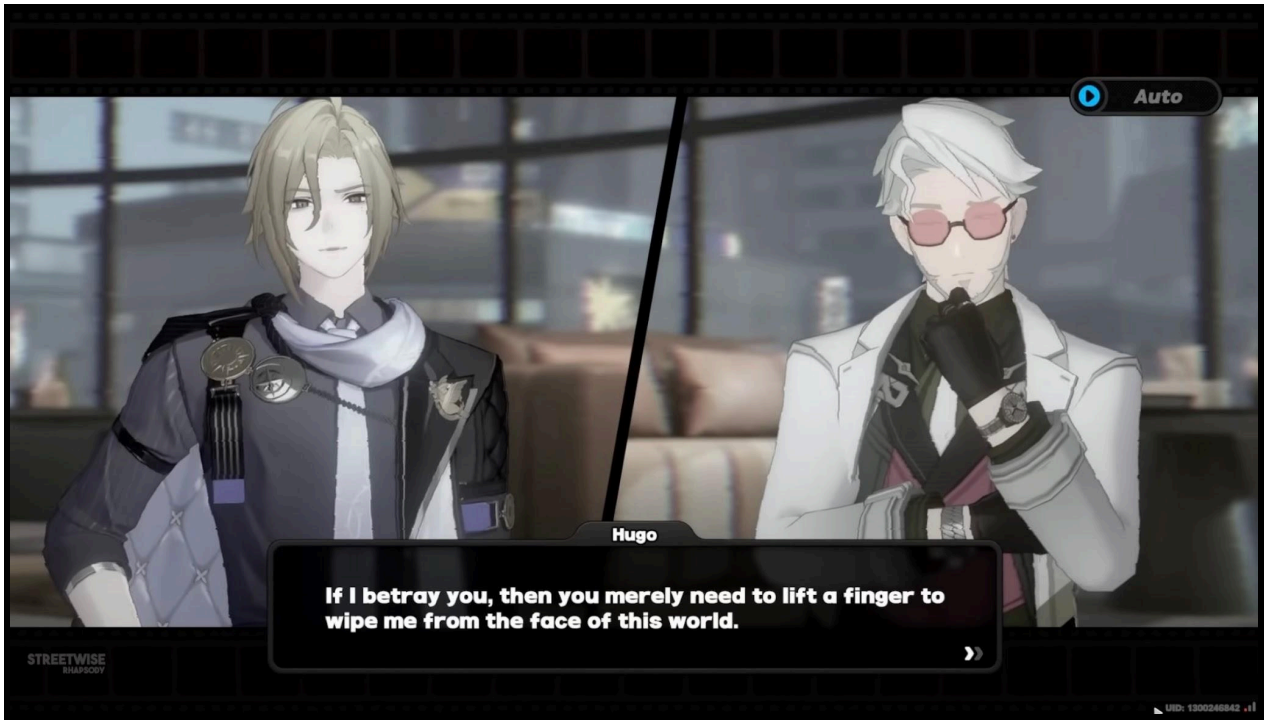

Menu
Hugo
I'm here with the sincere intention to seek cooperation. I can give you that Sacrifice core.
STREETWISE
RHAPSODY
UID: 1300246842



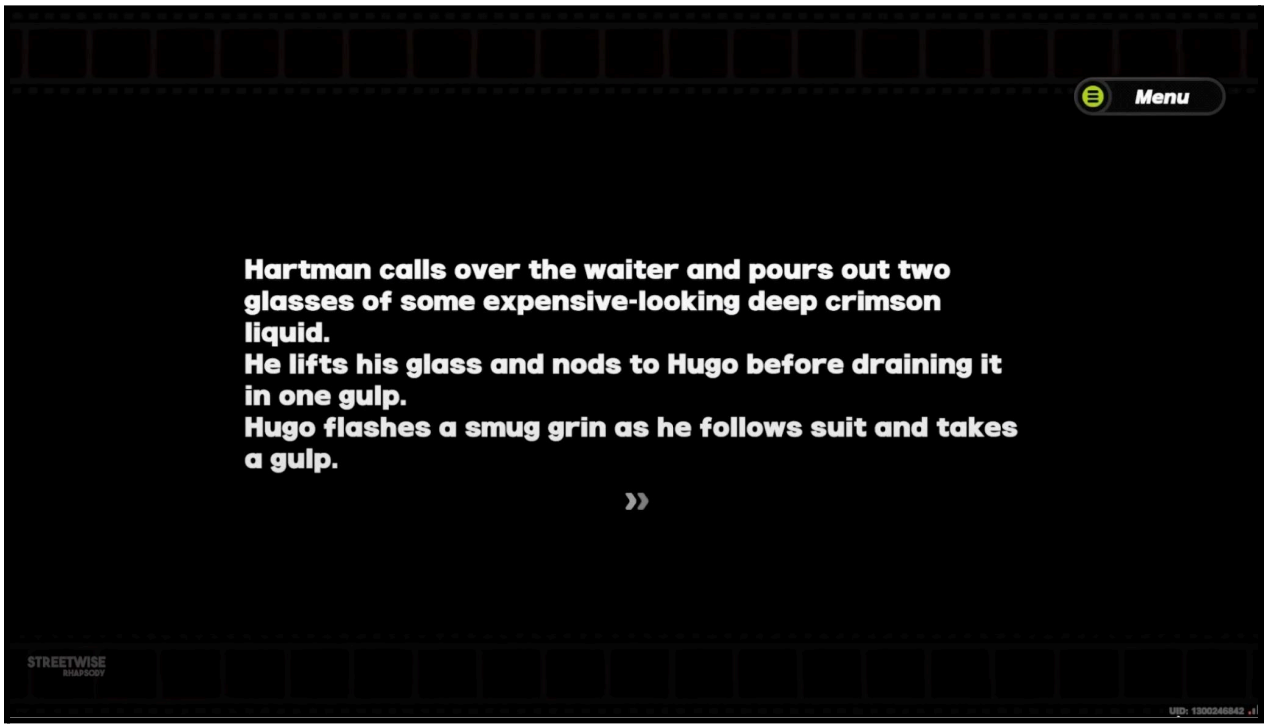
Third, Hugo finally meets Hartman. He comes clean—no disguise, full identity, and a confession: he holds the Sacrifice Core, and yes, he's Mockingbird. He tells Hartman plainly: if I can get in, I can get out. He wants fame, power, money… and most importantly, a seat at TOPS. Hartman scoffs—it's a tall order even for someone with influence. But Hugo presses for a yes or no.


Menu
Hartman
But in exchange, you'll have to give me the Sacrifice Core first.
STREETWISE
RHAPSODY
UID: 1300246842


Auto
Hugo
Mr. Hartman, I should remind you that I stand before you undisguised. Coming from a phantom thief who's never publicly revealed his identity, shouldn't that be sufficient assurance?
STREETWISE
RHAPSODY
UID: 1300246842



Hartman agrees, but demands the Core now. Hugo refuses—it'd be foolish to carry it—and admits that outing himself was strategic. Now that Hartman knows who he is, Hugo has value. Leverage. A living bargaining chip. If he fails, Hartman could easily erase him.





Drinks follow—a quiet power play from Hartman, but Hugo plays along. He lies through his teeth, claiming he'd kill Vivian if she didn't accept the deal which Hartman likes. A complete bluff. Almost everything he's said is.



As the toast settles, Hugo whispers to himself:

“Soon, it’ll all be over.”

And every move—every lie—clicks into place.

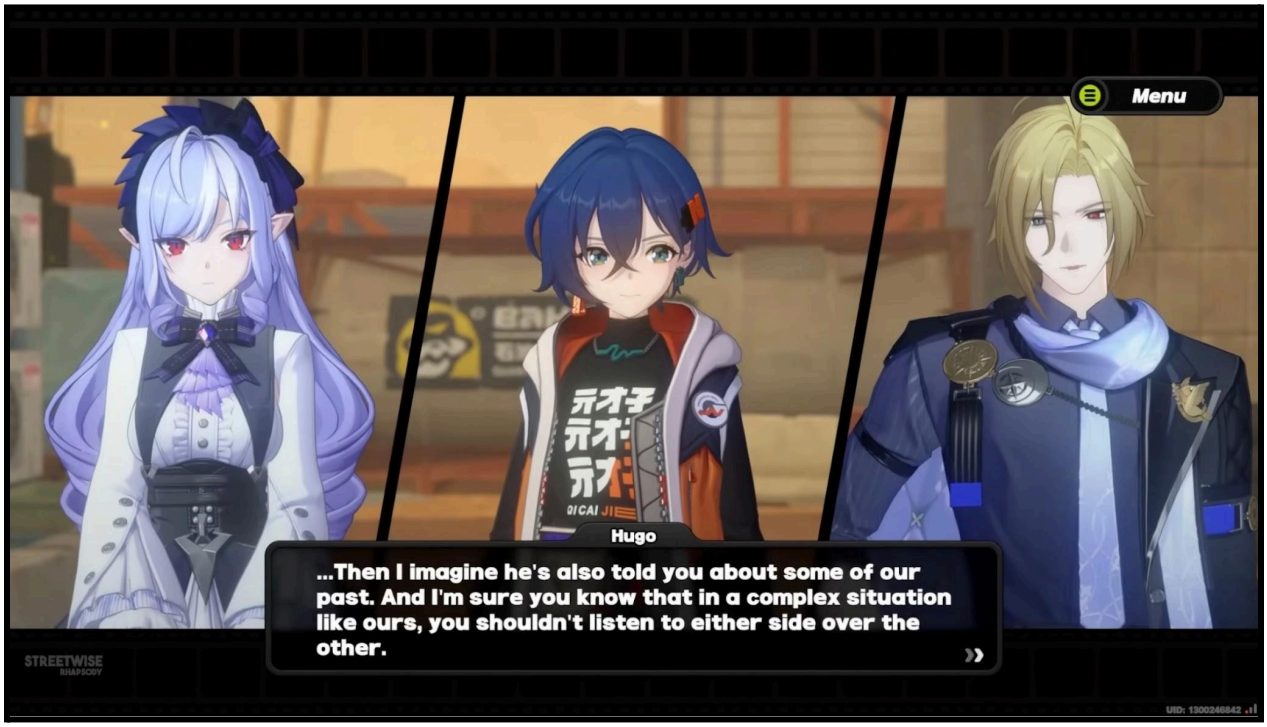
.▪ₒ.▪°★▪.▪☆▪°▪ₒ.

“Unlucky Gift”

Time passes, and the search for Bringer’s notebook leads Belle to a vending machine—one she ends up kicking in frustration, only for the notebook to fall out. Just as it’s revealed, Hugo appears, saving her from danger like it was all perfectly timed.







That’s when the truth comes out: Vivian is a member of Mockingbird. Hugo explains she was his in—bidding on items during the auction to create distractions while he worked backstage. When Belle brings up Lycaon’s warning, Hugo shrugs it off, noting Lycaon probably told her some of their past, but not the full story.

Then Hugo makes his move.





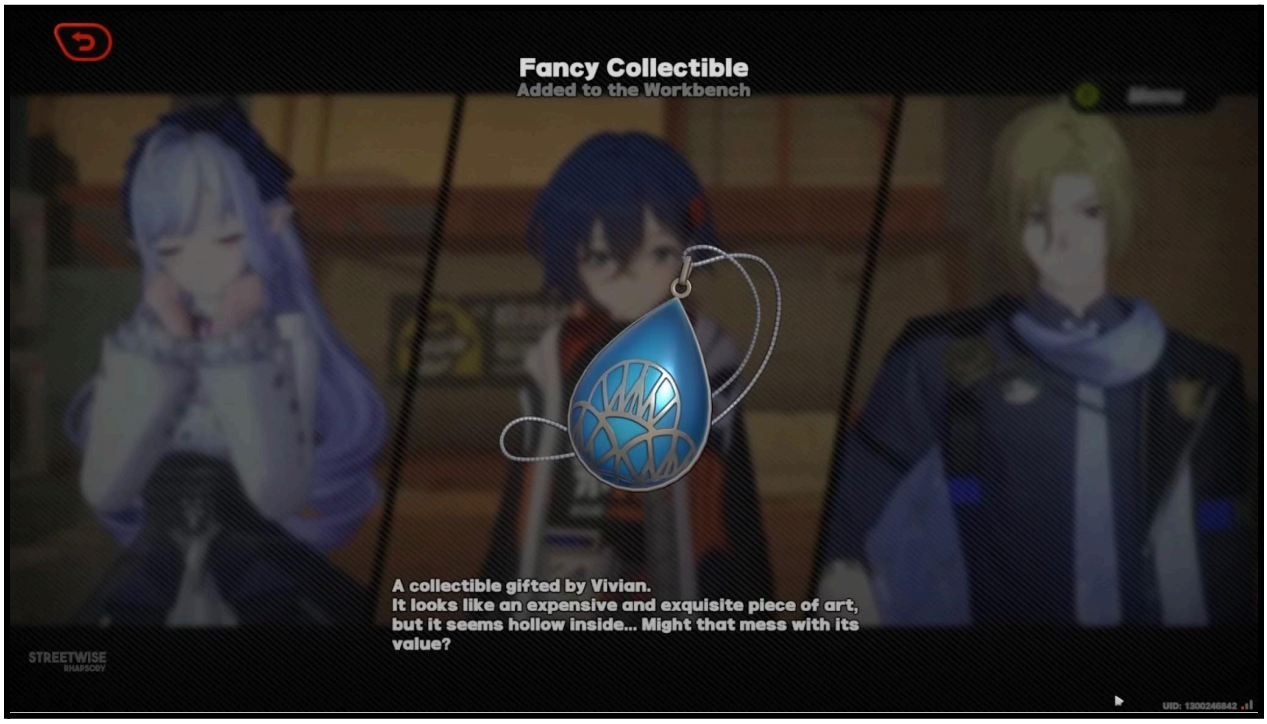




He reveals that the true threat is the Exaltists—the ones planning to exploit the Sacrifice—and proposes a deal. They want the same thing stopped. Despite her hesitation, Belle listens. Hugo suggests involving Lycaon to ease her doubts. With The Mayor's backing, Lycaon can serve as a check on Hugo's actions.

Reluctantly, Belle agrees.



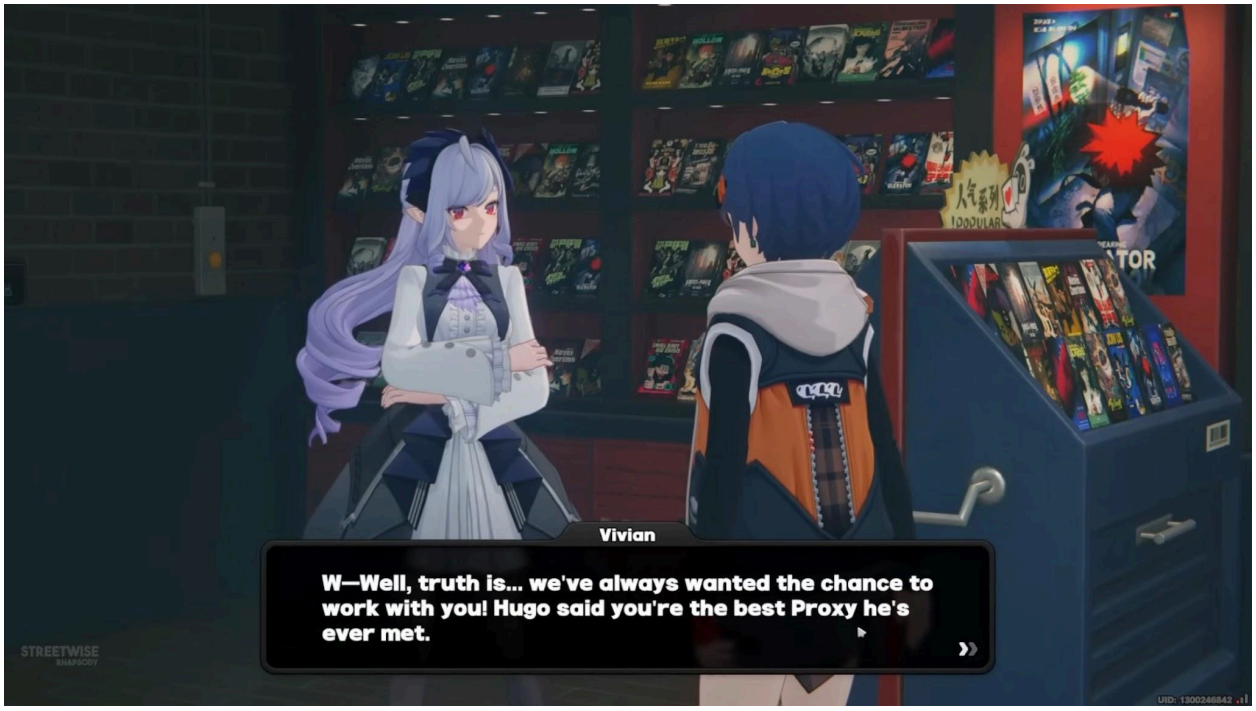


Vivian, ever the charmer, gives Belle a high-end collectible to seal the collaboration as they exit the Hollow together—temporary allies, bound by a shared enemy.

.▪ₒ.▪°★▪.▪☆▪°▪ₒ.

“Behind the Scenes”

This segment centers entirely on Vivian and what she reveals about Hugo.



First, she clarifies something she once left vague—the “Chosen One” label. It wasn’t mystical or prophetic. It was literal. Hugo chose Phaethon to carry out part of his plan. Vivian doesn’t know why he made that choice, but she recognizes the capability behind it—still unaware that Belle is Phaethon.

Then comes something more personal.





Vivian speaks of the burden Hugo carries. Not a mission or a goal—but something heavier. A constant weight he shoulders silently. It’s the kind of truth only someone close to him could see—proof that behind the manipulation and performance, something unresolved still haunts him.

.▪ₒ.▪°★▪.▪☆▪°▪ₒ.

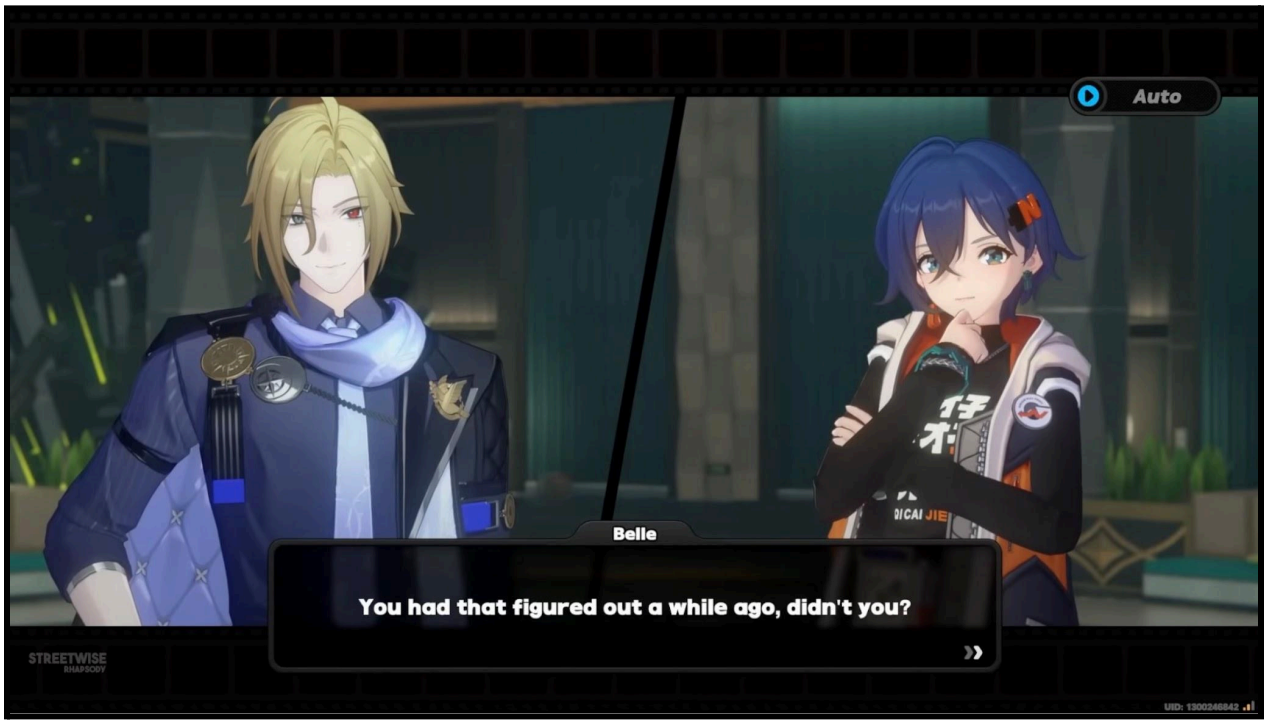
“Before Taking the Stage (Part 2)”







The group reunites after splitting up, only to hear something stirring ahead. Tension rises—could be enemies. Lycaon quickly suggests splitting once more, opting to go with Hugo and requesting Vivian to tag along as a precaution. He’s reluctant but allows it if she chooses.



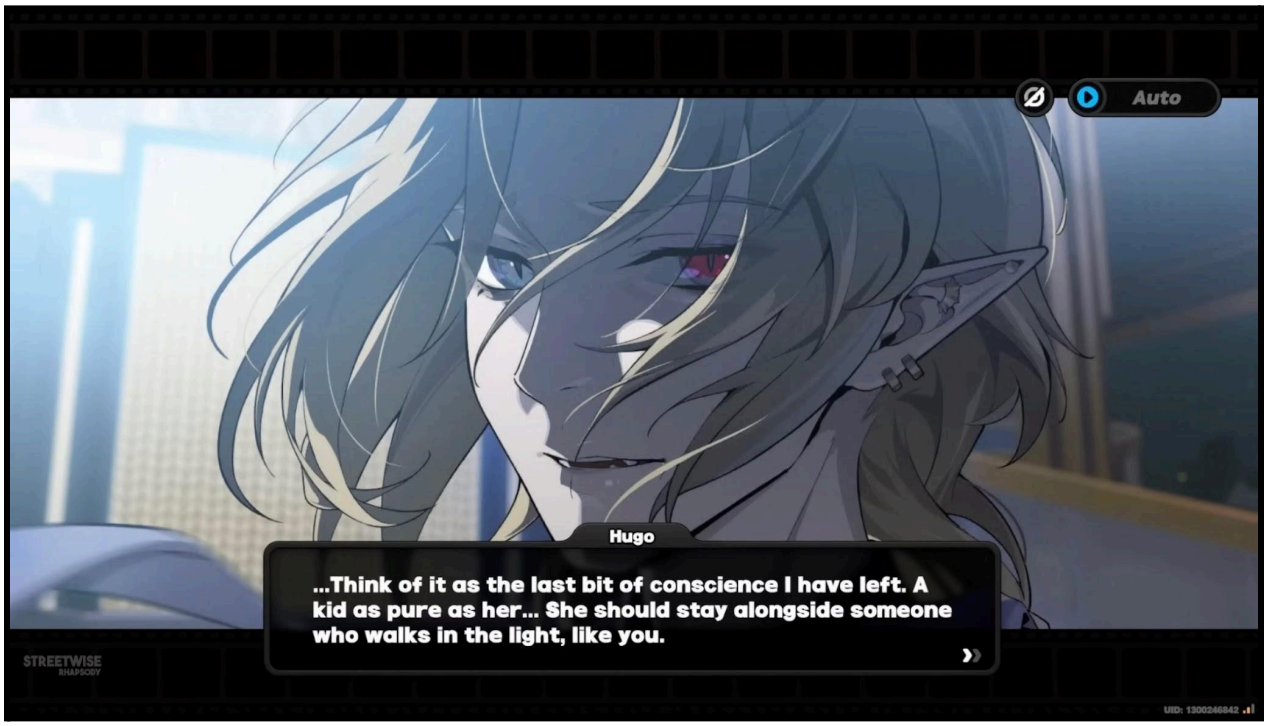

Auto
Hugo
Haha, sharp as always... but of course, I couldn't spoil it for her.
STREETWISE
RHAPSODY
UID: 1300246842

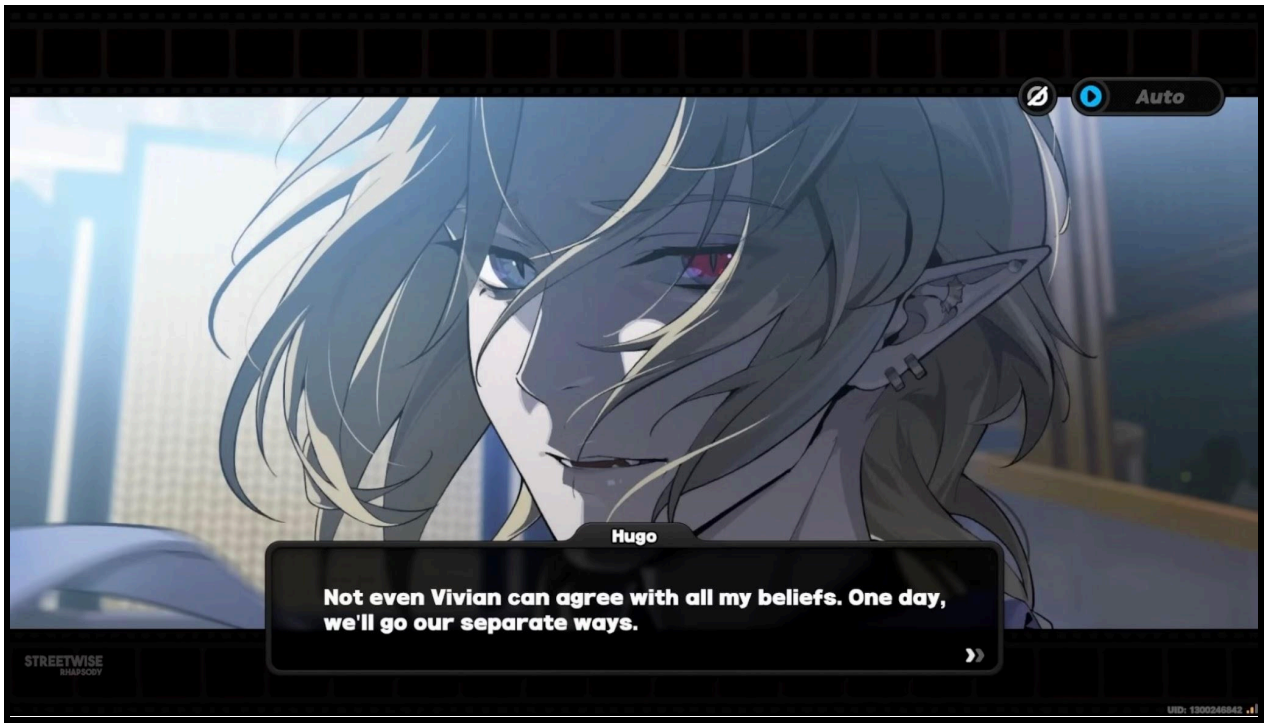

Auto
Belle
Not only that, you asked Lycaon and Vivian to leave for a reason... Is there something you'd like to say to me?
STREETWISE
RHAPSODY
UID: 1300246842



Once they leave, Belle calls Hugo out—he knew she was Phaethon all along. He praises her sharpness. She presses further, saying he wanted to be alone with her, which he confirms.

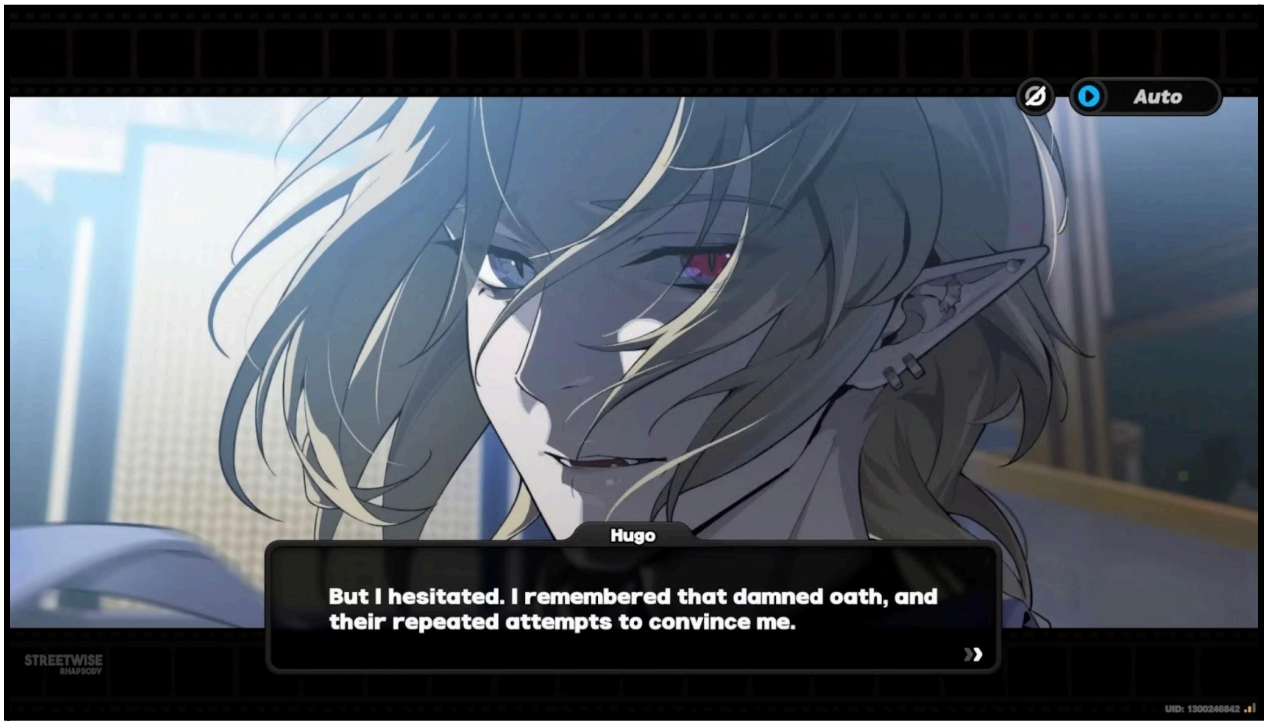
What follows isn't strategy—it's something far more personal.



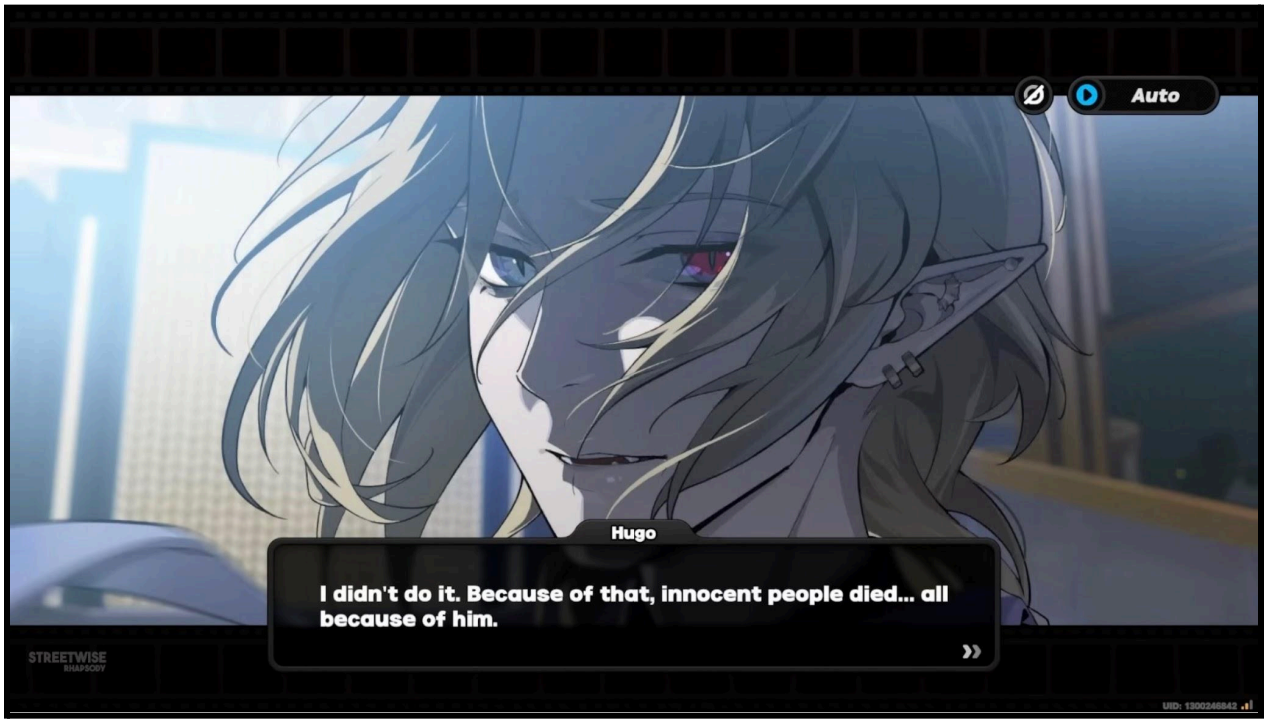


Hugo speaks like a man running out of time, saying this might be the last sliver of consciousness he has left. He asks Belle to look after Vivian. Their beliefs diverge, he says, and a split between them is inevitable.

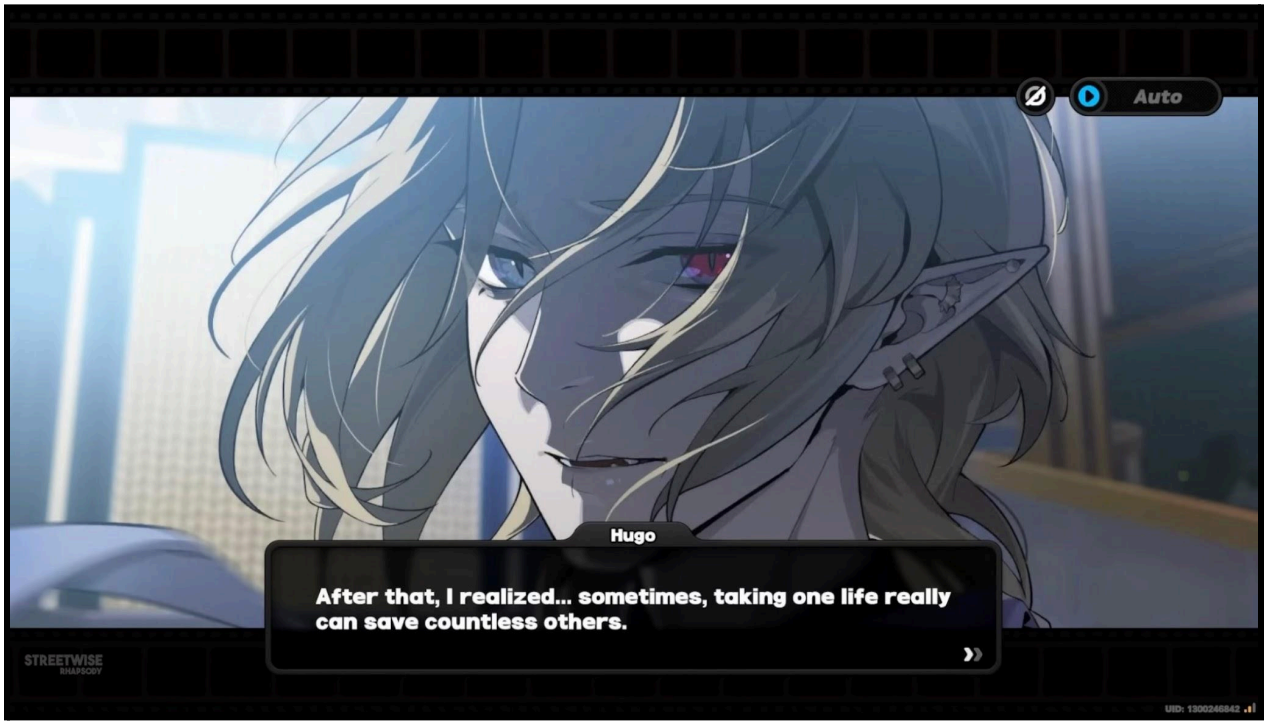
Then he confesses something from long ago.



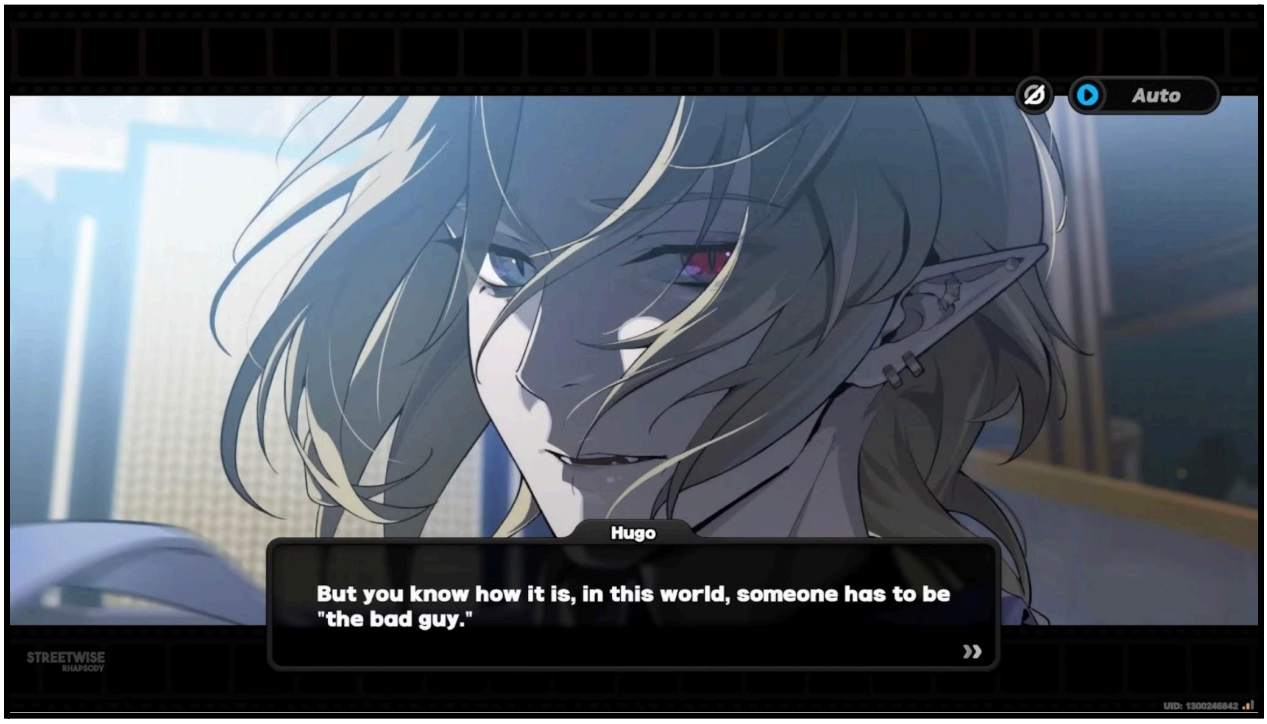
There was a moment he could’ve killed his father. A moment he wanted to. But he remembered his oath—the rule never to kill. He hesitated.



And innocents died.



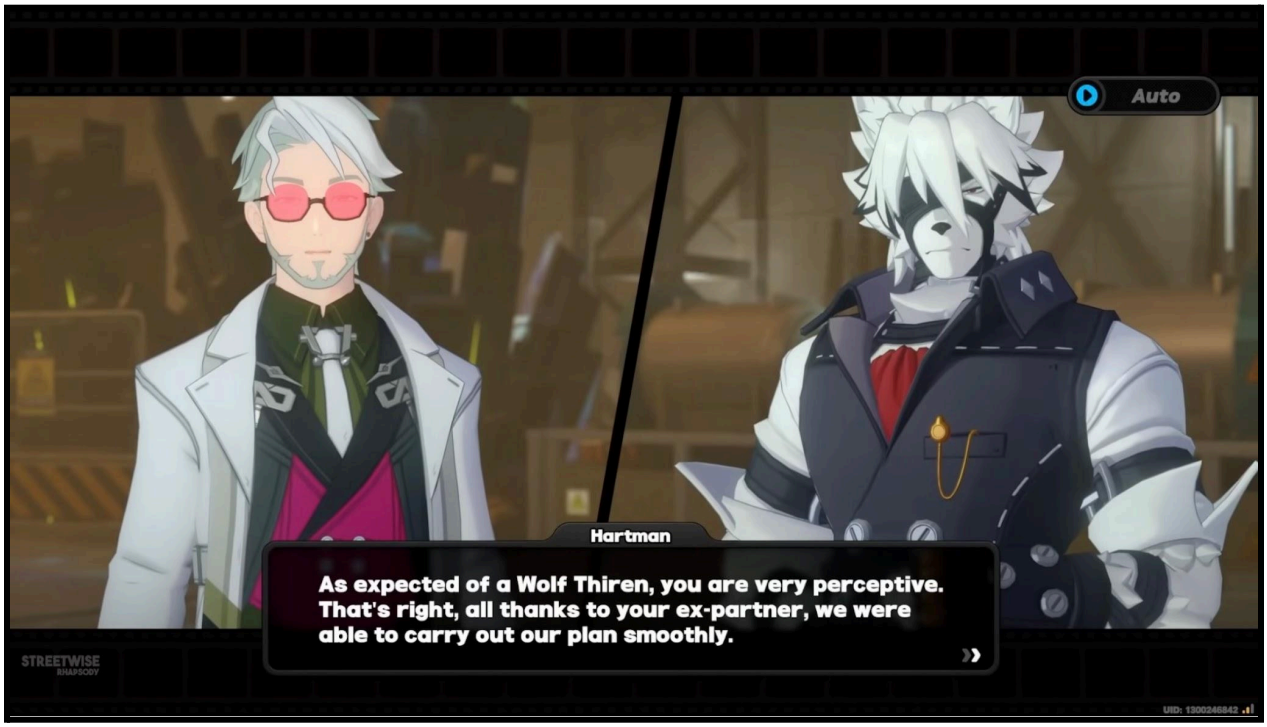
That’s when the truth hit him: Sometimes, taking a life saves many. Someone has to bear the role of the villain to bring about a just world.

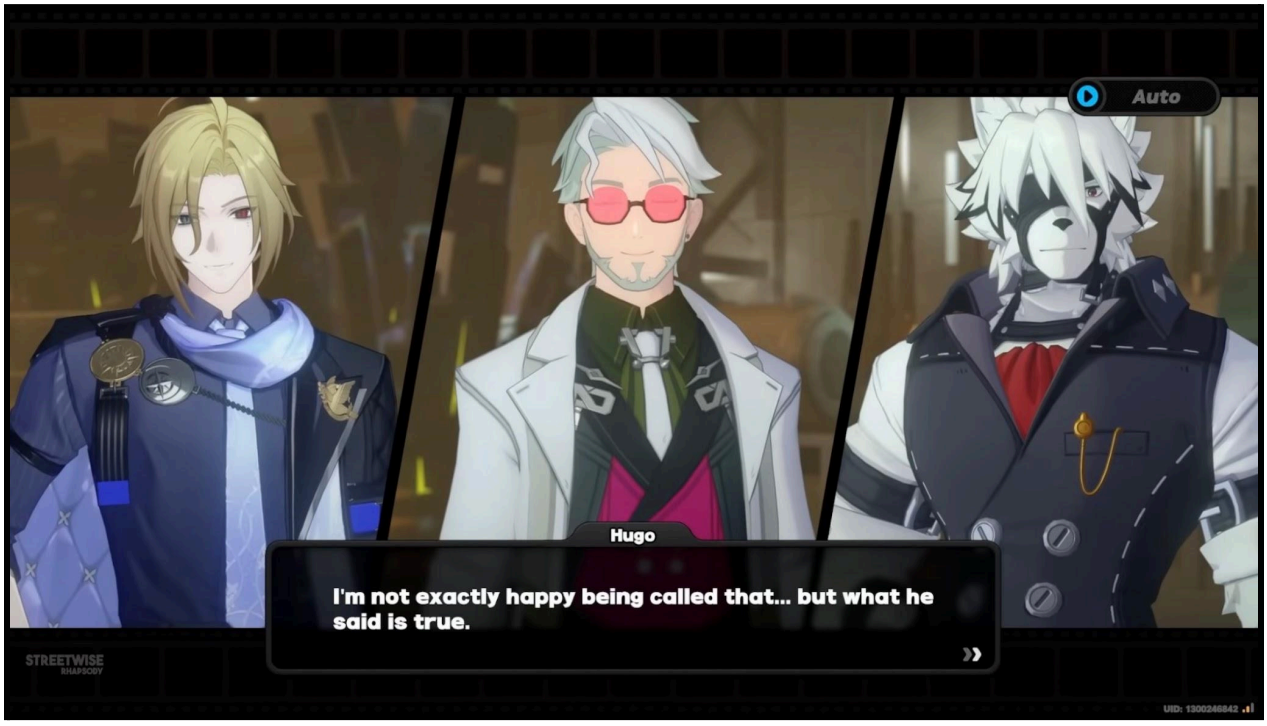


And Hugo chose to be that villain.

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“Destinity at Your Fingertips”





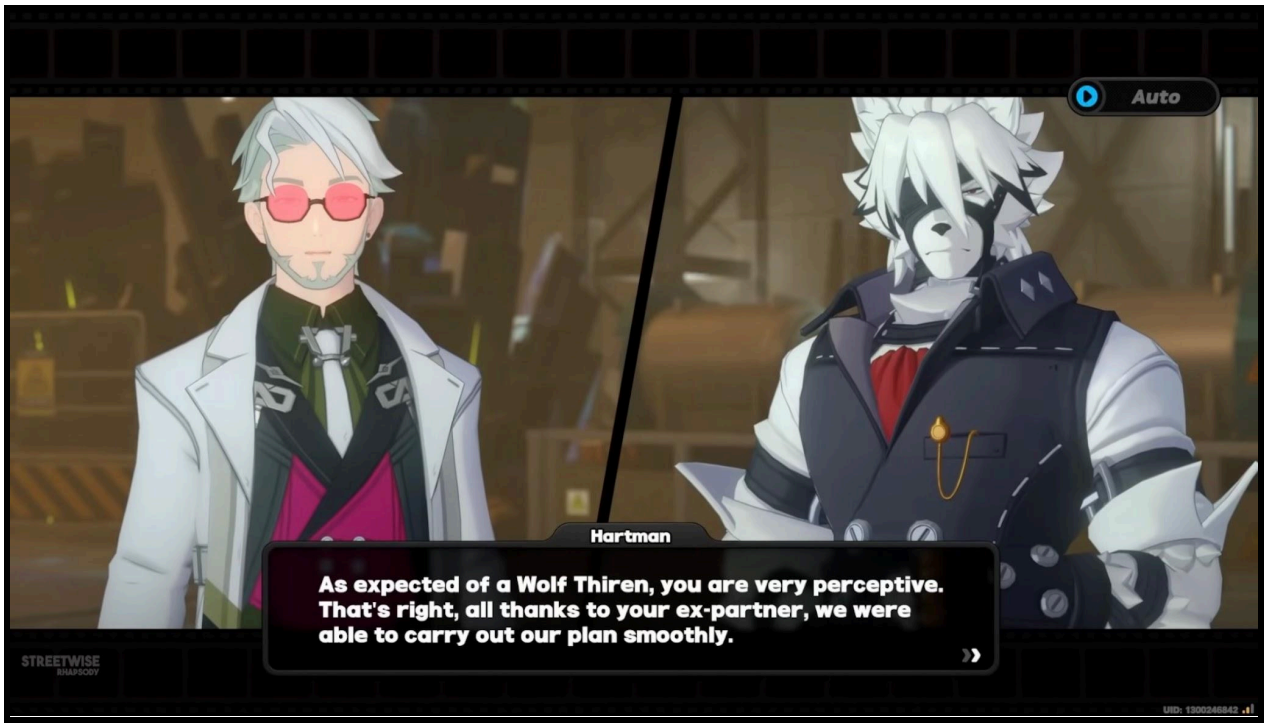


The group finally reaches the Sacrifice's Core—only for Hartman to reveal he's been trailing them all along, using their efforts to cut a path to it. And it wasn't possible without Hugo's help.



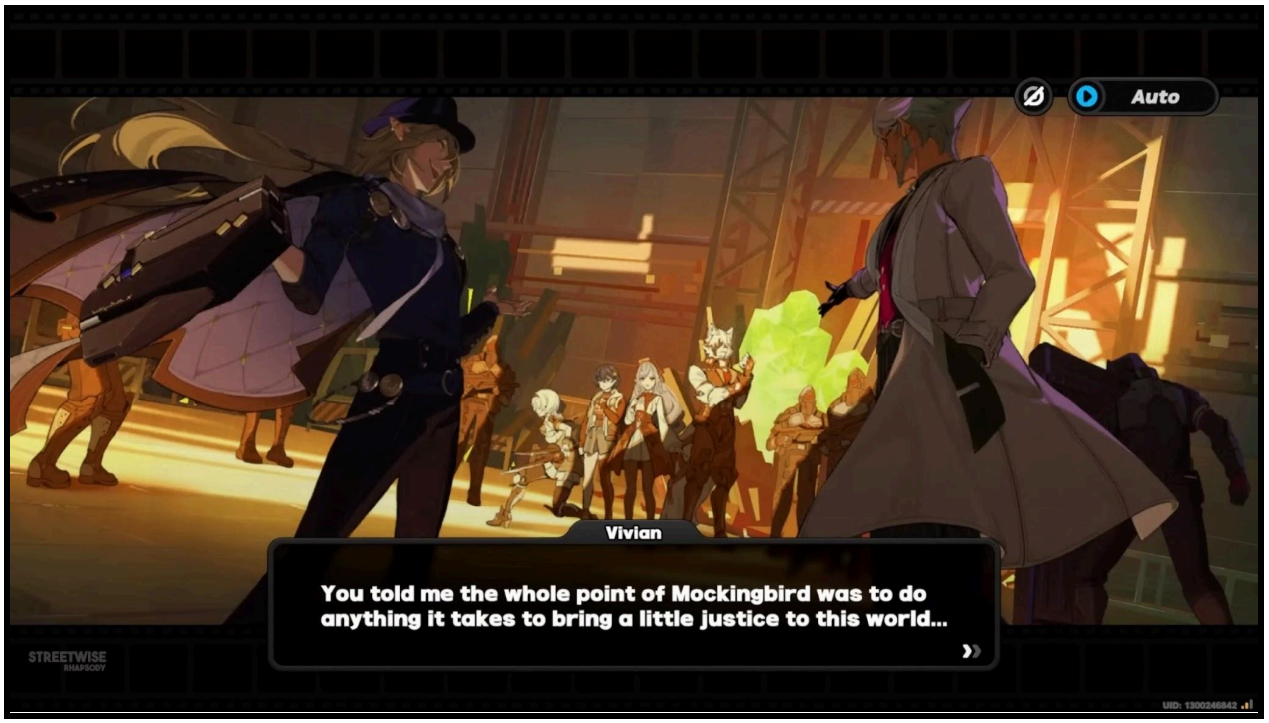

Auto
Belle
...What did this guy promise you?
STREETWISE
RHAPSODY
UID: 1300246842


Auto
Hugo
Everything we know about the Sacrifices, plus the core itself.
STREETWISE
RHAPSODY
UID: 1300246842

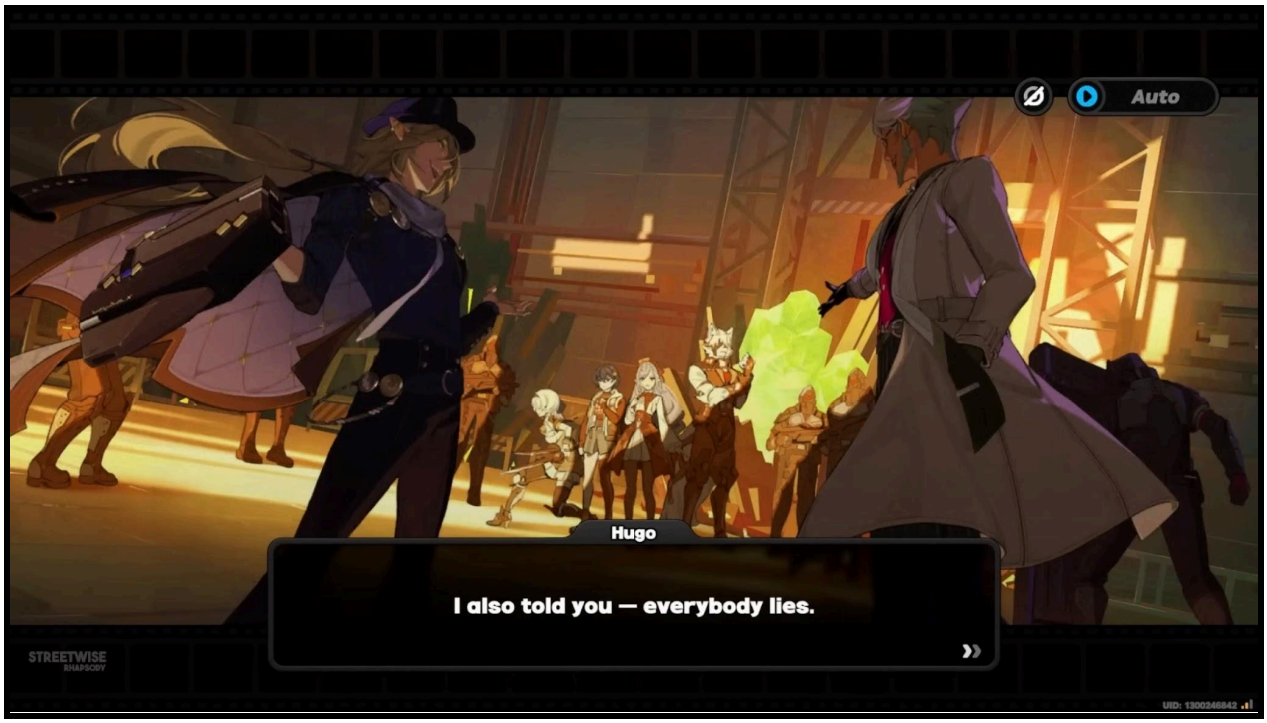


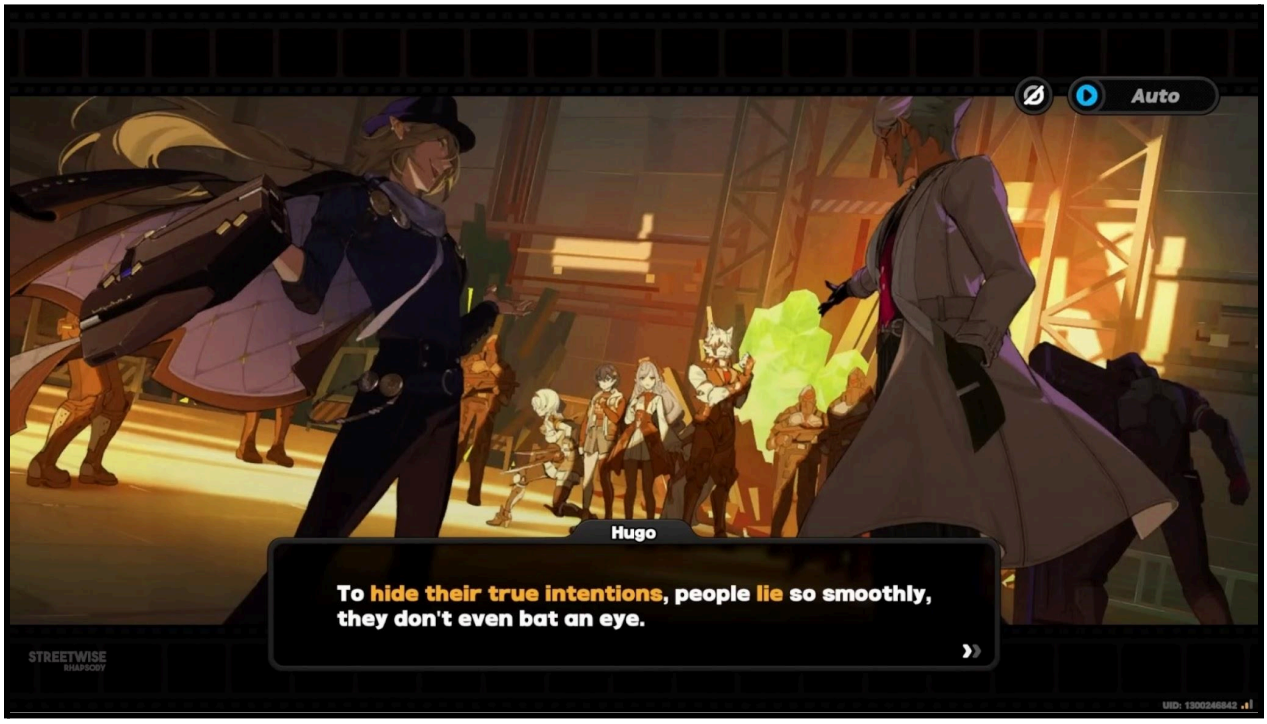


That earlier meeting? It was a setup.


Auto
Vivian
You told me the whole point of Mockingbird was to do anything it takes to bring a little justice to this world...
STREETWISE
RHAPSODY
UID: 1300246842


Auto
Vivian
Was all of that... just a lie?
STREETWISE
RHAPSODY
UID: 1300246842





Vivian, betrayed and furious, confronts Hugo. But he deflects coldly—Mockingbird was always built on lies, and the only truth he ever gave her was just that: everyone lies.

Chaos follows. Lowlifes swarm the group while Hartman and Hugo flee to the helipad.


Auto
Hugo
Did we? Ah~ I don't remember.
STREETWISE
RHAPSODY
UID: 1300246842


Auto
Hugo
I imagine this is your favorite kind of entertainment — watching allies betray each other, suspicion festering until it all turns to bitter hatred...
STREETWISE
RHAPSODY
UID: 1300246842


Auto
Hugo
Right when you think you've succeeded, I'm here to tell you... it was all fake. None of it was real.
STREETWISE
RHAPSODY
UID: 1300246842


Auto
Hugo
Let this pain sink in. It's karma for what you did to me back then.
STREETWISE
RHAPSODY
UID: 1300246842


Auto
Hugo
My full name is: Hugo Vlad Ravenlock.
STREETWISE
RHAPSODY
UID: 1300246842


Auto
Hartman
That's impossible?! You... You're part of our family?!
STREETWISE
RHAPSODY
UID: 1300246842





There, Hartman demands his reward—only for Hugo to smirk and say he must've forgotten they had a deal. He then drops a bombshell: His real name is Hugo Vlad Ravenlock—an illegitimate heir to the Ravenlock bloodline.



Hartman scoffs, but Hugo reveals he has backing from Edmund at TOPS. His rise is complete.



Vivian tries to make sense of it—maybe Hugo did all this just to get revenge on Hartman?



But Hugo makes it clear: no. The betrayal was real, and it was for himself.



A fight erupts. Hugo is cornered and takes Belle hostage, blade to her neck. He demands the core—he knew Vivian had it. She learned from him, after all.



When Vivian concedes, Hugo never planned to honor the deal. The blade presses closer to Belle—until Lycaon snaps.

A moralist to the end, Lycaon wrestles between justice and necessity.



But Hugo forces his hand—testing his beliefs, daring him to choose.





And Lycaon does. He drives his hands through Hugo’s heart. Hugo falls off the rooftop into the Hollow below—no body recovered.

Vivian and Belle, shaken, try to rationalize it: maybe he survived. Maybe they'll find him.





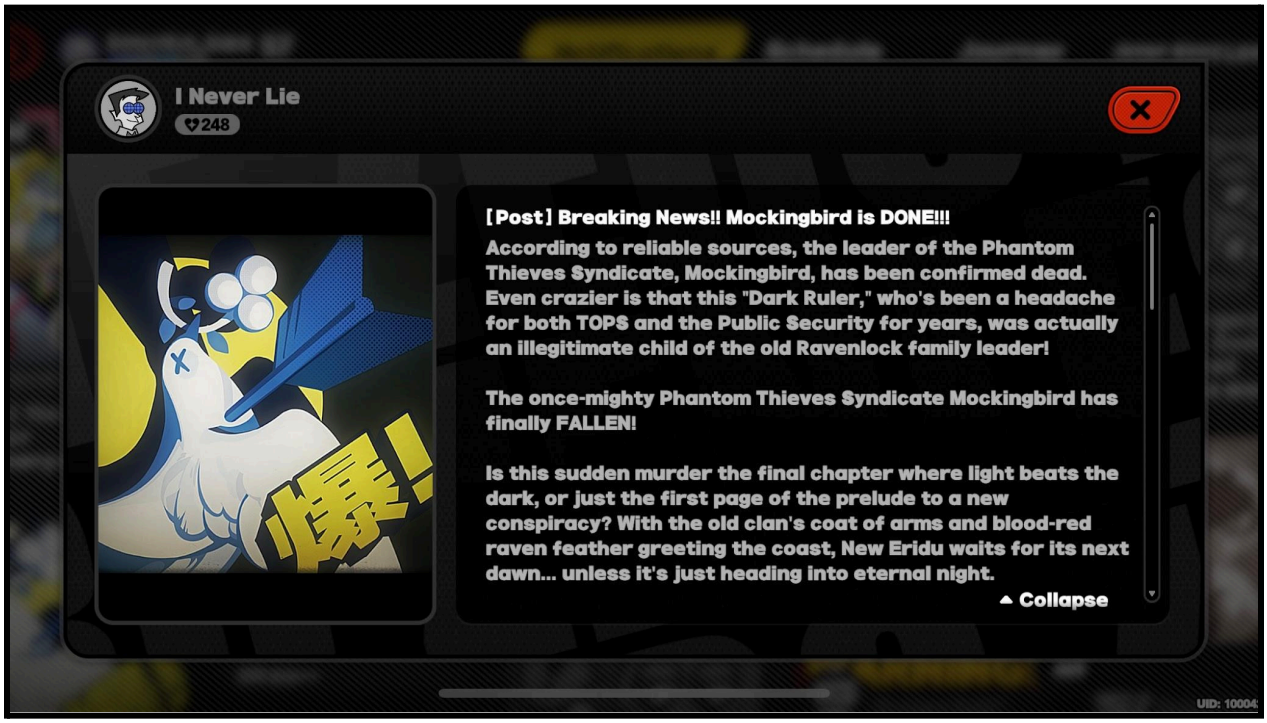
But the truth settles in with Lycaon's words..

Hartman escapes with the core. Hugo’s plan—his masterpiece of betrayal—ends in blood and shadows.

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“Aftermath”

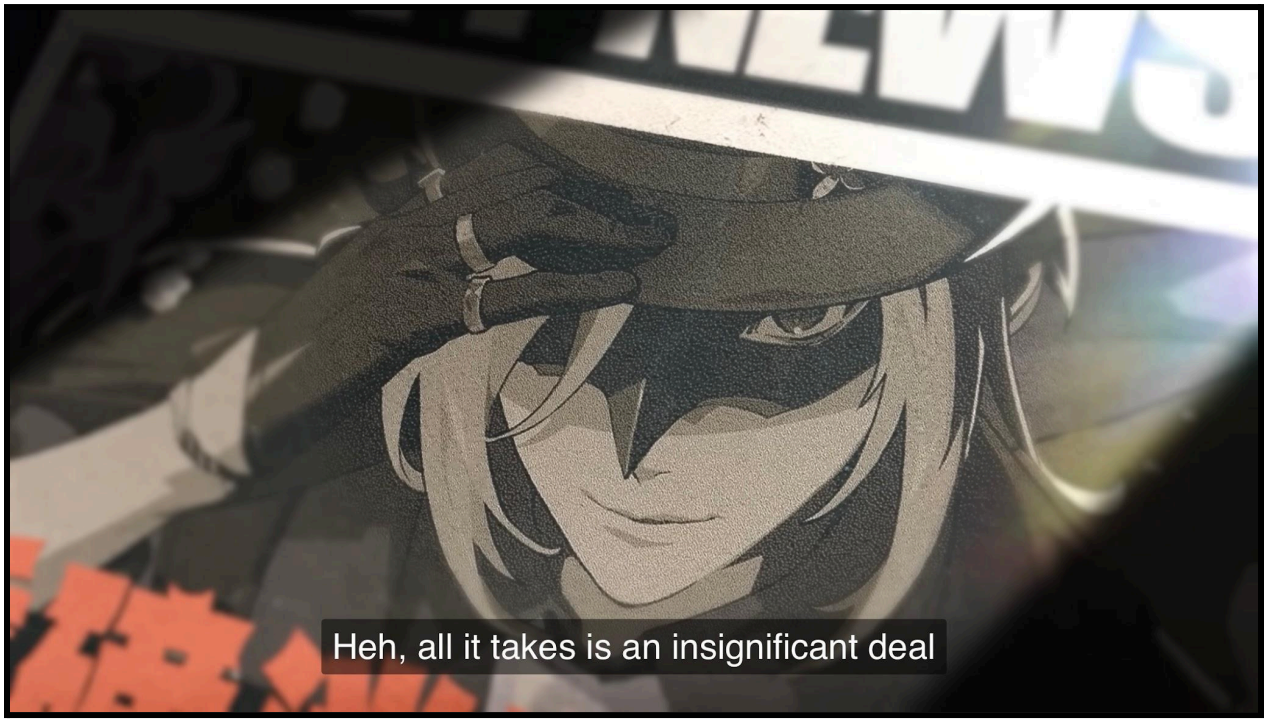
With Mockingbird's death, the floodgates opened.



News spread like wildfire:—The infamous vigilante was none other than Hugo Vlad Ravenlock.—An illegitimate heir.—Killed at the hands of the current Ravenlock patriarch.



And over the chaos, Hugo's voice plays over the newspaper. The Ravenlocks have now taken quite the hit.





That one final move—A calculated self-destruction, A martyr's curtain call—turned a criminal into a hero.

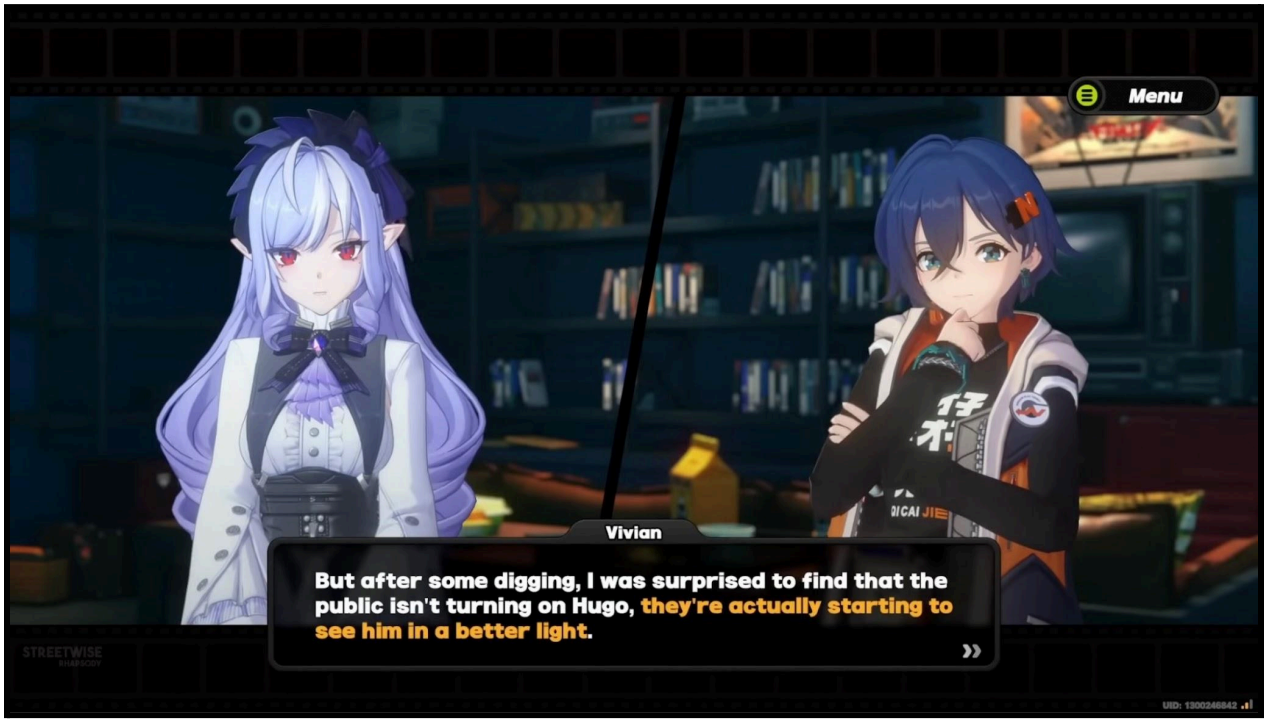


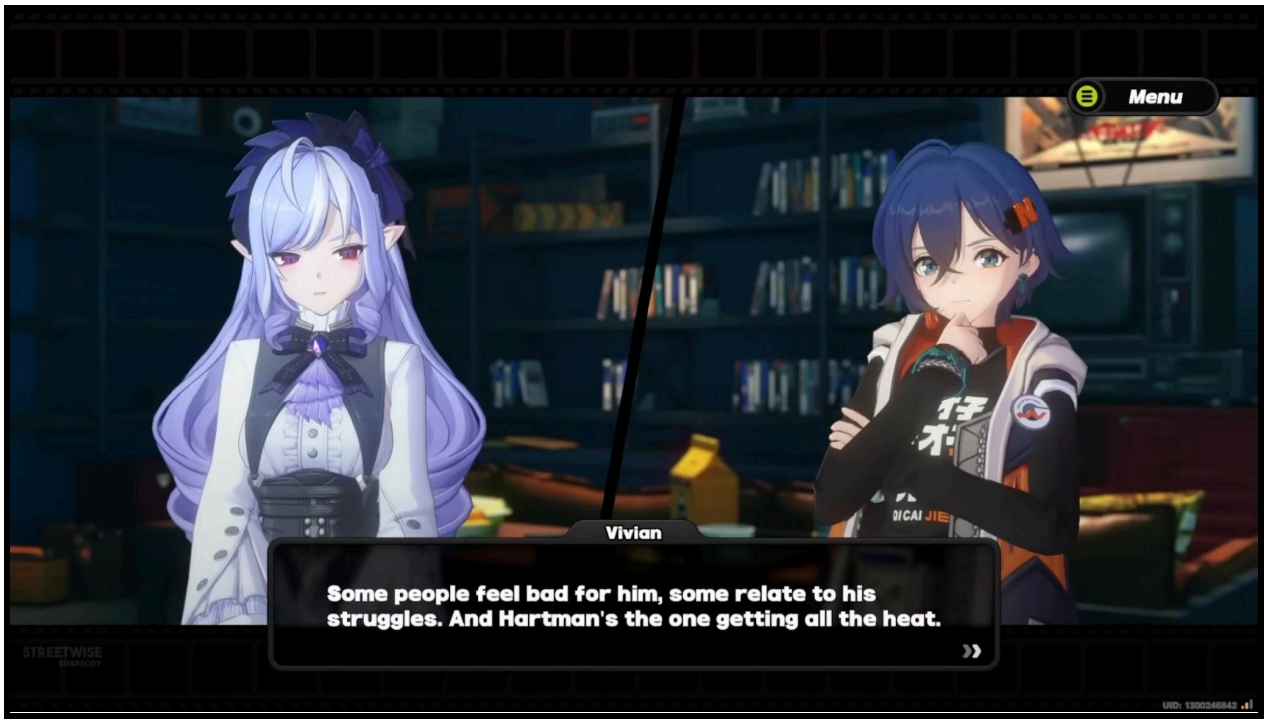
In the eyes of the public, Hugo won.

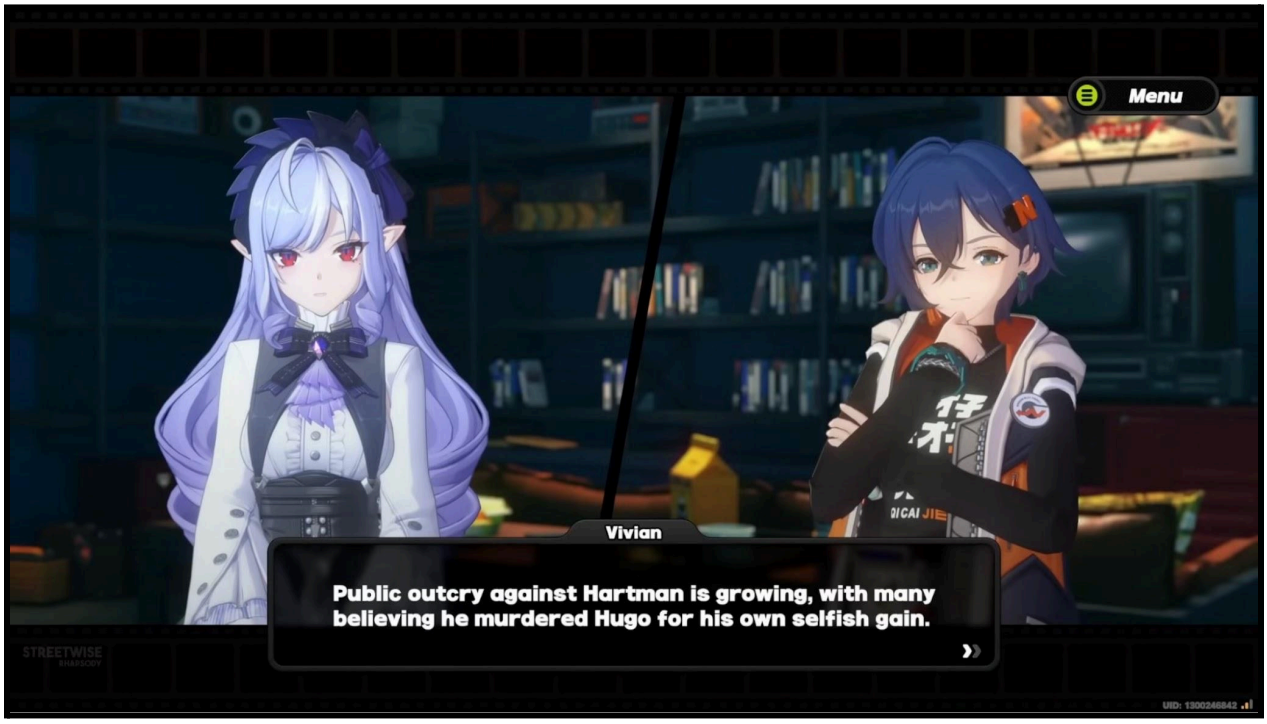
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“Is This the End or the Beginning?”







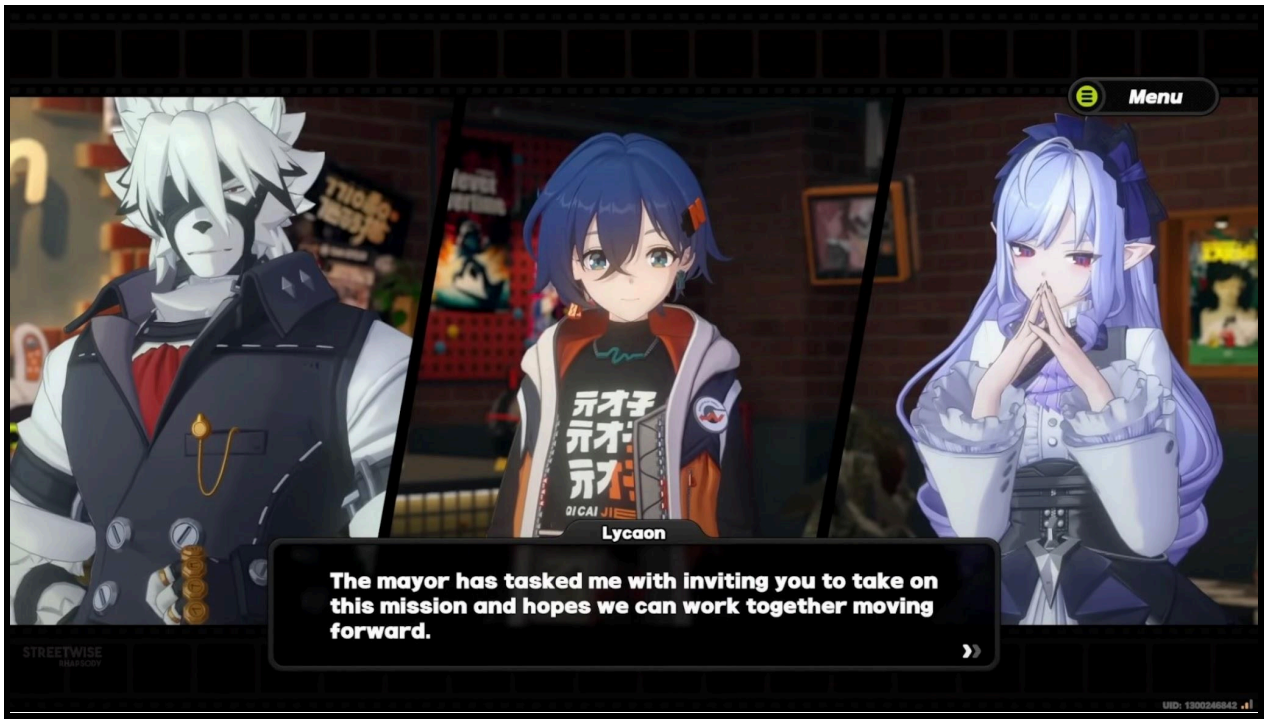


Vivian reaches out. She confirms it—the world has embraced Mockingbird's final act. The news? Real. The reception? Glowing.





They suspect Hartman may have leaked it, but Vivian’s network came up empty. No trace. No trail.



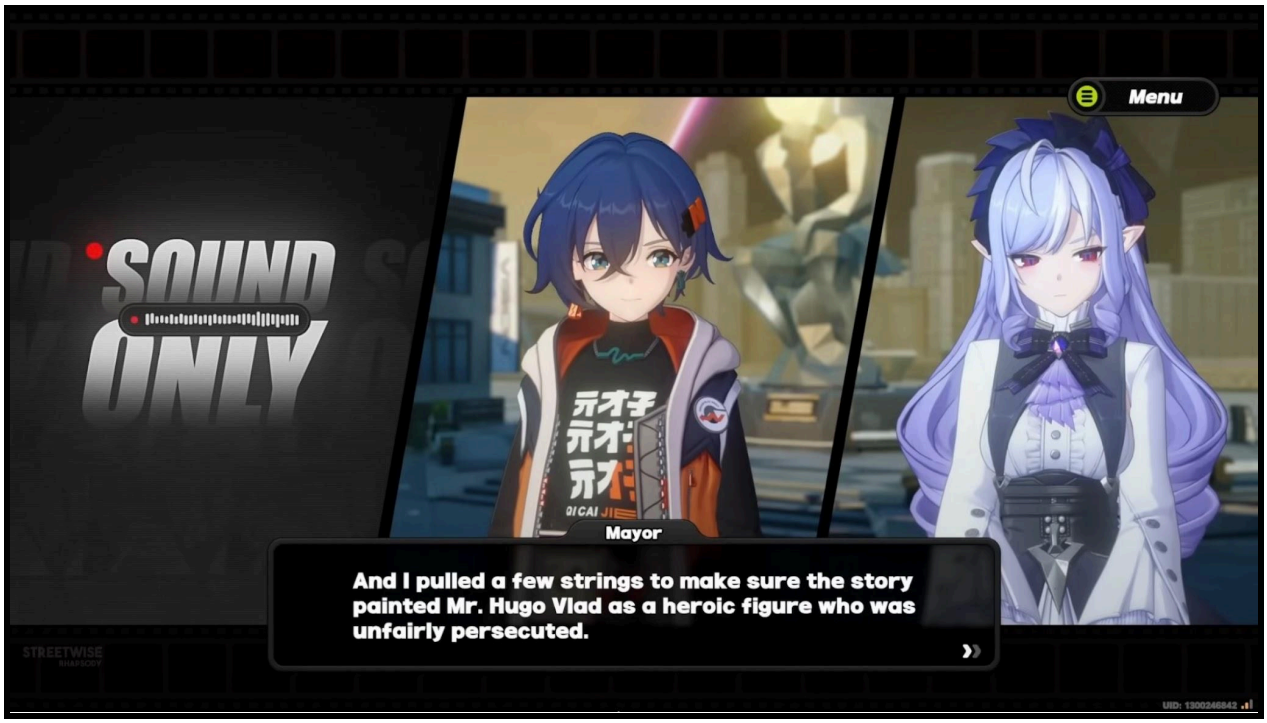
Lycaon joins, offering a quiet apology to Vivian and shifting the focus: what comes next?







When they get on call with The Mayor, the truth surfaces—He didn’t start the fire, but he stoked it.



Fanned the flames until the myth of Hugo burned bright. A phantom thief turned public hero—All by design.

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“Sacrifices & Exaltists”

With Mockingbird's death, the floodgates opened.