

## Gourmet 241

### Chapter 241: Bu Fang's Culinary Instructions

Inside Owner Bu's kitchen, Yu Fu blankly opened her cherry mouth wide and her face was filled with astonishment.

It was rumored that Owner Bu's kitchen had always been a mysterious zone. Up until that day, no one had managed to enter it. She had never expected that today she would unexpectedly be able to have a chance to step into Owner Bu's small store... This was simply too exciting!

Yu Fu swayed her snake tail and quickly followed suit as she walked behind Bu Fang.

Passing through the kitchen entrance, the atmosphere of the place had somewhat changed. Within the small store, it there was a kind of comfortable vibe, making a person feel insipidly intoxicated. However, the kitchen was very eye-catching with a somewhat professional vibe. The moment she entered, she was confronted with the plump machinery puppet. That puppet's red eyes flickered as it swept around her body once, causing her whole body hair to get erected.

This puppet was the intimidating puppet her dad had mentioned? It seemed like it was not as fierce-looking as those people had said. Its tummy was even very pudgy, making it look quite cute.

Bu Fang walked to the front and patted on Whitey tummy as he introduced it to Yu Fu, who was behind him: "This is Whitey. It is my mechanical assistant. You can just see it as my puppet helper. After we finish cooking our dishes, the remaining ingredients will be recycled by Whitey."

Yu Fu immediately stood upright and put her hands together. She bowed to Whitey as she greeted the puppet.

Whitey mechanical eyes flickered. It raised its leaf-like hand and scratched its bald circular head.

Bu Fang led Yu Fu past Whitey and came to the kitchen stove area. This kitchen stove was made using exquisite materials that looked like a kind of ceramic tile but was a lot more glossier than such.

On top of the kitchen stove, there were all sorts of kitchen equipments arranged there. Everything that should be there actually was, making the facilities look very complete. The chopping board was manufactured using an extraordinary log. It was emitting a faint fragrance. Yu Fu widened her eyes as she curiously looked at everything in front of her.

The decoration in the kitchen was totally different from the rest of the small store. The kitchen was very classy. On the walls, there was not a single unnecessary stuff compared to the small store. The kitchen surroundings were all filled with cupboards, all made using wood with a mixture of some material that Yu Fu had no knowledge about.

The material was very cold when she got in contact with it. Furthermore, the interior would flicker with radiance.

"This is a refrigerator. It can store food inside and is used to maintain the freshness of the ingredients." Bu Fang introduced it nonchalantly. He opened up the refrigerator door. Immediately, a breath of cold air soared out from within, causing Yu Fu to shiver.

"This is an oven. A lot of ingredients can be baked or roasted. With this we are able to produce lots of delicacies."

Bu Fang opened up the oven. Its interior was untainted by even a speck of dust and a breath of cold-air spread out from within.

Lampblack machine, grindstone, microwave oven and etc... All these apparatus were things Yu Fu had never heard or seen before. Although she was not able to understand them, she felt that all of this was very professional.

This was her first time realizing that to master culinary skills was not as simple as she had imagined. It turned out that there were actually so many things that she needed to research on.

"This is a kitchen knife stand. On it, there are all sorts of different vegetable knives. Find one that you feel the most comfortable with when you hold it." Bu Fang pointed at the kitchen knife stand that was on top of the kitchen stove.

Yu Fu brought forth her curiosity and measured the stand. She saw a pitch-black and incomparably thick huge kitchen knife. She was immediately amazed by it.

"This.. Is this also a kitchen knife? Why is it so big, so heavy?"

The corners of Bu Fang's mouth curled up, and he held onto that kitchen knife as he lifted it up effortlessly.

This kitchen knife was the uniquely heavy knife he had used everyday to train his knife work. It was impossible for an ordinary person to brandish it as they wished.

Yu Fu tried to lift it. After great effort, her wrist started to ache, but even then she was still unable to lift the kitchen knife up.

"This is the kitchen knife I use to train my knife work and for carving purposes. You should change to another one," Bu Fang said.

Yu Fu glimpsed at Bu Fang curiously, "Is there even a need for practise for someone as skilled as Owner Bu?"

"There is no end to one's culinary skills. If you wish to become an outstanding chef, daily practise is essential. Only by doing so would your heart be immersed into your culinary skill so as to experience all the changes in the dishes you make. Since you want to become my cooking apprentice, you must also do the same knife work and carving training I do everyday," Bu Fang said seriously.

His culinary skills were indeed very good, but he was very clear in his heart that without his daily practice, they would not have improved so quickly.

Yu Fu sighed. Afterwards, she held onto all the different kind of kitchen knives. Ultimately, she chose a kitchen knife that was around the size of Bu Fang's palm. Its weight was reasonable and it was very suitable for Yu Fu.

Bu Fang nodded his head and took out a few Thunderstorm Pigeon eggs from the cupboard. This was supplied by the system and was specially used to make the Egg-Fried Rice.

"I will first teach you how to recognize the ingredients. This is a third grade spirit beast's egg, the Thunderstorm Pigeon's egg. There are lots of true energy hidden inside it," Bu Fang said. He took out a porcelain bowl and gently knocked the egg against it, then dropped the egg yolk and egg white into the porcelain bowl. Within the egg yolk, there were faint thunder arcs zittering.

"If you wish to cook a proper Egg-Fried Rice, it is very important to be able to control your true energy well. You must be able to control the true energy in the ingredients and not let it leak out. This is the crux of guaranteeing the dishes' taste."

Bu Fang congealed true energy and changed it into a pair of chopsticks as he stirred the egg gently.

"Are you aware of how to control the true energy of the ingredient?" Bu Fang looked at Yu Fu seriously.

Yu Fu shook her head blankly. How could she possibly know of such profound stuff?

"Rhythm, and also use your heart to feel it. True energy is a kind of fluctuation. Once you feel the fluctuation within, try to maintain the stability of the fluctuation when you are cooking it. This way, you would not damage the composition of the true energy and allow it to leak out," Bu Fang explained. Thereafter, his hands started to tremble very quickly as he seasoned out the Thunderstorm Pigeon egg.

Bu Fang took out his true energy chopsticks once again as he turned the egg liquid into a single thread by pulling it.

"Bang!" Bu Fang's true energy vaporized. Thereafter, he squatted down and took out the pearl rice filled with true energy from the bottom cupboard. After washing it, he placed it into the steamer basket and waited for it to be cooked.

Yu Fu stood behind Bu Fang obediently and looked at Bu Fang's movements meticulously.

"You have to remember the location I took out the ingredients from. In the future, all the ingredients are to be taken from there. You must remember them well," Bu Fang ignited the stove and said to Yu Fu.

Yu Fu heart shivered as she nodded her head seriously. Her face was filled with a lovable child-like expression.

Sizzle~!

The moment the oil grease spread out, Bu Fang extracted out the moist and plump pearl rice from the steamer basket and then threw it into the pan. He lifted the pan and stir-fried it, causing the flames to soar up. Yu Fu, who was standing behind him, was frightened to the point of having her snake tail sway about.

\*Clang clang clang!\*

Rich rice fragrance was emitted out while stir-frying a pan of pearl rice. It twined on the tip of Yu Fu's nose almost causing her to lose control as she breathed in a mouthful of air.

"The most important thing you have to pay attention to when cooking the Egg-Fried Rice is the heat intensity. If you are able to grasp the heat intensity well, your Egg-Fried Rice can only be counted as half-complete." Bu Fang continued to provide guidance. His words were not plenty, but during crucial moments he would open his mouth to remind Yu Fu of something.

Yu Fu was constantly nodding her head behind him. She tried to remember all the details diligently.

The moment the egg liquid was poured into the pan, the egg fragrance soared out. It was uncomparably rich, making one feel that their body had been wrapped up by the dense egg fragrance, as if they had fallen into an ocean of Egg-Fried Rice.

The rice fragrance blended together with the egg aroma as it seduced one's desire for good food. This would cause one to subconsciously swallow a mouthful of saliva.

Bu Fang was standing perfectly straight as he held onto the pan handle. He stir-fried it very quickly and his actions were very skilled. It appeared very natural, as if he was drawing a beautiful drawing and was extraordinarily pleasing.

Yu Fu could not help but to be somewhat infatuated by it.

From bowl to pan to fire, it merely took him a few breaths of time before he poured the finished Egg-Fried Rice into the blue and white porcelain bowl. The slightly sticky egg liquid wrapped around the pearl rice, giving it a glossy coating and as the hot steam rose up, the delicious mixture emitted a rich eggy fragrance.

Yu Fu stuck out her small and exquisite tongue as she licked her soft and delicate red lips. Deep in her heart, she was extremely astonished.

Maybe she was the first person who had seen how Bu Fang cooked a bowl of Egg-Fried Rice. It turned out that the Egg-Fried Rice which seemed to emit rays of brilliant light was cooked this way.

"Have you memorized the steps? As my apprentice, the requirement for you is very high. You can finish this bowl of Egg-Fried Rice first. Only by finishing it will you have the energy to work," Bu Fang used a towel to wipe the water droplets on his hand and said to Yu Fu.

"After your meal, I will prepare for you three portions of the ingredients for the dish. You will be using that for practice. After using the three portions, I hope that your comprehension toward the Egg-Fried Rice would advance a step. In the future, you must remember that when you cook the Egg-Fried Rice, it will be brought to the store to be sold at one crystal. Each time, I want you to ask yourself if your dish is truly worth that crystal."

Bu Fang poured a glass of warm water and drank a mouthful. He looked at Yu Fu unenthusiastically. Subsequently, he turned around and left the kitchen. Walking to the doorway of the kitchen, he turned around and said: "Your room is the guest room on the second floor. After you have finished practicing, you can go to the guest room to have a rest."

After he finished speaking, he went up and returned back to his own room. He started preparing for his rest. His teaching... was just so simple and rough. As for how much she had comprehended, it would have to depend on Yu Fu herself.

Yu Fu stood blankly inside the kitchen and looked at the steaming hot Egg-Fried Rice which was still giving off that a decadent fragrance. Her eyes immediately showed hints of unswerving determination.

She took the blue and white porcelain spoon and scooped up a spoon of Egg-Fried Rice and placed it into her mouth. With each bite, Yu Fu made sure to savor every grain of rice in order to learn about Owner Bu's Egg-Fried Rice.

## Chapter 242: And the Disciple Is...?

Bu Fang opened his eyes. All of a sudden, he sat up from his original position. He rubbed his drowsy-eyes and yawned.

After washing his face and rinsing his mouth, Bu Fang walked out of his room. The guest room was as usual, shut tightly.

Going downstairs, Bu Fang arrived in the kitchen. It looked the same as usual, without a single speck of dust. It was clean to the point of making one feel extremely comfortable just by looking at it. Bu Fang patted on Whitey's plump tummy and curled the corners of his mouth. His mood was entirely free from worry.

Bu Fang picked up the uniquely heavy kitchen knife and started his daily practice of knife work and carving skills. That heavy kitchen knife looked very light-weighted when in his hands, making it look rather inconceivable.

Following the aroma of the Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs pervading the air, Yu Fu swayed her snake tail and descended unhurriedly from the second floor. With just a quick glance, she saw Bu Fang practicing his culinary skills inside the kitchen. Immediately, her face was filled with admiration toward him.

"Good morning, Owner Bu." Yu Fu smiled and greeted.

Bu Fang shot a glance at her and nodded his head faintly. His concentration had all been used on cooking the Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs while Yu Fu looked at Bu Fang's technique curiously. She was extremely curious toward the Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs which was suffusing an exquisite fragrance all around.

Bu Fang skillfully cooked the Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs while Yu Fu studied it earnestly. The scene of them looked rather harmonious momentarily.

The Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs was taken out from the pan and was given a generous splash of the drunken juice. Bu Fang took the porcelain bowl and walked out of the kitchen.

"Continue practicing your knife work and carving skills. Later, I will evaluate your Egg-Fried Rice," Bu Fang passed by Yu Fu and said nonchalantly. Thereafter, he walked into the small store and opened up the door boards.

"Blacky, time to eat," Bu Fang said.

He placed the fragrant Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs in front of Blacky and rubbed against its back fur gently. After that, Bu Fang stood up, pulled a chair over and curled up on it at the entrance.

The Spring wind blew as it brought along the slight chill from the early morning. It was very slow and gentle, making one feel the urge to go back to sleep.

Inside the kitchen, Yu Fu picked the kitchen knife she chose yesterday and started to cut the ingredients Bu Fang had prepared for her. There were a lot of them, as it was filled to the brim of the large basin.

Yu Fu practiced her knife work conscientiously. Even someone as skilled as Owner Bu had to practice every day as well. What excuse did she have to not practice conscientiously?

Not long after, the small store seemed to be bustling with noise and excitement. There were people who called out to Owner Bu. Afterwards, it was the call for ordering dishes.

Yu Fu looked at the half completed basin and her wrist was already feeling numb. She was somewhat flustered immediately.

Bu Fang stepped into the kitchen and saw the somewhat panicking Yu Fu. He was slightly puzzled, "What's wrong? Didn't I say before that, as a chef, you must have confidence in the skills you possess?"

"I... I did not manage to finish cutting all the ingredients." Yu Fu's face reddened and she said with some shame.

Bu Fang was taken aback. He took a quick look at the half-completed ingredients and the corner of his mouth curled up. He patted on Yu Fu head and said: "I did not stipulate that you had to finish cutting all of these ingredients, they are only meant to be used for practice. Alright, let's call it a day for your knife work practice. Cook a portion of Egg-Fried Rice for me to taste."

Yu Fu heaved a sigh of relief in her heart. She thought that Bu Fang would have scolded her severely because of that.

A small cooking bench appeared beside the large kitchen table. Bu Fang looked at the small cooking bench while rubbing his nose. Since when did this table appear? Without a doubt, this cooking bench must have been prepared by the system.

"Go to that cooking bench to cook your Egg-Fried Rice. In the future, that cooking bench shall belong to you." Bu Fang pointed at the small cooking bench that had just appeared out of nowhere as he said to Yu Fu.

Yu Fu was incessantly flabbergasted. She glanced at the cooking bench while her heart was amazed. There was no such cooking bench there yesterday... How did it suddenly appear today? It's so magical...

However, Yu Fu knew that some things are better left unanswered. Therefore, she picked out the ingredients she needed and started to cook her Egg-Fried Rice.

As usual, Bu Fang started working on the diner's dishes. His knife flickered and the ingredients were sliced very quickly. The speed was so fast that it was like a blurred image in someone else's eyes! On the other side, Yu Fu was somewhat in a daze. Owner Bu's knife work... was simply too frightening!

All kinds of fragrant dishes were placed at the window by Bu Fang. Ouyang Xiaoyi walked over with her face full of smiles as she carried the dishes away.

"Owner Bu, the Egg-Fried Rice is ready." When Yu Fu saw Bu Fang finally had some spare time to rest, she said charmingly.

Bu Fang nodded his head and walked out of the kitchen. The customers greeted out to him passionately and Bu Fang nodded at them in return. He pulled out a chair and sat down as he got Yu Fu to place the Egg-Fried Rice onto the table.

Yu Fu's Egg-Fried Rice was emitting a rich fragrance. It was a lot better compared to the previous Egg-Fried Rice she had prepared as a test. Maybe, it was because of the ingredients used.

Bu Fang scooped out a spoonful and placed it into his mouth. The fragrance immediately burst forth within his mouth. The egg fragrance and the sweet scent of the rice blended together as it stirred up Bu Fang's taste buds. His eyebrows pricked up, and he was a little flabbergasted.

"The heat intensity is still not good, and the control of the true energy frequency is too far off. The taste was still tolerable, but that was because of the ingredients used. You have to use your heart to cook and also to experience every change the ingredients go through." Bu Fang evaluation was the same as before. Straight to the point and ruthless.

Yu Fu nodded her head constantly as she listened to Bu Fang's evaluation earnestly.

...

Time flies, and Yu Fu had been learning from Bu Fang for a very long time. From her unceasing practices, a lot of dishes were finally able to taste almost the same as Bu Fang's.

Among the dishes, her forte was still the Egg-Fried Rice. After all, this was the first dish she had learned.

And in those days, Bu Fang had also taught her other two dishes. The Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs and Red Braised Meat. The Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs difficulty was extremely high. Yu Fu had practiced for a long time and was never able to meet Bu Fang's expectations. Every time, she would be severely criticised by Bu Fang for that.

Bu Fang's evaluation was the most cruel and strict she had ever seen before. He would always look for the flaws in her dishes. Afterwards, he would analyze it in detail to her, making her feel as if her dish had become something worthless.

At the entrance, Bu Fang lay down on his chair drowsily and looked at the drifting clouds in the sky.

Yu Fu carried a plate of dish and walked out. She placed it in front of one of the customers and smiled.

"This is your Egg-Fried Rice. Please enjoy it," Yu Fu said.

That diner was a regular. Previously, when Bu Fang had gotten Yu Fu to carry out her dishes to let the diners have a taste, this person was one of them. Bu Fang said that after the diner had tasted it, they could take out any amount of crystal they deemed fit for this place of Egg-Fried Rice.

After this customer had tasted Yu Fu's Egg-Fried Rice, even though it was still somewhat lacking compared to Bu Fang's, he still took out a crystal satisfyingly.

At that time, Yu Fu was extremely touched. This was the first crystal she had earned after those stringent practices!

"It's been half a month... Still lacking an additional apprentice," Bu Fang continued lying down on his chair while the spring wind blew. He immediately got clear-headed and frowned.

Who should he choose to be the remaining apprentice?

Juan'Er, who loved to eat egg tart? Bu Fang was somewhat at a loss of what to do. During half a month, Bu Fang had inquired with Luo Sanniang. Luo Sanniang told Bu Fang in a carefree manner that in Juan'Er's heart, there was only egg tart. She loved egg tarts. She would definitely not spend a lot of time learning Bu Fang's other dishes.

This caused Bu Fang to be dumbfounded at that point of time.

Ni Yan had also come to bid farewell to Bu Fang a few days ago. He had also tried to tell Ni Yan about accepting her as an apprentice because, no matter how he looked at it, Ni Yan was the most suitable person for it.

Unfortunately... when Ni Yan came, she was in a rush. Bu Fang was able to tell that Ni Yan was also somewhat excited about his proposal, but apparently she seemed to have something more important to do. Grudgingly, she followed the old drunkard and left.

Therefore, the candidates left for Bu Fang to pick from got even fewer. And as the deadline given by the system grew nearer, he also got a little panicky.

Bu Fang yawned. He stood up from his chair and stretched.

Sharp and clear footsteps resounded within the small alley. Thereafter, two familiar figures stepped into Bu Fang's small store.

"Owner Bu... I can finally eat your dishes again!"

The moment Bu Fang entered, a silhouette pulled open his mouth and complained. This person was the pretty boy, Xiao Xiaolong.

This young fellow seemed to have grown a lot taller recently and his appearance have become even prettier. Became... even more sissy.

Xiao Yanyu wore her veil in a cultured and refined manner and found a place to sit down effortlessly.

Ouyang Xiaoyi looked at Xiao Yanyu. Immediately, she ran over joyfully.

Bu Fang's eyes brightened up when he saw the two people. Xiao Yanyu and Xiao Xiaolong? That's right, how could he forget about this two siblings?

"Owner Bu, for these past few months, we had been thrown to the Southern City by our father. To be unable to eat Owner Bu's dishes... was simply a painful suffering! Today, we are finally here. We must definitely gorge ourselves with food!" Xiao Xiaolong licked his lips and said excitedly.

Southern City. It was a big city which was located at the southern part of the Light Wind Empire. Even though it was as luxurious as the Imperial Capital, it was still a rather majestic big city.

Bu Fang did not pay any attention to the intolerable Xiao Xiaolong but looked at Xiao Yanyu first as he asked her if she was interested in becoming his apprentice to learn how to cook from him.

Xiao Yanyu and Xiao Xiaolong stared at Bu Fang blankly. What exactly had happened while they were out of the Imperial Capital?

Owner Bu actually started accepting apprentices?

"Even though this proposal is very enticing, it's a pity... In a few days' time, we will need to set off to Southern City again. I don't think it's possible for me to have the opportunity to learn cooking from Owner Bu." Xiao Yanyu was regretting so much that she even had the urge of not going to the Southern City to stay there and learn how to cook. However, the matters in the Southern City were too important. She had no choice but to go over.

Bu Fang frowned. Xiao Yanyu was not free...

Xiao Xiaolong widened his eyes and stared at Bu Fang. His face immediately changed to become somewhat indignant!

"Owner Bu, why did you ask my sister and not me? Could it be that you do not wish to know if I am willing to learn how to cook from you?" Xiao Xiaolong said indignantly.

He felt that he had been ignored by Bu Fang.

Bu Fang was taken aback and his gaze fell onto Xiao Xiaolong.

"System! How is Xiao Xiaolong's culinary talent?"

"After the system's evaluation, Xiao Xiaolong's culinary talent meets the requirement. If the host were to teach him how to cook Egg-Fried Rice, it would most likely take him one and a half days to learn it."

Bu Fang's mouth dropped.... What the heck? This glutton actually possessed this kind of culinary talent?!

"System, is it possible that you have mistaken him for someone else? He is Xiao Xiaolong... not Xiao Yanyu."

Chapter 243: The Xiao Family Has A Beginner Chef

The atmosphere inside the small store immediately became somewhat weird.

Xiao Xiaolong widened his eyes and glared at Bu Fang while panting with rage with his fair skin turning red, which looked almost the same as a ripe honey peach, incomparably captivating... This little sissy looked even more attractive than a woman.

Bu Fang had also widened his eyes and was speechless momentarily. He had not imagined that Xiao Xiaolong's talent would unexpectedly be so gifted and was not any inferior to the bustling Yu Fu in the kitchen.

Xiao Yanyu's talent was also pretty good, but compared to Xiao Xiaolong, she was still somewhat inferior. This was simply too overwhelming.

"Owner Bu... What are you trying to say? Are you looking down on me, Xiao Xiaolong?" Xiaolong said in grievance.

Xiao Yanyu, who was at the side, helplessly watched everything unfold. She felt that the situation was very comical and could no longer hold in her laughter. She covered her mouth and started giggling.

Ouyang Xiaoyi also started giggling incessantly.

Bu Fang became a little awkward as he coughed lightly and said: "No... I did not have any intention of looking down on you. Aren't you a gifted talent from the Imperial Capital? I assumed you would be a lot busier..."

"My sister is also a great talent within the Imperial Capital...why weren't you concerned whether or not she would be busy?" Xiao Xiaolong curled his lip. The excuse Owner Bu used was really too lousy.

"Isn't your sister going to the Southern City? Why aren't you following her?" Asked a puzzled Bu Fang.

"The Xiao Family ancestor grounds is in the Southern City. At that time, our father had followed Emperor Changfeng for his expedition. Ultimately, he decided to start afresh here. However, the Xiao Family in Southern City is still very reputable to the locals. We also aren't sure what have happened, but for the past few days, the elders in the Xiao Family had asked one of us to return back and my dad had asked my sister to do so," Xiao Xiaolong said truthfully.

Xiao Yanyu nodded her head in acknowledgement. Within her beautiful pupils were traces of regret as she gazed at Bu Fang. Xiao Yanyu would love to learn from Bu Fang if circumstances allowed it.

"Alright, then... Later on, when you return home, cook a serving of Egg-Fried Rice and bring it over for me to taste tomorrow. If you are able to meet my expectations, the second apprentice position will be yours." Bu Fang said nonchalantly to Xiao Xiaolong.

"Second?"

"Oh... Let me introduce you to another person. The first apprentice I had accepted is a serpent-woman, Yu Fu." Bu Fang introduced. Subsequently, he turned around to face the kitchen and shouted Yu Fu's name.

Yu Fu was taken aback. She stopped whatever she was doing as she swayed her tail and came out of the kitchen. She stood behind Bu Fang charmingly.

Yu Fu was a little bashful as she placed her hands in front of her waist. She slightly bowed at Xiao Xiaolong and Xiao Yanyu.

Yu Fu was not as pretty as Xiao Yanyu and Ni Yan, but when compared to an ordinary female, she was still very charming.

Xiao Xiaolong was someone who was very sociable and soon became familiar with Yu Fu. He ordered a few dishes and after finishing his meal, he returned back to his Xiao Mansion hurriedly.

Bu Fang looked at Xiao Xiaolong's leaving silhouette and the corner of his mouth was raised slightly. "I have finally managed to find my second apprentice."

This kind of words could only be said when Bu Fang had finally managed to complete the assignment given to him by the system. However, he might perhaps still have to wait till the system approved Xiao Xiaolong. Only when Xiao Xiaolong possessed a kitchen table like Yu Fu's would the mission be counted as accomplished.

Bu Fang stood up from his chair and stretched. Thereafter, he walked into the kitchen, "Yu Fu, I am going to teach you the recipe of Red Braised Meat today. For our Red Braised Meat, you will have to pay extra attention to the control of the true energy within the meat."

The kitchen was buzzing with activity the moment Bu Fang started cooking. Xiaoyi was at the little store recording all the diners' order enthusiastically.

...

Imperial Capital, Xiao Mansion.

Ji Ru'Er and Xiao Meng strolled in the Xiao Mansion garden with the flower fragrance accompanying them. There were jokes and laughter within their conversation, pervading the atmosphere with their slight happiness.

"Madam, you should keep Yanyu and Xiaolong company. Tomorrow, Yanyu is going to leave for Southern City. It might be very hard for you to see her again for the next 6 months." Xiao Meng pulled Ji Ru'Er's shoulder toward him and said gently. The strongest person in the Imperial Capital would usually possess a sonorous voice. It was hard to see him speaking in such a gentle voice.

"Would anything happen to Yanyu after returning to the Southern City? How about asking little Yue to tag along?" Ji Ru'Er said.

"It's fine. It's just that something trifling had happen in the Xiao Family. Yanyu is very intelligent and she knows how to act appropriately. She should be able to solve it very easily." Xiao Meng smiled faintly. He had extreme faith in Xiao Yanyu's capability.

Recently, Xiao Yue had been busy with trying to break through and it would not be appropriate to disturb him. If Xiao Yue were to successfully break through, he would become a Battle-Saint. By then, there would be two Battle-Saints overseeing his Xiao family and their position would become as steady as a boulder.

Ji Ru'Er smiled gently. She was originally an extremely gentle woman.

"Just now when little Xiaolong returned home, he went straight into the kitchen. Since when was he so fond of the kitchen?"

Xiao Meng was taken aback and his face immediately stopped smiling, "Atrocious! Is he so bored now that he has to start creating trouble in the kitchen? This ignorant and incompetent scoundrel! If only he was half as good as Yanyu, there would be no longer a need for me to worry about him."

Ji Ru'Er covered her mouth and giggled. The two of them immediately left the garden and advanced toward the kitchen.

The moment they stepped into the kitchen, they could smell the egg fragrance that was drifting out from the kitchen.

The both of them glanced at each other with amazement in their eyes.

"Dad, Mom! You have come at the right time. Try out the Egg-Fried Rice that I cooked. It turns out that my culinary skill is actually quite good! Why did I not discover this in the past!" Xiao Xiaolong was very excited as his face was flushed red due to his excitement.

Xiao Meng frowned and swept at Xiao Xiaolong a strict glance. He harrumphed, causing the complacent Xiao Xiaolong to shrink his neck.

Xiao Meng's gaze fell onto the Egg-Fried Rice which was placed on the table. The steam and aroma from the Egg-Fried Rice drifted out of its white porcelain home. The grains within mixed ever so perfectly with the yellow yolk of the eggs and even began to take on their golden hue. Despite that, the flower-like scrambled eggs maintained a distinct separation from the fluffy white rice within.

Just looking at its appearance...it looked pretty decent.

Xiao Meng was slightly flabbergasted. This scoundrel actually possessed such gifted culinary skills?

Xiao Meng's face reddened as he opened his mouth and ate the Egg-Fried Rice. His eyebrow pricked up. The taste of the dish was unexpectedly decent! Even though the disparity of it was very huge when compared to Owner Bu's Egg-Fried Rice, with his understanding of Xiao Xiaolong, he would have never expected this no-good son of his to ever possess such skills. It was simply too inconceivable. Could it be that Owned Bu had possessed him?

"How is it? The taste is quite decent, isn't it? I am going to become Owner Bu's apprentice tomorrow. He asked me to cook a portion of Egg-Fried Rice for him to taste. Dad, Mom. You have tasted it... Do you think I would meet his expectation?" Xiao Xiaolong said complacently.

"Owner Bu is accepting disciples?" Xiao Meng looked at Xiao Xiaolong suspiciously. He felt that this was the crucial point of the matter.

"Not disciples... Chef Apprentices!" Xiao Xiaolong corrected.

Xiao Meng nodded his head. He rubbed his chin and started to contemplate. Bu Fang and his Fang Fang's little store status in the Imperial Capital had long differed from when he just started. In the Imperial Capital, countless eyes were observing and watching attentively this small store because it was truly too intimidating.

"Owner Bu accepting disciples... This is indeed quite a good opportunity for you. You must definitely cherish it." Xiao Meng raised his head and said to Xiao Xiaolong seriously.

Xiao Xiaolong rolled his eyes. I have already said that he is accepting apprentices... not disciples.

"Sure. Then Dad and Mom are not going to disturb you any longer. You have to practice diligently and grasp that rare opportunity to be taken in by Owner Bu as his new chef apprentice. If you are able to learn some culinary skills from Owner Bu, then all the food in our Xiao family would be prepared by you in the future!"

Xiao Meng and Ji Ru'Er smiled jovially and left the kitchen, leaving behind the stupefied Xiao Xiaolong...

The next day, Xiao Xiaolong sent Xiao Yanyu off before turning around and returning back to the Xiao Mansion. He cooked a portion of Egg-Fried Rice and placed it into a lunchbox before heading out to look for Bu Fang.

After Bu Fang had tasted his Egg-Fried Rice, without exception, he entered his criticizing mode and criticized Xiao Xiaolong's Egg-Fried Rice to the point of making one feel that everything about it was wrong, so much so that Xiao Xiaolong started to wonder about the meaning of his life.

Ultimately however, Bu Fang still accepted him. After all, this was the first time Xiao Xiaolong had cooked Egg-Fried Rice. It was already not easy for him to be able to reach this kind of standard. And Bu Fang could not possibly expect too much from him.

This caused Xiao Xiaolong's heart to suffer another blow. Truly, he must have a strong heart to talk to Owner Bu regarding any matter.

Once the opening hours ended, Bu Fang got Xiao Xiaolong to stay behind.

"Come, follow me into the kitchen," Bu Fang said.

Xiao Xiaolong was taken aback. He followed Bu Fang into the kitchen curiously. Inside the kitchen, Yu Fu was concentrating all her attention in cooking a portion of fragrant Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs. This caused Xiao Xiaolong to be amazed by her actions.

Or perhaps, it might just be that everything in the kitchen filled Xiao Xiaolong with amazement. This kitchen was totally different from the kitchen he had at his Xiao Mansion; it was as if he had entered a unfamiliar world.

Everything here was all unheard of to Xiao Xiaolong.

Bu Fang cooked a served of Egg-Fried Rice with practised ease. Subsequently, he took out three portions of ingredients and placed them on the cooking bench. Bu Fang got Xiao Xiaolong to start practicing in the exact same way he taught Yu Fu. Just like then, it was simple and rough.

After the guidance, Bu Fang returned to his room to sleep.

The kitchen was still brightly lit with Xiao Xiaolong staring at everything that was prepared in front of him. Under the enthusiastic Yu Fu's assistance, Xiao Xiaolong haphazardly started working on the first portion of Egg-Fried Rice.

...

The next day, Bu Fang opened up his eyes and got off his bed. After he had finished washing up, he went to the kitchen. There he found another cooking bench resting quietly in the corner of his

kitchen. Bu Fang leaned against the kitchen door frame and patted on Whitey's big belly with a smile on his lips.

The system voice reverberated in his ears in a strict and timely manner, "My host, congratulations on completing the adhoc mission: Within a month's time, find two Chef Apprentices. The mission reward has been released."

#### Chapter 244: Go Forth! The First Stop on the Delicacy Map

The two chef apprentices were finally found and they were talented. Although the dishes that Yu Fu cooked could not be compared to Bu Fang's, it was enough to make customers want to pay for it, which was already a big improvement.

Xiao Xiaolong had just become an apprentice so he would require more practice and experience before he could reach Yu Fu's level.

All these required time to train. After all, culinary skills were not something that could be achieved overnight. Real chefs underwent countless practices to attain that level of ability.

In the following half a month or so, Bu Fang remained in the store to teach Yu Fu and Xiao Xiaolong culinary techniques and ways to cook dishes, mainly the signature dishes, Egg-Fried Rice, Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs and Red Braised Meat. These were the store's best-selling dishes.

Every morning, a rhythmic sound could be heard from the shop. This was the sound produced when the knife and the cutting board collided.

Bu Fang, Xiao Xiaolong and Yu Fu were meticulous when holding and using the knife to cut the ingredients. This was to train their cutting skills.

Xiao Xiaolong originally intended to stay in the store itself, but Bu Fang rejected him as there was only one guest room in the store, which was already taken by Yu Fu. Although Xiao Xiaolong's appearance was average, he was still a male. Bu Fang knew clearly that he had to separate the two of opposite genders.

The operation of the store was now on the right track and with the help of Xiaolong and Yu Fu, Bu Fang's stress has been reduced significantly. Bu Fang taught them daily and after training for half a month, they could now cook pretty well.

"Host, may I have your attention please. The first Delicacy Map Transmission will begin in two hours..."

Bu Fang was barely awake from his sleep and the solemn and strict sound of the system was lingering in his mind. He blanked out for a moment, feeling a little confused.

"It will start in two hours?" Bu Fang yawned and got out of bed. There were still two hours, it is still early.

After washing up in the bathroom, Bu Fang casually waved his hand and took out a notebook wrapped in cow skin from the system's storage space. The notebook was titled Recipe Notebook.

This was Bu Fang's reward for completing the abrupt mission. This was an ancient notebook, and it even had an ancient formation carved on it.

Flipping open the cow skin cover, there was only a piece of stainless, pure white paper.

"This recipe notebook, how do I use it..." Bu Fang did not have a clue. However, since it was the reward for the temporary mission, it should not be such a simple notebook.

After reading through it once, Bu Fang felt a little bored. There was only blank paper with no content at all.

Bu Fang stored the notebook and placed some casual clothing into the system's storage space, then walked out of the room, entering the kitchen.

Xiao Xiaolong came very early in the morning, cutting the ingredients with two knives in the kitchen.

"Good morning, boss!" Xiao Xiaolong raised his neck in his free time and greeted Bu Fang as he saw him.

Ever since he got in touch with culinary, Xiao Xiaolong was simply addicted to it. This genius now held a knife instead of a pen and really enjoyed himself.

Bu Fang nodded his head, pleasingly looking at the two hardworking people while smiling.

Yu Fu was now closer to Bu Fang, hence she was no longer as shy as before. She also smiled brightly when she saw Bu Fang.

"I would be out for a few days, so the two of you share be responsible for running the store. In this period, the operation and the dishes of the store will rest on you both. Please do not tarnish our reputation," Bu Fang stood between the both of them and gently said.

"Eh?" Xiao Xiaolong and Yu Fu were stunned and raised their heads. Owner Bu was leaving the store?

"Owner Bu, where are you going? The shop cannot live without you... We are so confused." Xiao Xiaolong put down the knives in his hands and looked at Bu Fang anxiously.

What Bu Fang actually tried to do was to tell them that it was time to showcase their skills... But the two of them were still lacking confidence. After all, Bu Fang was there guiding them how to cook daily. With Bu Fang around, they would feel more secure.

Bu Fang glanced at him, saying, "Do not panic, with Whitey around, no one will create trouble in the store."

Xiao Xiaolong didn't know whether to laugh or cry. He did not mean it that way.

"As my apprentice, the two of you cannot be always living in my shadow. I hope that you all would follow your own path and have your own direction in life. The first thing that the two of you have to develop is your confidence." Bu Fang righteously voiced out, "My temporary absence is to allow the two of you to train. I hope you will not let me down."

Ehhh.... Xiao Xiaolong and Yu Fu felt touched, but it seemed as if the words Bu Fang said were a little weird.

"No, the two of you shall practise your cutting and carving skill. I will start packing as i need to leave in less than two hours," exclaimed Bu Fang as he took some condiments and ingredients and put them into the system's storage.

Xiao Xiaolong and Yu Fu exchanged glances but all they could see was the nervousness in each other's eyes. They were finally officially starting their own business, so it was no wonder they were nervous.

"Relax, don't panic, boss trusts you," Bu Fang said as he took out many bottles from the cupboard.

After preparing the ingredients, Bu Fang started cooking. He made a set of Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs for Blacky. After stroking its black fur, he returned to his room.

The two hours deadline was about to end, and Bu Fang heard the sound of the system in his mind.

"The Delicacy Map started, all cameras ready..."

As the sound of the system stopped, Bu Fang's vision became blurry. The originally bright room instantly became dark, just as if he was wandering through the galaxy.

As the stars disappeared, small dots of white lights appeared in front of Bu Fang, creating a large light map. Every dot of light seemed to possess an unceasing amount of attraction.

"System transmission starts... Di Di Di."

There was a sudden sound from the robot and a transmission formation appeared at Bu Fang's side. The light from the formation were unceasing and a fat body appeared from within the light.

Bu Fang's jaw dropped. Wasn't that Whitey? However, compared to the huge Whitey, the robot in front of him was much smaller, only the size of a normal human.

"It is still as fat as ever." Bu Fang patted the stomach of this robot that resembled Whitey.

"This is the bodyguard to accompany the host in his journey through the Delicacy Map. It is one with Whitey and the host can still address it as Whitey. Its mission is to protect the host. If the host is in any danger, it will activate its automatic protective mode.

Amazing! Bu Fang's eyes glowed up and he patted on Whitey's head. Whitey's robotic eyes glowed up in red and gave Bu Fang a familiar feeling. Although it was smaller in size, the smell was still the same as Whitey's.

"Host, please take note, map transmission starts now...."

Bu Fang expression froze and became serious, as he felt a little excited.

"Delicacy Map, initial range, first location of transmission, Light Wind Empire, Hang Yang region, Southern City."

The system voice rang out, serious and cold, before becoming silent. Bu Fang realised that there were lines made of light appearing above his head. That thin lines started combining, forming a sophisticated formation.

Bu Fang's vision became blurry and he felt himself being pulled by a force. Next moment, he vanished from the room.

...

The pavillion ten miles away from the Southern City within Hang Yang region, Light Wind Empire.

The light appeared in the void and as the lights developed, a raging storm brew. A man came out from that storm. This was a shadow of a man, who was tall and skinny. His long hair were messed up as the raging storm brew.

Bu Fang heaved a sigh of relief. His hair was messed up by the strong winds and, behind him, Whitey's mechanical eyes lit up with red lights. He tied up his hair with a velvet rope and looked toward the big city not far away from him. It was a city that was surrounded by a river stream. The perimeter of the city walls were the river streams and surrounding the river was a thick forest.

This was the first destination of the Delicacy Map, Hang Yang region, Southern city.

## Chapter 245: Go On Then, Live

Southern City, in the Hang Yang Province, was situated at the southern part of Light Wind Empire. The empire's land area was not small, containing seven large provinces with many large cities within each of them.

"Seven provinces, three cities, one large island." This saying summarised the layout of how Light Wind Empire would look like on a map. Hang Yang Province was one of those seven. The three cities referred to were the three great ancient cities, one of which was the capital.

The capital, Western Mystery City, and Border City, all had extensive histories. Western Mystery City existed even before Light Wind Empire was established, and its history could be traced back to many previous dynasties.

As for the large island, it could be said to be the nearest island to Light Wind Empire. The empire was very far away from any sea. The large island was the first island that Emperor Changfeng conquered and had previously been the Moon God Palace sect's monastic grounds. After Moon God Palace was conquered by Light Wind Empire, this island then became the land of the empire.

There were many other large islands close to Moon God Island, with the most famous one being the Mahayana Islands. Even the ten big sects were in fear of the power that resided in Mahayana Islands.

Southern City was located within Hang Yang Province. Even though the province's strength was not the greatest among the seven provinces, everyone knew that its proximity to the coast allowed it to be rich materially. It was the richest province in the empire, and Southern City was an extremely important city in Hang Yang Province.

After Bu Fang had tidied his messy hair, he turned toward the towering city walls of Southern City, which were still less majestic and sturdy than the capital's.

Shi Li Pavilion was a place for rest, and few people came to this place. After resting for a moment, Bu Fang walked toward Southern City.

The reason for his trip was to find excellent food. Every location had its special local cuisine for sure, and because the culture of every area differed, the flavors in its local cuisine would also not be the same.

Beyond Southern City's walls was a large river with surging currents, and the water flow was rapid. The crashing sounds of the waves were deafening.

There was a fishing boat swaying in the river, with fishermen throwing out their net to catch large fish.

At both ends of the river, there were many fishing enthusiasts who closed their eyes as they fished. They held their fishing rods, pulling on the long fishing line and waiting for the fishes to be hooked.

A loud crash sounded, and the water splashed in all directions.

A large and fleshy fish was hooked out, and its scales glistened under the sun.

Bu Fang looked at the scene and nodded his head. Southern City's livelihood depended on this large river, and with such natural resources, it was not hard to figure out why the city was so rich. There would also surely be a large variety of seafood in the city.

A slender silhouette moved through the official road, with Whitey following behind slowly in an inanimate manner.

Occasionally, there would be fast moving horse carriages on the official horses. The horses were not ordinary horses and were likely to be a type of spirit beast, as their bodies were covered by scales similar to fish scales. Their limbs were filled with strength and moved rapidly like the wind.

Southern City had large city walls, and there were four large gates around it. The river spanned through the city gates, and it ended at a large bridge for people to pass through.

As it got closer to Southern City, there was an increase in the number of people on foot. These people were carrying heavy travel bags containing different types of fruits and vegetables. Some of these people were also fishing enthusiasts who had caught some fish.

At the city gate, there were armored guards who did throughout checks on people, their belongings and products as they entered the city.

After the checks, the fishing enthusiasts had to pay an amount depending on the mass of the fishes they caught before they were allowed to enter the city. The people that carried fruits and vegetables also had to pay a fee.

In Southern City, fruits and vegetables were rarer products compared to products from the sea.

Of course, apart from these traders who came and went, there were also travellers like Bu Fang who came to the city.

Bu Fang was very cooperative when the guards checked him. However, the guards had certain suspicions about Whitey.

"This is my puppet," Bu Fang calmly replied the guard's question.

"Comrade Liu, I know, I think this gentleman is what legends describes as a puppet master. I read it from some books. These puppets are similar to servants," a guard said excitedly.

"Oh my, Er Gou, I really didn't expect you to know about puppet masters, you must share more about puppeteer stories with us."

The corners of Bu Fang's mouth curled up. Seeing the guards speaking amongst themselves in a local accent, he did not talk any further to them. He tapped Whitey's huge belly and stepped into Southern City.

The city was not any less prosperous than the capital. The floor was laid out with bricks that were extremely even and comfortable to walk on. Row after row of buildings filled the city, although these buildings were not tall. They had white tiles and black walls, and the tall buildings looked a little weird. Although the colors were very plain, one did not get tired of looking at them.

Bu Fang seemed distant in thought, and felt as if he had been transported back to the memories of the Water Villages of Jiangnan.

The current inside the city was not as rapid, being slower and gentler instead. On the river, there were flowery lanterns and boats. There were even idle gentlemen who were at the bows of ships reciting poetry to each other as they held to their paper fans.

The culture in Southern City was more gentle when compared to the capital. This could be said to be the difference between the two regions.

Bu Fang walked to a street that was more crowded. The people around the street were visibly more active. On both sides of the streets, there were many traders peddling their goods, and the fragrance of aromatic food filled the air in a captivating sense.

"Hey handsome, it's a great day, welcome to Spring Fragrance Brothel."

Bu Fang was looking around when his ears heard an alluring tune. This was quickly followed up with a rich smell of rouge powder which unsettled him, causing him to twitch his eyebrows.

As Bu Fang turned, he saw a scantily clad lady, with rouge powder as makeup on her face, swaying her body as she moved toward him.

When Bu Fang saw the lady, he hurriedly took a few steps back, what the hell was this?!

The lady had decent looks which were above average, but she looked at Bu Fang with the predatory gaze of a wolf, or even a tiger.

When Bu Fang took a few steps back, the lady followed closely, and immediately held his arm tightly to her body. Bu Fang's face froze, and he could feel his arm pressing against something voluptuous.

"Sir, you must have just arrived in Southern City. How about coming to Spring Fragrance Brothel as well? Come, please enter," the lady said charmingly in a flirtatious tone as she covered her smile with a handkerchief.

The rich smell of the rouge powder made Bu Fang's nose itchy, and he could not help but let out a sneeze.

Covering his nose, Bu Fang's eyebrows twitched as he extracted his arm from the embrace of the lady, saying, "Do not come near me, let's talk things out."

The lady was stunned, and thereafter let out a smile as she waved her handkerchief.

Bu Fang looked around and noticed many other ladies who were similarly scantily clad. They were smiling and laughing as they brought men into this gorgeous and exquisite-looking brothel.

"Sir, why are you still hesitating? Spring Fragrance Brothel is famous in the entire Hang Yang Province. This place... Can help you to regain your confidence," the lady said with a sweet smile, waving her handkerchief. The smell of the rouge powder once again entered into Bu Fang's nose.

Bu Fang retreated a few steps back in disgust, shaking his head and covering his nose. He wanted to turn around and leave. The smell of the rouge was too strong, and to someone like Bu Fang, whose senses were very sensitive, this was simply torture.

"Please excuse me, I am only interested in tasty food, does spring-whatever brothel serve any good food?" Bu Fang asked in a muffled tone as he covered his nose.

The lady was stunned, and at the same time felt that the handsome man in front of her was an interesting person. She winked and said, "Good food... of course there is good food, many types of good food. Whatever taste you desire... We have it here. But stop asking so much, you will know once you come in, Spring Fragrance Brothel will definitely not disappoint you. Those who enter it enjoy themselves so much that they even forget to return home." The lady once again moved and grazed Bu Fang's body, holding onto his arm and bringing him into the brothel.

Although Bu Fang was a chef, this lady's tone was seductive and charming, which made him wonder... Was this brothel the one that legends were talking about?

Bu Fang was deep in thought, and when he snapped out of it, he had unknowingly been brought into the brothel. His eyes widened.

Red flashing lights illuminated Whitey's mechanical eyes, and it raised its fan-like palms to scratch its rounded head. It then stepped out to follow Bu Fang in.

Upon entering the brothel, Bu Fang was amazed. The interior of the brothel was as splendid as its exterior, with many activities going on and an endless stream of people.

"Sisters, welcome the customer."

The lady pulled Bu Fang in and waved her handkerchiefs as she shouted. As Bu Fang was still stunned, a group of ladies giggled and came to him. An uncomfortable feeling started to emerge within him... Did he enter the wrong place?

Was this the place that legend described as.... Heaven for men?

Chapter 246: This Dish... Is Bad

At the heart of the wildlands, there was a city with many buildings. It was surrounded by thick walls that were built to protect it. Within the city, there were rows after rows of houses.

At the center of this city, there was a black tower that seemed to be made of alloy, and every floor of the tower looked incredible. The black color on the tower gave off the feeling of a very simple and unadorned architecture style.

Sheng Mu stood in front of the tower. The two elderly people who sat on the high above the first level of the tower scanned him before allowing him through. He thanked them and entered the tower. He walked up the winding stairs and did not stop until he reached the top of the tower.

There, there was only one room. Sheng Mu mumbled some words and that steel door that was sealed tight started opening, making a loud noise in the process. He respectfully entered the room and found himself staring into pitch blackness.

"Great Elder Xia Yu... I, Sheng Mu, humbly requests your presence." Sheng Mu lowered his head and paid respect while entering this pitch black yet spacious room.

Buzz!

The air buzzed. A muscular figure appeared from the darkness and slowly walked out. The figure looked humongous, even when compared to Xia Da. Looking at the muscles, one could not help but to feel pressured and threatened.

A fervent glint crossed Sheng Mu's eyes before swiftly passing as he respectfully cupped his hands.

"Young Temple Master Sheng, why have you come here?" Xia Yu's body was as huge as a ferocious beast, and yet his footsteps barely made a sound, as if he was hovering along rather than walking.

"Great Elder Xia Da... is dead," Sheng Mu answered in a voice full of grief.

All of a sudden, the beast was filled with rage and anger. He stared and coldly uttered, "What did you just say? While Xia Da may be my younger brother, he is still at the level of a War-God. How could he die so easily? It's not like he is brainless. I even warned him not to provoke those few old monsters. Why would he die?"

Sheng Mu trembled and cold sweat ran down his back. Xia Yu was a Great Elder of the Three Godly Temple of the Wildlands... Needless to say, his cultivation level was unfathomable. He achieved the echelon of a War-God years ago and was even close to becoming a Supreme-Being. It had been many years since then, and no one knew what was his cultivation level now.

Sheng Mu fearfully explained to the raging Xia Yu what happened in Light Wind Empire, after which he kept his lips sealed tight. His fear was caused by the icy cold killing intent the hulking man before him radiated, and even the air around him seemed to freeze up in fear as well.

"He dares to kill my brother... Even if he were a Supreme-Being, he would have to pay the price!" Xia Yu gritted his teeth, eyes turning red with killing intent.

He then looked at Sheng Mu and coldly yelled, "Get lost!"

Sheng Mu turned pale. He looked up at the fearsome Xia Yu and despite his aggrieved state, left without saying a word. Leaving the tower, his face was as dark as night itself. At the end, however, he laughed. He laughed so uproariously, that the air around him seemed to reverberate from the laughter.

...

Bu Fang could definitely attest that, right now, he had indeed entered the so-called "Man's Paradise". It was said that Jiangnan in China was a place for philanderers. This Southern City could be considered a southern region of the Light Wind Empire as well—in that sense, the two places seemed to overlap onto each other, not only in terms of location but in terms of their philandering ways as well.

In the capital, places like brothels had to be more discreet as that was where the Son of Heaven lived.

Bu Fang was an aspiring young chef back in his previous world, one that was laden with responsibilities. Naturally, he had no time for such places.

Now, however, he found himself in just such a shady place that was so nicely renovated, it was even comparable to the compound of the palace. No wonder the Southern City was considered the land of wealth in the Light Wind Empire. There was truly a lot of rich people there.

Bu Fang's expression did not change although he felt perturbed. A place of debauchery huh... It sounded amazing, but how was its food? Would there be any local delicacies there?

If the Aunt Liu dragging him along right now knew of his actual thoughts... she would have probably given him a tight one across his face with her shoes.

"A grown man like you visits the Spring Fragrance Brothel just to taste some food? How about showing some aspiration?" Was what she would have probably said if she knew.

Admittedly, his heart skipped a beat for the briefest of moments, but for the most part his expression remained calm despite being surrounded by a bevy of girls. Soon, he was brought to a resplendent room by Aunt Liu.

Sitting by the table, Aunt Liu smiled and gestured for two young beautiful ladies to come over.

"Serve this young master. This young master has a special fetish, so remember to give him a few extra flavors, got it?"

"Don't worry, Aunt Liu. This young master is so good-looking, this servant's heart is giddy just thinking about it."

Aunt Liu covered her mouth with a handkerchief and laughed, "Youngsters, remember to restrain yourselves, Aunt Liu will leave first. Chun Hua, Qiu Yue, it's up to you now."

Aunt Liu worked in this industry for years and developed sharp eyes for identifying rich men just by looking at their clothing and temperament.

Bu Fang was neatly dressed and his facial appearance was clean as well. The clothes on him were clearly made of expensive material. Based on her astute judgement, she identified that it was made in a silk villa in the capital. The silk made there was very expensive and a normal person would usually be unable to afford it.

Based on all that, this young man was surely a rich person. He might just be a playboy from the capital who came here to have fun.

If not for his perceived status, she would not have grabbed Bu Fang in, no matter how good-looking he was.

The crowd dispersed and the place seemed to quieten down. Bu Fang felt more relaxed and finally manage to catch a breath.

"Young master, I heard from Aunt Liu you have unique tastes?" Chun Hua was a very young girl. Her skin was as fair as snow and she looked at Bu Fang with her puppy dog eyes.

A handsome young master that was so adored by Aunt Liu, how would she not be moved.

"The two of us might not be the most popular girls, but our beauty isn't too low either. Besides..." Qiu Yue changed her sight and sauntered beside Bu Fang in small steps. She laid her tender hands on Bu Fang's shoulder, and gently whispered, "Us sisters have all kinds of tastes as well. Whatever you want, we'll provide for you."

Bu Fang frowned as the rouge smell on Qiu Yue almost made him sneeze.

However, after rubbing his nose, he held it in. He then calmly scanned the gorgeous room and poured himself a piping hot cup of tea. A concentrated tea smell came out from the cup.

The slight bitterness of the tea somewhat cleared his mind and brightened his eyes. "The tea, it's not bad."

Chun Hua and Qiu Yue were shocked, neither understanding the situation at all.

"I'm feeling a little hungry. Do you have anything nice to eat here?" Bu Fang glanced at Qiu Yue.

He had seen many pretty girls and Chun Hua and Qiu Yue were also very beautiful. However, when compared to sources of calamity like Xiao Yanyu and Ni Yan... Haha.

"Ah? Young master is hungry? This servant will have some food prepared right away." The stunned Chun Hua chuckled and left the room.

"Oh... Remember to bring one of every dish, especially if it is a specialty in the Southern city." Bu Fang added as he looked at Chun Hua's swaying figure.

Chun Hua, who just stepped out of the room, staggered, "Young master, you are so humorous."

This was the first time she had seen a customer come to the Spring Fragrance Brothel and specially ask for their local delicacies... Did he think this was a restaurant?

"This Spring Fragrance Brothel's environment is really good. If only the rouge smell was a little lighter, it would be a lot better. All that pink is really disrupting the mood." Bu Fang thought to himself.

Qiu Yue looked at Bu Fang, who just took a sip of tea, and walked behind him. She used her tender palms to give Bu Fang a shoulder massage.

"Young Master, you haven't told your servant what flavor you prefer. Aunt Liu instructed us to take good care of you."

The moment he had his shoulders massaged, Bu Fang felt that something was weird. Immediately, his face revealed his confusion and he gave a dry cough. "Hey... stop the massage, it's freaky. Open up the door, my puppet is still outside, bring it in."

Qiu Yue was stunned. Puppet?

Opening up the door, Qiu Yue nearly jumped back in fright as she saw the fat lump of iron with red eyes standing at the doorway.

"That's it. Bring it in and please serve the dishes soon," exclaimed Bu Fang.

After Qiu Yue lead Whitey into the room, the atmosphere in the room became a lot less bewitching. Qiu Yue truly found the sight unusual...

"Are these people really here to tour the brothel? Why does this situation feel a little off?" She thought to herself.

After a while, Chun Hua returned and behind her were a few maids. These maids were all young and their face still looked innocent.

Each came in with a fragrant dish that would bring a sparkle to most.

Bu Fang looked at these dishes and took a deep breath. Looking at these dishes made him feel more comfortable.

"Young Master, these are the famous dishes of the Southern City. Lotus Flower Soup, it tastes really good. This is Drunken Sweet Fish. This one is Reminiscent Lotus Root..." Chun Hua pointed at every dish and introduced them to Bu Fang.

Bu Fang nodded his head, picked up the chopsticks and took a piece of the so called Reminiscent Lotus Root.

He put the Lotus root into his mouth and it tasted crispy and sour. Bu Fang instantly frowned.

"Bad! The lotus roots are too old, and the texture is terrible. Besides, you added too much vinegar..."

Chun Hua and Qiu Yue shockingly looked at Bu Fang, who talked incessantly, and could not stop nagging. The jaw of the maids who served the dishes dropped, not knowing how to react.

Brother... are you messing with us? Did you really come to a brothel to critique its food?

Chapter 247: A Mere Chef Dares to Cause Trouble in a Brothel?

"Aunt Liu!"

Spring Fragrance Brothel, first floor. Aunt Liu, who was sitting on the chair massaging her thigh, heard someone calling out for her. Subconsciously, she raised her head. She saw Chun Hua whose face was of one who didn't know whether to laugh or cry as she ran over.

"What's wrong? What are you doing here and not serving that young master?" Aunt Liu's face was filled with puzzlement. She had wasted a long time hoodwinking that stupefied young master before managing to pull him in. No matter how she saw it, that young master was a cash cow. She must not neglect him at all!

"No... Aunt Liu, this young master... is a little weird." Chun Hua's pretty face was showing a very weird expression. It was as if she wished to laugh but could not.

This was her first time meeting such a weird man. He had actually come over to a brothel filled with woman to sample food and for...'fun'.

Furthermore, he could have just focused on eating his dishes and then had 'fun' after that, but the scoundrel just kept on prattling while eating his dishes.

Aunt Liu listened to Chun Hua's narration with a look of marvel on her face. Previously, she had also heard Bu Fang asking her if Spring Fragrance Brothel had anything to eat. Aunt Liu thought that was Bu Fang just asking her in a very vague manner... Never had she expected it was just her misconception.

"That scoundrel was really here to eat food!"

Thus, the two hastily went back to that room. Before she even stepped near the room however, she heard his unceasing criticism resonating out from it.

"Is this Drunken Sweet Fish or is it Vinegar Fish? Why did they pour so much vinegar in it? Are they trying to sour the diner to death? Furthermore, why is the fish flesh so tough? Was the temperature managed by a newbie chef?"

"This is Lotus Flower Soup? It should be Rice Paste instead! It's so starchy and does not even have any taste. Do you think that just because you had arranged it in a lotus flower shape, it would become a Lotus Flower Soup?"

"This Floral Barbecue Duck, did you even defeather it properly? Do you expect me to eat the duck or its feathers?"

...

Bu Fang frowned. Each time he tasted a dish, he would ridicule it coldly with a loathing expression. Furthermore, with the way he heaped on dislike and criticism for all their dishes, even the maids themselves were stunned. Were all those dishes truly garbage?

Even though their Spring Fragrance Brothel head chef was not as good as those head chefs in the genuine big restaurants in Southern City, his culinary skills weren't bad either. The taste of every dish he cooked was still pretty decent, but when those dishes were placed in front of this young man, why did it seem like they had all turned to garbage?

The moment Aunt Liu entered the room, she took a look at Bu Fang, who was criticising unceasingly. Immediately, her face become a little awkward while Qiu Yue stood at the side, feeling extremely wrong.

"Aiya! Young Master, what's going on? Could it be that Chun Hua and Qiu Yue did not serve you well?" Aunt Liu sat beside Bu Fang and said with a beautiful smile.

Bu Fang did not reply to her question but instead, he picked up a piece of pork rib and took a bite. After that, he placed the pork rib back onto his bowl.

"The heat used to fry this pork ribs is completely wrong! Did the chef who made this dish just started learning how to cook? It is very obvious that the heat of a pan is very important when it comes to cooking a dish. However, almost all the dishes he had cooked were done with a bare satisfactory heat intensity."

Aunt Liu coughed once and her complexion was quite ugly. This kid... If it was not because you looked like a wealthy man, I would have long fallen out with you.

"Young Master, our Spring Fragrance Brothel is not a restaurant. Aren't your demands a little too stringent?" The smiling expression on Aunt Liu's face gradually disappeared. Chun Hua and Qiu Yue stood behind her, pouting and nodding their heads.

Bu Fang's chopstick reached out to the last dish. It was a plate of buns and was still emitting hot steam. The aroma of it was pretty good.

This dish was called Pan-Fried Pork Bun. It was placed into a pan filled with a layer of oil and was pan fried till it had become golden yellow. While pan-frying it, the chef would have to add pressure to the top of the bun. The skin of the dish was crispy while the meat was tender. It was incomparably fragrant.

Bu Fang's eyebrow pricked up after taking a bite off the Pan-Fried Pork Bun. The taste was quite good. It was a lot better compared to the other dishes. However, the flaws in it were truly too many.

"The dough used was too hard so the skin ended up too hard and chewy as well. Such a bun skin would easily get stuck in between the diner's teeth. The fragrance of it is not dense enough. The grease inside hasn't been fully rendered out. The heat used to cook the Pan-Fried Pork Bun wasn't controlled well..."

"Young Master!"

Aunt Liu looked at Bu Fang, who had started to talk non-stop again. She was taken aback by it and quickly interrupted Bu Fang.

Bu Fang's complexion was very indifferent. He put down the chopsticks on his hand and said: "Regardless of where you are, since you endeavor to provide dishes for your customers, you will have to be responsible for your dishes. After all, food is one of the ways to make your customers stay. As a chef, one has to attach importance to every dish one makes. Strictly speaking... It would be beneficial to you people."

Aunt Liu's face got even colder when she heard Bu Fang's words. Food was meant to be eaten, and as long as it could fill one's stomach, it was fine. Coming over to Spring Fragrance Brothel to eat was just so they could fill their stomach and would have the energy to do the thing everyone knew of.

Why was it that when it came to Bu Fang, there were just so many obstacles hindering her way? This scoundrel must be here to cause trouble. Or could it be that this scoundrel in front of her is a professional chef?

"Young Master, my Spring Fragrance Brothel might be just a romantic location in Southern City, but we will not allow anyone to bully or humiliate us. When your servant here saw Young Master's majestic appearance, I thought that you might be one of those elegant and graceful wealthy Young Masters. But it seems like this is the first time that I, Aunt Liu, has made an error of judgement. Since you are so focused on the dishes, and are so fussy about the taste, going so far as to criticise it with such clarity, could it be that sire is a chef?"

The more Aunt Liu spoke, the more impolite she got. Ultimately, the address she used changed from Young Master to sire. This was the tempo of wanting to thoroughly shed all pretense of cordiality.

However, Aunt Liu was indeed not afraid of shedding all pretense of cordiality. The amount of influence her Spring Fragrance Brothel had in Southern City was not something that could be imagined by a commoner. When it came to those troublemakers, basically none of them had a good ending after offending them.

"That's right. I am a chef." Bu Fang nodded his head seriously.

Puchi! Chun Hua and Qiu Yue who were standing behind Aunt Liu covered their mouths and started laughing. Chef? This guy in front of them was actually a chef? Previously, all of them thought that this guy was some rich Young Master and became immeasurably self-satisfied when they were chosen to serve him. Never had they expected that the other party was a poor chef!

Chun Hua and Qiu Yue tried to imagine the youth in front of them, who looked rather handsome and elegant, wearing on a white gown covered in grease and a towel which was dangling around

their neck, with their face covered with oil and was sweating non-stop like the chef they had in their brothel... Immediately, both of them could not help but shudder.

When Aunt Liu heard Bu Fang's words, her red phoenix eyes widened up in shock. The slight smiling expression that had been on her face had also disappeared as she stared at Bu Fang coldly.

Chef? This guy in front of her eyes was actually just a chef?! How much money could a chef possibly have?!

Bang!

The more Aunt Liu thought of it, the angrier she got. She slapped on the table ferociously and the dishes on the table immediately produced crashing sounds. All the maid inside the room looked at Aunt Liu and cringed.

Chun Hua and Qiu Yue were frightened by it as they backed a step away. They knew that Aunt Liu was angry and an angry Aunt Liu was a scary one.

The two ladies glimpsed at Bu Fang while gloating at his misfortune. However, when they saw the calm and indifferent expression on Bu Fang's face, they felt eccentric about it.

Bu Fang astonishingly took a glance at the fierce lady who slapped the table. What did she mean? What's wrong with being a chef? For what reason did she have to look down on a chef?

"Merely a poor and destitute chef and you actually dare to come to my Spring Fragrance Brothel to act as a big shot? It seems that if don't teach you a lesson today, you would really think that my Spring Fragrance Brothel is a place you can muck around in." Aunt Liu stood up. Her twin peaks kept on moving up and down while she said coldly.

Bu Fang frowned for a moment. His complexion had also turned chilly. This woman was too unreasonable! Wasn't she the one who dragged him in? When did it become him coming in to act as a big shot?

"Chun Hua, go and call the guards over! Today, I must teach this kid a small lesson. It's a pity that I have to waste a table worth of expensive ingredients to do so." Aunt Liu said.

Chun Hua nodded her head without delay. She felt that at this moment, Aunt Liu was in a fit of anger. It's better for her to obediently listen to what Aunt Liu said.

"Chef. Humph... Poor and destitute chef." Aunt Liu glared at Bu Fang while she shook her head continuously and sneered. There were actually times when she had made an error in judgement.

As a matter of fact, Aunt Liu was clear in her heart that being a chef did not mean being poor. But, since the start, she had already thought Bu Fang was a rich young master. After all, he possessed the temperaments and appearance that a rich young master should have.

However, the moment she realized he was actually just a chef and the discrepancy between what she had expected was too big, she couldn't help but to fly into rage out of humiliation.

Comparing a chef to a young master, it was practically comparing the difference between a pheasant and a phoenix, the disparity between heaven and earth.

Chun Hua returned very quickly. Behind her, a group of muscular men who exposed their muscles and were wearing mandarin jackets flocked in. All these muscular men's faces were very fierce-looking and tyrannical.

The moment these men came in, it caused the maids in the room to be intimidated as they flinched and retreated.

"Aiyo! Aunt Liu, what's wrong? Which lowly person dares to cause trouble again? Oh? The person who is causing trouble this time is a pretty boy?"

The leading muscular man looked at Aunt Liu lustfully and said with a big smile.

"Guard Chen, this kid did not have any money but still tried to pose as a big shot. Merely a poor and destitute chef and he actually dares to come over to our Spring Fragrance Brothel to act so ostentatiously to swindle us. He had even criticised our food. He's up to your disposal." Aunt Liu's complexion had eased up a little. She pointed at Bu Fang and said coldly.

"Oh? Kid, you are quite courageous to actually come over to Spring Fragrance Brothel to create trouble. Are you tired of living?" Guard Chen's eyes widened up while holding onto the burning fire stick on his hand. His leg stepped onto the chair beside Bu Fang as he slanted his eyes and looked at Bu Fang.

Those guards behind him also eyed Bu Fang with a taunting and predatory gaze. Coming over to Spring Fragrance Brothel to create trouble... Was he looking for death?

"Hualala."

The teapot was lifted up slightly with the piping hot tea flowing out from the teapot mouth as it was poured into a teacup.

Bu Fang held onto the teacup and drank a sip of tea calmly while savoring its taste. The only thing that was barely enough to make him felt pleased about in the Spring Fragrance Brothel would be this tea in front of him.

After drinking the tea, Bu Fang looked at the surrounding people unhurriedly. He looked at those guards who were eyeing him covetously and Aunt Liu who was loathing him incessantly. Suddenly, the corner of Bu Fang's mouth opened slightly.

Chapter 248: I Never Thought You Were Like This, Owner Bu

Bu Fang's calm composure surprised the surrounding crowd. Guard Chen narrowed his eyes, with the muscles on his face quivering.

He was utterly irritated by this fellow's unperturbed nature. What was the meaning of this? Was he looking down on the guard of Spring Fragrance Brothel? Everybody who sought to make a scene at the Spring Fragrance Brothel trembled with fear when they came across him, Guard Chen. This was the first time he had encountered someone so undaunted.

Bu Fang finished his cup of tea and exhaled a soft breath. He eyed the glowering Guard Chen coolly, then scanned the taunting crowd of people around him before standing up slowly.

"Who told you to stand up? Sit down!" Seeing that Bu Fang dared to stand up, Guard Chen's face darkened even more. He twirled the fire iron in his hands and aimed it at Bu Fang's shoulder, trying to keep him in his seat.

Bu Fang lifted his hands up gently and grasped the fire iron that Guard Chen launched his way. His expression remained calm.

By now, Bu Fang's cultivation level had reached sixth grade Battle-Emperor. In reality, he did not have strong combat abilities, and was only comparable to the worst of fifth grade warriors when facing an average sixth grade one. Yet, this Guard Chen, despite his ferocious appearance, merely had a cultivation of fourth grade Battle-Spirit.

A fourth-grade Battle-Spirit... Bu Fang was not the least bit intimidated.

Bu Fang stood bold upright, unrestrained by the fire iron. He managed to pull it toward him, sending Guard Chen down on his knees. The chair beneath the latter's feet crashed onto the floor.

"You brat!" Guard Chen was enraged.

He didn't expect this fellow to make a move when he was so outnumbered. Was he trying to get killed?

Bu Fang fiddled with the fire iron. Suddenly bored with it, he tossed the fire iron carelessly on the side, which clanked as it landed on the floor.

"Reckless! When it comes to being so foolish and imprudent at the Spring Fragrance Brothel, you're a first!" Guard Chen's fury burned like flames. True energy surged out of his body, sending violent winds thrashing through the entire room.

Bu Fang wrinkled his brows. This fellow didn't know when to stop huh?

Bang!!

Forces of energy burst out of Guard Chen's body, accompanying his smug laughter. Amongst the bodyguards in the Spring Fragrance Brothel, he had the highest cultivation level, because of which he was appointed the head of the guards. His cultivation level was something he deemed his greatest asset.

A fourth grade Battle-Spirit was already considered a top-tier warrior around there. Since the Southern City was one big on trades and commerce, few strong warriors resided in it.

Bu Fang glimpsed at him calmly. He didn't understand where this burly fellow got his confidence. Never mind a fourth grade Battle-Spirit... Bu Fang was someone who had already encountered eighth grade War-Gods. It was natural he didn't think that highly of fourth grade Battle-Spirits.

"Stop bothering me."

He was not in the mood to get involved with these people.

Bu Fang uttered this coolly as the energy within his energy core began to circulate. True energy gushed out of his body, releasing a formidable pressure.

Guard Chen was hit with this force of pressure before getting a chance to unleash his own true energy. In that instant, he almost jumped up in fright. This gigolo-like young man, with such fair and clear skin, had suddenly become a towering mountain, nearly crushing him out of breath.

What a terrifying level of true energy...

Bang... the layer of true energy enveloping Guard Chen's body immediately shattered. His entire figure staggered several steps backwards as he slumped onto the floor butt-first. The muscles on his face trembled as his lips quivered.

Crap, this pale-faced man turned out to be a sixth grade Battle-Emperor! This level of power... was one he had only felt before on the chief general of the Southern City!

At this point, he wanted badly to slap that damned Aunt Liu out of her nonsense. What did she mean by "making a scene", or "merely a shabby chef"? This guy before their eyes was a sixth grade Battle-Emperor!

This fellow could squash him with the lift of a single finger. Make a scene? How ridiculous. Even the big bosses behind the Spring Fragrance Brothel dared not offend a sixth grade Battle-Saint. In the Southern City, sixth grade Battle-Saints were the big dogs.

Bu Fang's pressure wasn't one of absolute domination. Instead, it was more serene and calm, much like his own personality. Nonetheless, it was still that of a sixth grade Battle-Saint. Hence, everyone present felt somewhat stifled by that force of pressure.

Bu Fang looked around and noticed the frightened crowds. He suddenly raised his eyebrows, feeling a little bored.

He took out a piece of crystal from the system's storage space and tossed it casually onto the table.

The sparking crystal made a crispy sound as it hit the table. That very sound echoed in the ears of Aunt Liu and her crew, turning their legs to jelly.

Aunt Liu felt like a brainless dummy... She made the wrong call, yet again. This young man was no chef at all, and was instead a strong Battle-Emperor.

Aunt Liu wanted desperately to weep. Why did he have to torture her this way.

Bu Fang held his hands behind his back and scanned his surrounding coolly. At last, his gaze landed on Aunt Liu. With his lips curled, he asked: "Is one crystal... enough to pay for the food?"

Aunt Liu's legs trembled. She wanted to cry but had no tears to shed. Nodding hurriedly, she replied: "Enough, enough, definitely enough."

A piece of crystal was enough to purchase this entire room, let alone these dishes. These food were all made with ordinary ingredients and wasn't worth much.

"Good. Then I have another question for you. Be honest," Bu Fang stated calmly.

Aunt Liu felt her heart tighten, but still nodded quickly.

"Tell me about the speciality cuisine of the Southern City. Where can I find gourmet delicacies around here?" Bu Fang asked in a serious tone.

Um... huh?

Aunt Liu was at loss, and so were the others around them. He was asking about food?

None of them expected Bu Fang to end with a question like this. In fact, this was rather... amusing.

Aunt Liu breathed a sigh of relief. As long as Bu Fang didn't demolish the Spring Fragrance Brothel out of anger, she was happy enough.

"Sir, haven't you just tasted the speciality cuisine of the Southern City? It is that Pan-Fried Pork Bun, which counts as one of the top dishes of the Southern City. The buns you had were cooked by the chef of our Spring Fragrance Brothel. It is not surprising that you don't find them to your liking, since they aren't technically authentic," Aunt Liu replied.

Bu Fang was taken back. It turned out that Pan-Fried Pork Bun was a speciality cuisine of the Southern City? No wonder it tasted much better than the other dishes he had tried.

"Then where can I get the authentic Pan-Fried Pork Bun?"

"You can't anymore. The only person who could make the most authentic Pan-Fried Pork Bun is Miss Lin of the Lin's Steamed Bun House. Not only did she inherit her grandfather's cooking skills, she is also incredibly beautiful. In fact, she was named the "Beauty of Bun" in the Southern City. It's a pity that she has married into the Xiao family and no longer cooks Pan-Fried Pork Buns anymore. To get a taste of Pan-Fried Pork Buns made by her hands is difficult nowadays." Aunt Liu sighed.

She recalled the days when Lin's Steamed Bun House was so popular it had queues that went on for several blocks. It was a shame she could no longer relive these moments anymore. And that she could never eat her delicious Pan-Fried Pork Buns anymore.

"Why did she stop making Pan-Fried Pork Buns? How could she let such good cooking go to waste?" Bu Fang frowned as he asked in confusion.

Aunt Liu peered at Bu Fang cautiously and responded: "It's all because of the second master of the Xiao family. He doesn't want Miss Lin to expose herself in public all day long, and so stopped her from making the Pan-Fried Pork Buns. This is also why Lin's Steamed Bun House eventually shut down."

The wealthy and influential Xiao family of the Southern City?

Since it was such an authentic gourmet delicacy, how could they allow it to simply disappear?

Bu Fang was pretty upset. He had specifically visited the Southern City in search of authentic speciality dishes. How could he return home empty-handed?

"Got it, thank you for informing me." Bu Fang took in a deep breath, glanced at the nervous crowd again, and withdrew his force of pressure. Then, he turned around and stepped out of the store without another word. Whitey's mechanic eyes flashed red as it followed Bu Fang's steps.

The two soon left the Spring Fragrance Brothel.

Everyone in the room breathed a sigh of relief and sank onto the floor. The force of pressure of a sixth grade Battle-Emperor nearly squeezed the life out of them, making it hard for them to breathe evenly. It was fortunate that this young master did not seek to make things worse.

Bu Fang had no intentions of making a scene. He merely came for the gourmet delicacies, yet the dishes of the Spring Fragrance Brothel were plainly unsatisfying.

Back onto the bustling streets of the Southern City, Bu Fang did a little stretch. He felt much more clearheaded and relaxed without the irritating scent of makeup surrounding him.

"Owner Bu?"

Just as Bu Fang was stretching himself, a gentle and pleasant female voice rang behind his back.

Bu Fang's eyes narrowed as his face froze. His stretch was also paused mid-way.

What the hell? How could there be somebody calling him Owner Bu... in the Southern City?! Bu Fang's heart trembled. He slowly twisted his head around only to see an elegant, eye-catching beauty. The lady wore a veil over her face, yet her eyes were as mesmerizing as an autumn lake.

There was a trace of surprise in Xiao Yanyu's water-like eyes. She peered at the Spring Fragrance Brothel on the side and then back at a dumbfounded Bu Fang. She looked like she had just made a new discovery.

"I never... thought you were like this, Owner Bu!" Xiao Yanyu remained dumbstruck as she muttered.

#### Chapter 249: Ginger Sauce Tofu Pudding of The Small Alleyway

"Ummm... It's not what it looks like." Bu Fang looked at Xiao Yanyu. The corners of his mouth twitched upwards, forcing a smile that looked more like a weep.

He truly came to the Spring Fragrance Brothel for the food, just for the food.

Xiao Yanyu lifted her delicate brows, her eyes flickering playfully. She was utterly bewildered to bump into Owner Bu in the Southern City, a place so far away from the Imperial City, let alone catch him coming out of the Spring Fragrance Brothel.

No matter how cold and aloof Owner Bu came across normally, he was a man after all. What would a man do in a brothel? Oh my god!

She never expected Owner Bu to be like this!

"I get it, I get it. Owner Bu, you don't need to explain it to me." Xiao Yanyu nodded suggestively. Her eyes winked in a way that assured him she's got his back. "After all, the Imperial City is right under the nose of the emperor. It is relatively strict there. By comparison, the Southern City is much better. It is known for its romantic atmosphere."

What the hell do you know... Bu Fang couldn't decide whether to cry to laugh. His face began reflecting odd shades of color. In fact, this was probably the first time Xiao Yanyu witnessed so many expressions on Bu Fang's face.

"You know, men... all have certain needs." Xiao Yanyu was surprised to see Bu Fang's embarrassment. She found it rather amusing, and burst into a gentle laughter as she covered her mouth.

Although she could tell at this point that Owner Bu didn't fool around in the Spring Fragrance Brothel, she found his state of agitation to be simply hilarious.

Bu Fang quickly regained his composure and put on his poker face, completing ignoring Xiao Yanyu, who was laughing her head off on the side.

"Fine, Owner Bu. This is a secret I'll remember. Don't worry, I won't tell anyone." Xiao Yanyu tried her best to hold in her laugh.

Behind Xiao Yanyu was a young maid, who also gazed at Bu Fang in amazement. She found it simply bewildering that someone as elegant and refined as her Miss Xiao could laugh this heartily. Did her lady know this young man standing before them?

"By the way, Owner Bu, why did you come to the Southern City? And when did you arrive?" Xiao Yanyu asked out of curiosity.

"Well, I'm just here for a short trip. I heard there are many gourmet delicacies in the Southern City, and came here to check it out." Bu Fang gave her a rather ambiguous answer. Xiao Yanyu was smart enough to see through that, and merely nodded.

"Here for gourmet delicacies? Though I am not extremely familiar with the Southern City, surely I still know it better than Owner Bu. Perhaps I could take you on a tour, since I know the delicious foods of the Southern City pretty well."

Xiao Yanyu's eyes sparkled as she suggested this with a smile.

Bu Fang was slightly taken aback but then quickly nodded. Having someone lead the way had to beat wandering around all alone. Otherwise, he could easily be dragged into another Spring Fragrance Brothel unwittingly.

"Xiao Ya, go home and inform the master that I will be back late today." A cool expression returned to Xiao Yanyu's face as she instructed the young maid behind her.

"What? My lady, the master said I must be with you at all times." The maid became somewhat flustered.

Xiao Yanyu replied her gently: "Just tell tell him I bumped into an old acquaintance, whom I intend to show around the Southern City. It is not convenient to be accompanied by a maid."

Bu Fang knitted his brows into a frown and shot a knowing glance at Xiao Yanyu. The maid was torn. But after Xiao Yanyu muttered a few more sentences, she turned around and walked away.

"Are you in some kind of trouble?" Bu Fang peered toward Xiao Yanyu and asked calmly.

"Not exactly what you call trouble. I'm just annoyed with the extra tail behind my back." Xiao Yanyu gave him a tender smile and proceeded to walk ahead.

As she strolled on, she looked back at Bu Fang and asked: "Did Owner Bu do his research before coming to the Southern City?"

"Nope." Bu Fang answered her honestly. He was randomly placed in the Southern City and had no time to learn about it beforehand.

"This is a water city located in the southern region. It is, of course, also south of the Light Wind Empire. The local customs are very much romantic in flavor, and the cuisine is also milder in taste. Spicy food is seldom seen around here. Instead, dishes like Dragon River Vinegar Fish, Pan-Fried Pork Bun, Foie Gras in Sauce... are famous specialty cuisines of the Southern City. Among them, the Dragon River Vinegar Fish and Pan-Fried Pork Bun are better known." Xiao Yanyu continued.

"However, due to certain reasons, the most authentic version of the Pan-Fried Pork Bun is long lost. The other Pan-Fried Pork Buns of the Southern City are not that impressive, which is quite a pity. As for the Dragon River Vinegar Fish, another signature local dish, one can get it at the Drunken Fragrance Restaurant."

Xiao Yanyu evidently knew much more about the Southern City than did Bu Fang. Every word she said hit the nail on the head, prompting Bu Fang to nod along as he learned about the local customs, cultures, and manners.

But of course, Bu Fang's attention was focused on the part about food.

The sound of Dragon River Vinegar Fish, Pan-Fried Pork Bun, and the other dishes all stimulated his appetite, causing his eyes to brighten.

Suddenly, Xiao Yanyu stopped Bu Fang and pointed to a street vendor's stand at the distant corner of a small alleyway. The stand was not big at all, but on it there were a pottery vat, a wooden lid, and several porcelain bowls. As a whole, it looked quite shabby.

"Owner Bu, don't look down on this small stand. This is actually another gourmet delicacy of the Southern City, called Ginger Sauce Tofu Pudding. It actually tastes really good." Xiao Yanyu grinned and began walking toward it.

Bu Fang's face froze. He cast a look at that stand and followed suit.

The stand was very modest in size and belonged to an old lady in her fifties to sixties. Wrinkles covered her entire face, but her eyes brimmed with a loving kindness.

"Auntie, can I have two orders of the Tofu Pudding." Xiao Yanyu smiled gently at the old woman at the stand.

"Uh-huh." The old woman took her hands out of her sleeves, responded warmly, and got to work.

Bu Fang watched her movements closely as all sorts of feelings welled up in his heart.

Once the old lady uncovered the wooden lid on the pottery vat, a delicate fragrance of tofu instantly wafted through the air. A moist steam rose up, arousing one's appetite.

"Young man, my tofu pudding is definitely the most authentic in the Southern City. Everything was carefully processed by myself." The old woman, noticing Bu Fang staring at the pottery vat, immediately smiled kindly and reassured him.

She grabbed a flat, round shaped steel spatula. This instrument was made in a particular fashion. Its handheld was bent at ninety degrees against the round shaped steel blade. The spatula itself was very flat, unlike the shape of a typical spoon.

The old woman grabbed a somewhat worn-out, but very well cleaned porcelain bowl. She held the steel spatula in one hand and extended it into the pottery vat. Shaking her hand, she pushed away the layer of liquid resting on top of the tofu and sliced it down skillfully.

She cut out a thin layer of tofu pudding and poured it into the bowl, repeating the same movements until she had filled the entire bowl with fragrant tofu pudding.

The old woman didn't hand them the porcelain bowl immediately and instead uncovered a small wooden bucket next to the pottery vat. Then, she scooped up a spoon of red-colored ginger sauce with a bamboo tube and poured it over the tofu pudding. This ginger sauce had a hint of sweetness, and gave the naturally smooth and white tofu a red sheen. It sparkled like a piece of red ruby, incredibly beautiful.

The pungent taste of the ginger sauce, mixed with the mild scent of the tofu pudding, created a unique combination.

"Here, young lady. Be careful, it's hot." The old woman handed Xiao Yanyu the Ginger Sauce Tofu Pudding warmly.

Xiao Yanyu received it carefully.

"Owner Bu, could you please help me take off my veil?" Xiao Yanyu's water-like eyes peered toward Bu Fang as she asked in a charming voice.

Bu Fang's eyes were fixated on the Ginger Sauce Tofu Pudding in the porcelain bowl, and his tongue was licking his lips. Xiao Yanyu's words caught him by surprise. He answered her, all distracted. "Sure."

When the thin veil was removed, Xiao Yanyu's smooth, delicate skin immediately came into sight. Her fair face was so supple that water could practically be squeezed out of it and her ruby red lips shone like delicately carved gems. She looked incredibly alluring and attractive.

"Thanks, Owner Bu." The corners of Xiao Yanyu's mouth curled at a beautiful angle. A trace of smile appeared across her breathtaking, lovely face.

Bu Fang suddenly felt a little awkward, took a step back, and responded calmly: "Not a problem."

Xiao Yanyu simpered, and then pouted her lips to blow at the spoon of steaming Ginger Sauce Tofu Pudding. After a small sip, her exquisite face flushed slightly red. A blush smeared across her pale skin, making her look ever so captivating.

"Young man, stop staring. This is yours." The old woman's teasing voice rang in Bu Fang's ears. He instantly snapped back, nodded at the old lady, and took over the bowl she handed him with both hands.

The porcelain bowl was slightly warm. Inside, the mix of red ginger sauce and white tofu pudding spread a scent that teased one's taste buds. The beautiful color stimulated one's appetite even more.

Bu Fang's eyes flickered. He felt as if he had returned to his previous lifetime. In his fuzzy memory, there was always an old woman or old man, found in small alleyways, selling tofu puddings that could warm one's heart.

On his side, Xiao Yanyu squinted her eyes. She exhaled a hot breath after every bite of tofu pudding. Satisfaction was written all over her face.

Bu Fang puckered his lips and laid his gaze upon the Ginger Sauce Tofu Pudding once more.

#### Chapter 250: Foie Gras in Sauce

Bu Fang scooped up a spoonful of tender, silky smooth tofu pudding. The somewhat thick red ginger sauce trickled down the porcelain spoon. Steam rose from the tofu pudding, emitting with it a delicate fragrance alongside the unique pungency of the ginger sauce.

He sent this spoon of tofu pudding into his mouth. The smooth and tender texture instantly filled his entire mouth, swimming at the tip of his tongue and playing with his taste buds. It added a sparkle to Bu Fang's eyes. There was also a shred of sweetness in the spicy ginger sauce. When it streamed through his teeth and tongue, it gave him a delightful sensation.

The soft, tender tofu pudding slipped into his mouth. Barely any chewing was needed for it to glide down his throat and into his stomach, warming up his body at the same time.

The moment Bu Fang took a bite, his eyes also squinted just like Xiao Yanyu's. He had to admit that there was always a special taste in foods sold by small street vendors like this old auntie. Its flavors were always so authentic and gave one a great sense of comfort.

Digging into the tofu pudding, Bu Fang emptied his bowl in a short while. The old lady gave very generous servings of the tofu pudding. Xiao Yanyu, for one, had only eaten up half of hers.

However, Bu Fang licked his bowl clean. This didn't mean the tofu pudding was such an exquisite dish. In comparison to the Fish Head Tofu Soup served in Bu Fang's own store, this tofu pudding

was still yards behind. At the end of the day, the ingredients of this tofu pudding weren't anything precious or rare. But then again, the secret to this tofu pudding was the nostalgia it evoked.

It was a restful state of mind that made one drift amidst the sea of time, as if caressed by gentle waves of water.

Bu Fang licked his lips while still immersed in his thoughts. This subconscious action mirrored exactly how he ate tofu pudding as a child, making him look quite adorable.

The old woman gazed at Bu Fang kindly, a smile hanging by the corners of her mouth.

"Young man, do you want some more? I've got enough here."

"I'm good. Thank you, auntie. Your tofu pudding is delicious." The corners of Bu Fang's mouth curled into a warm, albeit somewhat stiff, smile...

Oh my god! Owner Bu actually smiled!

Xiao Yanyu almost coughed up the spoonful of tofu pudding she poured into her mouth. Owner Bu, who normally looked as if he has a paralyzed face, actually... smiled!

Xiao Yanyu stared at Bu Fang, making the latter feel somewhat unsettled.

"What are you looking at?" Bu Fang glanced at Xiao Yanyu with a blank face and asked calmly.

Noticing that Bu Fang had returned to his aloof self, Xiao Yanyu instantly broke into a smile. Her entire body shivered as she laughed uncontrollably.

She hurriedly finished her serving of tofu pudding and handed the porcelain bowl back to the old woman.

Bu Fang took out a golden coin and passed it to the old woman.

"Young man, this is too much. Just pay me a copper coin." Upon seeing this golden coin, the old lady waved her hands swiftly. Merely two bowls of tofu-pudding did not worth this much money.

Bu Fang was taken aback, but then shook his head and pressed the gold coin on her, insisting: "Auntie, I think it's worth this much."

This tofu pudding provided Bu Fang with a unique sensation. He didn't think one gold coin was an extravagant price to pay. If it were some genuinely bad dish, Bu Fang wouldn't let one get away without a lengthy lecture... let alone pay a golden coin.

Both Xiao Yanyu and Bu Fang's firm attitude made it impossible for the old woman to resist. At the end, she gave in, holding the coin carefully in her hands. She blew at it softly, wiped it a bit, and then slipped it into her pocket.

A gold coin was already a colossal sum of money to her. And so, she was naturally extra cautious with it.

The old woman wanted to give both of them refills of tofu pudding, but Bu Fang and Xiao Yanyu turned her offer down with a smile. Then, the two left in search of other gourmet delicacies.

The old woman watched as their figures faded. A kind smile appeared across her lips.

On the lively streets of the Southern City, the fragrance of tasty foods filled the air, stimulating one's appetite.

"Owner Bu, next, I'll take you to taste Dragon River Vinegar Fish, the most authentic speciality food in the Southern City." Xiao Yanyu put on her veil again, concealing her breathtakingly beautiful face.

The two kept on walking and quickly arrived at a building with rather unremarkable decors.

The restaurant was two stories tall and appeared somewhat aged inside. The board hanging by the door read the words Drunken Fragrance Restaurant.

These words were written in a lively fashion and contained a touch of faint ambiguity. The writing itself had a pacifying affect on its readers. It was evident that whoever wrote these words was no ordinary person.

"These three words—Drunken Fragrance Restaurant—were written by late Emperor Changfeng after he tasted this Dragon River Vinegar Fish when traversing the Southern City. His offer to grant the store this writing was turned down at first since he travelled incognito and nobody knew his actual identity. That was an interesting incident." Xiao Yanyue recounted this background story as they stepped into the store.

The store was crowded, bustling with customers who came and went. The rich aromas of dishes pervaded the air within the restaurant.

"Waiter, a table on the second floor please." Xiao Yanyu summoned a waiter who had a white towel draped over his shoulder.

The waiter was taken aback at first but then smiled ever so warmly. Anyone who could afford meals on the second floor was never short of money. This was because the dishes on the second floor were much more expensive than those on the first.

Bu Fang and Xiao Yanyu evidently didn't care about the difference in price. There were simply too many people on the first floor, making it was impossible to find a seat anytime soon. They would much rather go directly to the second floor.

Following the waiter's steps, they walked up the wooden stairs, which creaked between the boards, and ended up on the second floor.

On second floor, the walls were a little bit narrower, but the entire area was more spacious. There were numerous seats up here and many were also occupied.

The two found a spot next to the railings and sat opposite to each other. Bu Fang turned his head to inspect the view downstairs. From there, he could see the flourishing streets of the Southern City in all its glamor—decorated lanterns, visitors, the talented, the beauties, and everything one could wish for.

"Waiter, I'd like an order each of Dragon River Vinegar Fish and Foie Gras in Sauce. As for the other appetizers, just decide for us." Xiao Yanyu winked her eyes gently as she instructed. The waiter was stupefied by her mesmerizing glance.

The waiter snapped out of it quickly, feeling quite awkward. He nodded his head and turned around to leave.

"The Dragon River Vinegar Fish is made with plump fishes found in the streaming river right outside the Southern City. This fish is merely a second grade ingredient, but it is extremely fleshy and emits a delicate fragrance. Once cooked, the flesh of the meat spreads open into thin pieces. It tastes extremely delicious." Xiao Yanyu propped her chin up with her beautiful wrists, holding her elbow against the table. She blinked her lovely eyes and gazed at Bu Fang.

Bu Fang nodded. He recalled seeing plenty of fishermen fishing outside of the city on his way in. The enormous, plump fish swimming in the waters looked very appealing.

They chatted for a while. Then, the waiter returned with a dish. In the porcelain plate was Foie Gras in Sauce.

"The Drunken Fragrance Restaurant doesn't make the best Foie Gras in Sauce, but it is very similar to the most authentic version. Owner Bu can give it a try. It is a perfect choice for an appetizer." Xiao Yanyu took off her veil once more, revealing her stunning beauty, and beamed at Bu Fang.

The waiter who brought the dish was simply beguiled by this scene. He had never seen such an attractive woman.

But he regained his composure soon and left uneasily to bring more dishes.

Bu Fang grabbed the bamboo chopsticks from the table and picked up a small piece of foie gras dipped in a crimson shade sauce. That sauce was made of various spices and ingredients, giving off a pungent and slightly acidic scent.

The foie gras itself was not hard in texture and instead appeared rather viscous. Once in the mouth, it tasted somewhat astringent in itself. This sharp flavor, mixed with the slightly pungent and acidic sauce, lit up Bu Fang's eyes.

This was a cold dish and did justice to the original taste of the foie gras. None of its unique aroma was lost.

"Not bad, heh." Xiao Yanyu smiled as she also picked up her chopsticks and delivered a piece of foie gras into her mouth. Though this foie gras was not as famous as the Dragon River Vinegar Fish served here, it was still a splendid dish. Almost everyone who came to dine at the Drunken Fragrance Restaurant would order the Foie Gras in Sauce.

"The taste is pretty good. But then again, it is a cold dish so no control of the fire and temperature is tested. It demands for skillfulness in making the sauce and slicing the foie gras. You can tell there's a secret recipe behind the sauce, which is respectable. As for the slicing technique, I would deem it barely satisfactory." Bu Fang gave his honest opinion.

The Foie Gras in Sauce suddenly reminded him of another dish, the Dragon Liver Popsicle. This dish was a reward by the System for his last breakthrough, yet he hasn't had the chance to make it. At this point, it seemed he should really find time to study it.

As a whole, this Foie Gras in Sauce had triggered his interest in cold dishes.

After a few more pieces of the Foie Gras in Sauce, Bu Fang put down his chopsticks upon smelling a rich fragrance that drifted by. He twisted his head to look at the huge plate the waiter was bringing their way.

The waiter placed the giant plate at the center of the table, stepped back, and announced: "This is the Dragon River Vinegar Fish you have ordered. Please enjoy. There are other appetizers still being prepared. In the meantime, would you like a jar of wine specially brewed by our store?"

"You mean the 'Dragon River's Spring'? Sure, bring us a jar." Xiao Yanyu hesitated for a bit but still nodded her head. Even though she was no longer interested in other wines after having tasted those made by Fang Fang's Little Store, the Dragon River's Spring was still quite famous in the Southern City and it would be a pity to leave without drinking a cup.

Bu Fang himself was obviously not intrigued by the aforementioned wine. At this moment, his eyes were fixated on the steaming hot Dragon River Vinegar Fish.

A notebook suddenly appeared in his hands as his mind flickered. Bu Fang subconsciously lowered his head and gave it a look. Flipping open the notebook, he discovered a first page filled with words.

"The first recorded recipe, Dragon River Vinegar Fish."

