

The Afterlife Tales of Rei Mikage
(A HOZUKI NO REITETSU Fanfiction by Lady Storykeeper)

The Afterlife consists of Heaven and Hell.
Hell is divided into 8 Fiery Hells and 8 Frozen Hells.
Those are further subdivided into 272 sections.
Due to the post war baby boom, and the many vengeful spirits growing restless,
The Afterlife was thrown into unprecedented chaos.
In both our world and the afterlife,
Proper governing requires sound decision-making.
Unfortunately, there are far more charismatic leaders than there are wise decision-makers.

CHAPTER 01

A SIMPLE JAM ERROR

On the 8th day of September.... Rei Mikage died.
Her family, friends and co-workers all mourned with such sorrow....
A young girl who did her best to live her life to the fullest, was cut short by death.
But what no one really expected...
That her Afterlife is just beginning.

(REI'S POV)

“All right then! You’re next missy!”
I didn’t know how long I was standing.... Heck I didn’t even remember how I got here.
The last thing I remembered was that; I was on my way to meet up with Hiroki at Sakuya’s Café.
I then noticed a little kid running out to the streets trying to get his ball. All of a sudden a car comes speeding out from nowhere heading straight for the kid... I remember I stated running and yelling.... pushing the kid... then the car coming near.... And then....

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I'm dead.

I guess that would explain my outfit. I looked down and saw that I was wearing a white funeral robe and a bandana was tied around my forehead.

"HEY! DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME! COME ALONG YOU'RE NEXT!"

I jumped in surprised as the man next to me grabbed me roughly by the arm. I then noticed that he had two horns on his head.... Wait... Horns?!?

"Um... right sorry" I stuttered before I followed him and another man (who also has horns) towards the great hall.

From a distance I heard a scream, my skin nearly jumped with fear and my heart is pounding nervously.

This didn't look good.

(NORMAL POV)

Rei looked around at her scenery and realized she must be in some court.

Looking up to a high table that is adorned by human skulls, she saw a large bearded giant looking down on her.

"Whoa... he looks scary!" thought Rei nervously. She looked away she noticed a young man standing from a distance and reading a scroll.

He was a handsome man, Rei thought, Tall and a lean body. He is dressed in a simple black robe with red lining. His black hair parted in the middle, she also could see a single horn on his forehead.

The young man then looks up from his scroll and sees her. Rei, realizing that she was staring quickly averts her gaze down at her feet. Her cheeks tinged pink.

"Rei Mikage...." Said the Giant Man, "You are judged here for your heinous crime, of Stealing and Embezzling money from your co-workers and clients..."

Rei looks up shocked at the Giant.

"Eh?!?" She exclaimed, "W-Wait a minute... there must be some mistake!"

"Do not try to lie your way out of this! I, King Enma have seen the records of your horrible acts!"

"THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!" Rei shouted, the two oni guards restraining her as she takes a few step forwards. "I HAVE NEVER DONE THOSE THINGS THAT YOU ACCUSE ME OF! I'M INNOCENT!"

Rei pauses as she realizes something "Wait....did you say King Enma?"

"Of course that's him you foolish human!" Whispered the oni on her left angrily, "The one in front of you is none other than the Great Lord Enma!"

“T-then if he is King Enma....” Said Rei, a cold chill ran down her spine as she slowly comes to a realization. She looks up at King Enma fearfully. “That means... I’m in Jigoku?!?”

“That’s correct.” Replied King Enma.

Rei fell on her knees, as she felt shock of her situation.

“T-this can’t be...”she muttered, “how did this happen to me?”

King Enma looked down at the young human girl... seeing her looking scared and confused, the great giant couldn’t help but feel a bit sorry for this one. He then quickly shook his head and reassures himself not to be fooled. Besides, he thought as his gaze slowly turns to the young dark haired oni, Hozuki might think he is being too soft and might punish him for that. That thought made King Enma slightly shudder in fear.

“Now then...” King Enma declared, “I will now pass judgement on where you will be spending for the next hundred years...”

Rei quickly jumped to her feet. The two Onis, once again restrain her.

“PLEASE SIR! I BEG OF YOU!” cried the young girl, “I MAY HAVE MADE LITTLE MISTAKES DURING THE TIME THAT I WAS STILL LIVING.... BUT I SWEAR THAT I DIDN’T DO WHAT YOU ARE ACCUSING ME OF!”

Hozuki observed the young human silently as she continue to plea for her innocence. Something seems to be wrong here he thought. Normally he could tell when a sinner is lying just to save himself, but for this young girl... he could see that she was actually telling the truth.

“SILENCE!” Roared King Enma, “YOU DARE INSIST ON LYING TO ME!”

Rei then sees him quickly pointing to a mirror on the other side. She could see her reflection clearly.

King Enma continues, “Now, gaze upon this mirror! The truth will be reflected here and you will be humiliated!”

Hozuki then takes out from his robe a remote control and presses the on button.

All the people in the room watch as the mirror as it started to show statics, like that of a television.

Soon an image appears on the screen.

“I’m sorry for causing you such trouble, miss.”

“No trouble at all, granny.”

All of them, except from a confused Rei, was dumbstruck at what they saw. Rei giving a piggyback ride to a frail old lady while walking up the stairs.

“Wait.... That’s not right, maybe you need to go forward to 3 weeks” said Enma still staring at the mirror.

Hozuki pressed another button.

“Thank you so much for volunteering at the children’s center. All of them loved the puppet show you and your team build for them”

“Well I am glad they liked it.”

“THANK YOU ONECHAN!”

Rei stares at the screen, she remembered that day when she and a group of her officemates decided to volunteer for a children’s center. Everyone was looking even more confused at that point.

“G-go back 2 years ago then!” cried King Enma

***“I realize shinjou no boryuumuha Konna ni dokidoki agarippanashi
Sekaiichi no koibito ni nareru madeha Never give up
I feel my heart donna koto okitemo Yappa kimi no koto
Don't stop Don't stop Norikoete yukeru kara”***

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“Um....” Rei began slowly, looking up at the now stunned King Enma. “... so singing at a Karaoke café with my college friends is considered a sin?”

“King Enma...” said Hozuki “may I have a look at her files for a moment.”

King Enma quickly looked down at his young aide, “Oh... of course.” He then handed to Hozuki the files that were on his desk. Hozuki scanned the file thoroughly and finally his eyes widen as he noticed something.

“Great King Enma...”

“Yes, Hozuki kun?”

“By any chance, did you have a snack here earlier?”

“Oh... well I had some Bavarian cream filled pastries this morning. They were soo tasty I couldn’t wait.”

“Did you eat some while studying these files?”

“Umm.... Y-Yeah I did...”

Hozuki then wiped from the file a small dab of cream that stained from the file.

“The cream covered part of this character.... You’ve got the wrong soul!”

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“EEEEHHHHHHH!!!!” Screamed King Enma, “HOW COULD I HAVE MADE SUCH A FOOLISH ERROR!!!!”

Rei looks up speechless at the King, who changed from a scary looking ogre to someone like her frantic Dad when he forgot to pick up mom at the supermarket.

“MY DEAR GIRL I AM TERRIBLY! THIS NEVER EVER HAPPENS TO US BEFORE!”

“Um... it’s ok...” Rei reassures the Flabbergasted King.

“You two please escort Ms. Mikage to the waiting lounge. I will see to her shortly.”

“Yes Lord Hozuki!”

As the two escort Rei out she looked back and saw that the Oni known as Hozuki is emitting a very Dark aura. King Enma is now sweating furiously, as he looks down at his young aide; who is now holding his iron mace and looking at the king with a murderous gaze.

At the hallway, Rei and the two wardens jumped at the shrill cry echoing down the walls.
