

Pharmaceuticals

“Thoughtcrime does not entail death: thoughtcrime is death.”

—George Orwell

And then there was light.

Twitching in agony, you pry apart your eyelids, only to wish you hadn't. In your sluggish state, you barely make out the silhouettes of two figures. As your vision clears, you recognise one as Van Rjien, his hand waving a hastily improvised fan of paper to encourage the diffusion of smelling salts.

“Here, have something to drink,”

he offers. You snatch the fan off Van Rjien and gulp down the water. The sensation of cold water sliding down your oesophagus helps you feel at ease. Your thoughts start to flood back – there was something that you had to tell Van Rjien. You make an effort to sit upright.

“Take it easy, don't worry, I have already read the message you copied out. It appears that, that Jo,” he inhales deeply, “has not been entirely honest with me all these years. Mr Hallaway here”, he says, gesturing towards the owner of the second silhouette, “saw her trailed by a pack of hooded men. He thought it suspicious and followed them, and as luck would have it, saved your life right after they tried to drown you.”

Your gaze meets the wiry man in his forties standing just behind Van Rjien. His stands bent over, and you can tell that he is trying to avoid eye contact. It was difficult to conceive that such a frail and sickly creature could have rescued you. Still weak, you barely voice your thanks, but without any acknowledgement, he limps away. Strange character.

“Do not worry about Mr Hallaway. He just likes to keep his distance from new faces. In light of recent dangers presented to you, I must ask if you are sure you would like to continue. . .”

The word ‘danger’ reminds you of your recent encounter, and your mind goes blank. Your head droops forward slightly, and once more Van Rjien takes this as an affirmation. Egad! You simply must learn to stop doing that! Before long, the two of you are once more seated in a car and driving along the mud banks of the drying reservoir. As you drift off in your drowsiness, you notice that you are still holding the fan from before.

Drug chart

Telmisartan	20mg	po	bd
Nifedipine	20mg	po	daily
Latanoprost	2 sachets	po	nocte
Oxycontin	15mg	po	tds
Isoniazid	600mg	po	daily
Simvastatin	40mg	po	daily
Rifampicin	300mg	po	daily
Coloxyl & Senna	20mg	po	nocte
Omeprazole	10mg	po	bd
Oxazepam	one drop	be	nocte

—Dave Tsang