

D.E.S.K.

In-World Documents by W. Kelly-Buttfield

RPG DEVELOPMENT - D.E.S.K.

Developer Note: Through the following in-world document samples, I wanted to play around with pieces that both added to the overall world-building of D.E.S.K. and Seoul, while hinting at the origins of this story alongside possible upcoming encounters for Ha-Eun and Regan.

IN-WORLD DOCUMENTS

LOVE LETTER

Location: Discovered by Regan tucked into a bouquet of flowers beside a tombstone in the Seoul National Cemetery. Handwritten in English on a page seemingly torn from a diary.

Content:

It is strange that we should meet like this for the first time. I apologise it took me so long to find you, although you must admit you didn't make it easy for me.

You'd be amazed by how far I've travelled, but when I heard, well I couldn't let that last conversation be the last words I ever spoke to you. You deserved so much more.

I hope you know that you were loved.

That I loved you.

HOTEL MEMO

Location: Discovered by Ha-Eun at the hotel reception inside the Seven Luck Casino. Handwritten in Korean on a Casino branded notepad.

Content:

124호실 - 오늘 아침에 전화가 와서 밤에 이상한 소음을 호소했습니다. 벽에서 웅웅거리는 소리가 나는 것을 언급했습니다. 아마도 배관이나 근처 방일 것입니다. 하지만 누군가 와서 봐달라고 요청했습니다. 매우 화가 납니다. 관리팀을 보내서 불필요하게 유지보수를 방해하는 것이 좋을 수도 있습니다.

(Room 124 - Called this morning and complained of strange noises in the night. Mentioned a rumbling in the walls. Probably just the plumbing or the neighbouring room, but have requested that someone come and look. Very upset. Might be a handful, probably best to send management before unnecessarily harassing maintenance.)

LORE OF THE DOKKAEBI

Location: Discovered in a children's picture book by Regan when exploring a childcare centre (side quest). The writing is in Korean but the pictures help depict a simplified version of the following story.

Content:

Once upon a time, when our mountains reached the very heavens, a man was crossing the river Han and fell asleep. Upon doing so he at once entered a strange dream where an aged man with a flowing beard and a tiger at his side approached the boatman. Though the man asked after the name of the aged stranger, he made no attempt to respond. Instead, the older man asked of the boatman to extend his palm so that he might forewarn him of a great calamity.

As the boatman extended his palm, now suspecting he was in the presence of a great individual, the stranger's tiger struck out with its paw and clawed the boatman's hand. Though he felt no pain, his hand began to bleed as the stranger spoke. The stranger told him that once he crossed the river he must not enter the city of Seoul, but wait by the nearest bridge where he would be met by a convoy. This convoy would be stricken with fear by the mark now bestowed upon his skin and flee, but if he did not burn their cargo then all of Seoul would perish. He must burn it, but never look inside.

Suddenly, the boatman woke with a start. Looking at his palm, he discovered a livid scar where the tiger's claw had cut into his skin. Amazed by his dream, the man did as he had been instructed and waited by the bridge. Sure enough, a strange caravan of carts soon arrived, filled with baskets. Upon the presentation of the boatman's hand many of the men leading the carts ran away in sudden fear, some even jumping into the river below. Further amazed, the boatmen piled the carts together as best he could, before setting the horses free and setting the wooden baskets on fire. Immediately they broke open as the flames consumed them, releasing a sight that terrified the boatman. A number of horrible little creatures, some no bigger than his thumb, came tumbling out in the thousands, melting in the flames or pitching themselves over the bridge and into the Han where they promptly drowned. Yet he held his ground, out of fear or out of duty we might never know, but it is said that none of the creatures made it past the man or the bridge.

And for the rest of his life, the boatman carried the tiger's scar as a reminder of what he had achieved with his bravery, having saved Seoul from a terrible and monstrous invasion.

HANDWRITTEN WARNING

Location: Discovered by Regan and Ha-Eun on the walls of the Bukchon Hanok Village. Written in Korean by a shaky hand that trails off.

Content:

그들은 거짓말을 했습니다. (*They lied.*)

그들은 우리를 보호할 수 없었습니다. (*They could not protect us.*)

지금은 아무도 우리를 구할 수 없습니다. (*No one can save us now.*)

그들이 오고 있습니다. (*They are coming.*)

우리는... (*We are going to...*)