

Read Gourmet of Another World

Chapter 51: Since I Told You to Cook, You Should Just Cook

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Within the bleak autumn wind, the rain was being blown sideways.

At the entrance of the alleyway, a slim figure was slowly approaching. Wearing a bamboo hat and a straw raincoat with a sword slung behind his back, he was slowly walking toward the store in the alleyway.

Suddenly, the figure slightly quivered and stopped walking. It stood at the center of the alleyway and ceased to move.

Raindrops fell from the sky and splattered on his bamboo hat. Streams of water gathered from the raindrops flowed down the straw raincoat and dripped off the corners.

Xiao Yue's face was concealed by the black veil of the bamboo hat. His expression could not be seen and his emotions could not be perceived. He did not continue moving, but stopped a few steps away from the store and slowly took off the longsword wrapped in rags slung on his back.

"Buzz—"

In the surroundings of the alleyway, a series of sounds—which sounded like the sharp noise that bowstrings make when arrows are fired—suddenly rang out.

Schhwaff schhwaff schhwaff !

Countless crossbow bolts were suddenly launched from all directions, sailing through the air in a slightly curved angle. The target was Xiao Yue who was standing in the middle of the alleyway.

Rip!

As a crisp sound rang out, the rags wrapped around the longsword were immediately torn into pieces as a bright sword energy burst forth from the sword. It was like a meteor flying through the night sky as it drew an arc in the air.

A surging wave of true energy gushed out from his body and spread out along with the sword energy. The countless crossbow bolts broke into pieces and the fragments, accompanied by the raindrops, scattered onto the ground.

As the sword energy dissipated, over a dozen figures with very powerful auras suddenly appeared from behind the walls of the alleyway. Each of them was armed with a spear as they charged toward Xiao Yue.

"The Tiger Guards of the Xiao family... How nostalgic."

Xiao Yue's hoarse murmuring fluttered in the wind and he seemed to be chuckling to himself. Then the rain surrounding him was instantly expelled, as if a distorted area was formed around him.

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Xiao Meng forcefully suppressed his agitation and only breathed a sigh of relief after he personally fed the chicken soup to Xiao Yanyu. The tremendous weight on his shoulders was finally lifted off.

"Thank you, Owner Bu," Xiao Meng solemnly said to Bu Fang as he performed a fist and palm salute.

Bu Fang expressionlessly nodded, while thinking, "You should be thankful."

Suddenly, Bu Fang's expression changed. He seemed to be hearing a series of metallic collision noises coming from outside the store. He immediately looked outside in uncertainty, but these noises quickly stopped and disappeared.

Xiao Meng's expression remained indifferent. He had naturally heard the sound of combat from outside but did not take any other actions. He continued to unhurriedly feed the chicken soup to Xiao Yanyu.

"Owner Bu, this chicken soup... Would it be possible for me to have a serving?" Ji Chengxue came forward with a gentle smile and asked Bu Fang.

Ji Chengan meaningfully looked at Ji Chengxue and stepped forward as well. He was slightly agitated as well as he said, "Owner Bu, give me a serving of this... Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup!"

"The effects of this Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup had already been proven. If Xiao Yanyu who had lost so much life force was saved after drinking it, then its recuperation effects was definitely powerful. If father could drink a bowl of this soup, then his body would definitely become much stronger. This soup would be great for pleasing father," Ji Chengan thought.

Even though the title of crown prince had already been conferred on him, he still did not dare to relax. His brother, King Yu had already coveted his position for a long time and knew how to please their father, the emperor. He was already feeling threatened at the moment.

If he could present this chicken soup to their father, he would definitely improve his father's impression toward him.

"Ji Chengxue is definitely having the same idea as well," Ji Chengan thought. He glanced at his third brother and sneered.

Compared to his second brother, his third brother was not a threat at all.

"Excuse me, but this Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup is a special dish. It is not for sale," Bu Fang indifferently replied.

The Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup was given by the system so that he could use it to save Xiao Yanyu and not considered within the store's dishes in the first place.

"Owner Bu, crystals aren't an issue... I only wish that you would cook another serving of chicken soup," Ji Chengan unhappily said. When he heard Bu Fang's reply, he slightly frowned.

When Ji Chengxue heard Bu Fang's words, he did not continue asking. He was very familiar with Bu Fang's character and knew that the answer would be the same no matter how many times he asked.

Bu Fang pointed at the menu behind the crown prince and said, "Look at the menu behind you. This dish isn't on it, so... I am not selling."

"Hmph! You're so inflexible. Since I told you to cook the dish, you should just go and do it. Why do you have so much nonsense to say?" Ji Chengan's expression became gloomy as he swunged his sleeve in anger and coldly said.

With those words, the people in the surrounding immediately knew that the crown prince was angry. His temper was notoriously known within the imperial city to be irritable.

For the owner of such a small restaurant to infuriate the crown prince, he was definitely going to suffer.

Many people of the Xiao family looked toward Bu Fang in sympathy and secretly shook their heads.

On the other hand, Xiao Meng and Xiao Xiaolong took no notice. Xiao Meng understood very well how terrifying Bu Fang's store was. The mechanical puppet, not to mention the big black dog lying at entrance, was not something a mere crown prince could offend.

Dadada.

The atmosphere within the store had become cold due to the crown prince's words. However, clear footsteps coming from the entrance attracted their attention.

A figure wearing a straw raincoat and a bamboo hat stepped into the store.

"Owner Bu, I am here to retrieve the Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine that I reserved," a hoarse voice faintly rang out as dark red blood dripped off the tip of the longsword that the person was holding and splattered onto the floor.

"Oh, wait a moment," Bu Fang nodded and expressionlessly replied. Then he turned around and headed toward the kitchen.

"Stop!" Ji Chengan's eyes flashed with malice. How dare this fellow actually ignore him? Who was he? He was the crown prince! How could he let others humiliate him like this?

With a bellow, Ji Chengan formed a claw with his hand and reached for Bu Fang's back figure.

Bang!

However, before Ji Chengan's attack was able to reach Bu Fang's body, it was intercepted by Xiao Meng. Xiao Meng indifferently glanced at the crown prince and said, "Your Highness, it's better not to make a move within the store. This is an advice from your humble servant."

After Xiao Meng finished speaking, his gaze turned toward the man wearing the bamboo hat and his expression turned cold.

"You really dare to appear," Xiao Meng ghastly said as a killing intent gradually emitted from his body.

"Father, your tiger guards are still as worthless as before." Xiao Yue remained as steady as a mountain under Xiao Meng's killing intent. He chuckled with a hoarse voice as he took off the bamboo hat and revealed a handsome face.

Xiao Yue?! The Heart-rending Sword Monarch Xiao Yue!

Everyone within the store sucked in a breath of cold air. Even the the crown prince who was furious at the moment narrowed his eyes.

The vicious person who severely injured his mother and betrayed his father for the sake of mastering the sword!

"Yanyu was injured because of you. You should know that you would definitely die this time around... I thought you already escaped." Xiao Meng slowly walked toward Xiao Yue. He was moving very slowly, but his aura became even more terrifying with each step.

With every step, the terrifying aura of a seventh grade Battle-Saint covered the entire area with a loud rumble.

"Die? Father, you're still as confident as ever," Xiao Yue said with a faint smile. His eyes were almost narrowed into a crescent shape, but his words were unrestrained. "Unfortunately, you won't be able to stop the current me."

"I can't stop you?" Xiao Meng thought as he stopped walking. The distance between them was only an inch and their eyes were looking at each other.

Xiao Meng's aura was as heavy as a towering mountain range, while Xiao Yue's aura was as sharp as divine spear that could rend the sky.

Just as the collision between the two of them was about to occur.

At that very moment...

"Hey, here's your Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine."

An indifferent voice suddenly interrupted their confrontation.

Everyone immediately looked in astonishment toward Bu Fang who had just walked out of the kitchen with a jar of wine in his hands.

"This fellow... Is there something wrong with his head? Doesn't he understand the current situation? Why are you mentioning wine at this kind of moment?"

Both the gazes of Xiao Meng and Xiao Yue landed on Bu Fang.

Bu Fang remained expressionless as he calmly received their sharp gazes. He twitched his mouth and said, "Let me remind you... Go outside if you're going to fight or cause trouble. Otherwise... you will be stripped as an example to others."

Chapter 52: The Oyster Pancake That Is Available For Takeouts

The crown prince looked toward Bu Fang in astonishment, while thinking, "Is this fellow an idiot? He actually tried to reason with a seventh grade Battle-Saint and he even said that he would strip him... as an example to others? Does he have the strength and qualifications to say that?"

Ji Chengan could tell Bu Fang's cultivation level just from looking at him. A mere third grade Battle-Maniac could not even be considered as an ant in front of a Battle-Saint. Where did he get the courage to say those words?

Ji Chengan folded his arms across his chest as he looked on with interest. He was looking forward to watching Bu Fang being taught a lesson.

Other than the crown prince, many members of the Xiao family were looking at Bu Fang in the same manner. In their eyes, this brat was simply an idiot with poor judgement.

Both the gazes of Xiao Meng and Xiao Yue were like blades as they coldly landed on Bu Fang's body. The atmosphere within the store became much colder.

Bu Fang was expressionlessly holding the jar of Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine in one hand while patting Whitey's wide belly with the other. Whitey had appeared next to him without anyone noticing and its mechanical eyes were flashing red.

Both the gazes of Xiao Yue and Xiao Meng slightly shifted toward Whitey's body. "This mechanical puppet..."

The mood became tense. Just when everyone thought Bu Fang was about to suffer a misfortune, Xiao Meng lightly exhaled. He turned around and walked toward the entrance of the store.

"I'll give Owner Bu some face today. Come out with me, we'll settle this outside."

The corner of Xiao Yue's mouth curled up and his expression became languid.

"Why should I go out just because you're telling me? Wouldn't that make me lose face?" Xiao Yue walked toward Bu Fang and received the jar of wine from him.

Xiao Meng stopped walking and looked back. He lifted up his hand and a burst of true energy gushed out from his hand. It turned into a stream and instantly coiled around the jar of wine in Xiao Yue's hand.

With a slight tug, the Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine flew across the air toward Xiao Meng.

Xiao Yue's pupils constricted as the aura emitting from his body suddenly changed. He tossed out a stream of energy as well, coiling it around the jar of wine.

"I said, if you're going to cause trouble... get out," Bu Fang expressionlessly said when he saw that the two were once again about to fight.

Both Xiao Yue and Xiao Meng angrily snorted at the same time as they dashed out of the store and appeared within the alleyway.

How terrifying! With the two of them gone, the atmosphere within the store immediately relaxed. Everyone was panting heavily with frightful expressions on their faces.

The crown prince, Ji Chengan, looked toward Bu Fang in incredulity. Xiao Yue and Xiao Meng actually listened to that fellow and went outside to fight... This was contrary to his expectations and completely different from his anticipation.

"He... What is he relying on?!" Ji Chengan heavily breathed out and said with a frown.

Xushi sighed. The crown prince did not know the terror of the store at all. He did not understand the terror of the iron lump puppet at all.

The others were looking at Bu Fang as if he was a monster as well. This little store owner actually forced a Battle-Saint to compromise.

"What are you looking at? The opening hours for today has already ended. Please leave the store right now," Bu Fang glanced at them and expressionlessly ordered them to leave. He did not care about their astonished gazes in the slightest.

"Owner Bu, my..."

"I already said... This dish is not for sale. If you really want to eat this dish, you can prepare your own ingredients and bring them over," Before the crown prince could finish speaking, Bu Fang immediately interrupted him.

The crown prince was slightly furious that he was interrupted, but his eyes lit up from Bu Fang's words. If he brought his own ingredients, Bu Fang would be willing to accept the order?

Other than Ji Chengan, the eyes of Ji Chengxue and the others lit up as well.

"Alright, I'll be leaving then." After receiving the confirmation from Bu Fang, the crown prince was overjoyed as he turned around and left the store with Xushi. He was in a hurry to watch the battle between Xiao Meng and Xiao Yue.

The others left in droves as well. The battle between Xiao Meng and Xiao Yue was a rare occurrence that they could not afford to miss.

Xiao Xiaolong ordered the servants to carry Xiao Yanyu, whose injuries had already recovered but was still tired, and left as well.

With the blink of an eye, most of the people had already left and the store became deserted once more.

"Smelly boss, I am leaving as well. I will come back tomorrow." A smile appeared on Ouyang Xiaoyi's face as her eyes narrowed into slits. The smelly boss really did not lie to her and really saved elder sister Yanyu.

Bu Fang did not pay any attention to her as he turned around and entered the kitchen. Ouyang Xiaoyi stuck her tongue out at Bu Fang's figure and left while skipping.

That night, it was inevitable that the imperial city would not be quiet.

The Heart-rending Sword Monarch appeared within the imperial city and had an intense fight with Great General Xiao.

According to witnesses, the two experts seemed to be fighting over a jar of wine. They fought from the eastern side of the city to the western side, then back again to the eastern side. From the beginning to the end, the two remained in a deadlock as they fought over a jar of wine.

Great General Xiao's military prowess was unrivalled, while the Heart-rending Sword Monarch was capable of splitting the sky with a single sword strike. The battle between the two sent huge ripples through the imperial city and caused the situation, that was already turbulent, to become more unpredictable.

This battle caused the experts from the sects hiding within the capital to appear one by one. There were suddenly big and small battles erupting in various alleyways within the imperial city. The innumerable bursts of true energy were like gorgeous fireworks.

However, none of these were related to Bu Fang in the slightest.

After closing up the store, Bu Fang went into the kitchen. No matter how chaotic the outside became, the interior of the store would always be serene. All he needed to do was testing out the new dishes.

"Congratulations to the host for completing the abrupt mission: Learn the cooking method of Elixir Cuisine, the Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup, and rescue the dying beauty. The system reward will now be released."

"The system reward has been released. Will the host please check the contents."

As the system solemn's voice rang out in Bu Fang's mind, his eyes immediately light up and his mind settled down.

"System reward: Oyster Pancake that is available for takeouts."

"Oyster Pancake should be a type of snack," Bu Fang thought as the system had indicated that the Oyster Pancake is available for takeout. From what he knew of the system's character, a main dish would definitely not be allowed.

"So that's the kind of reward I get for slogging for half a day..." Bu Fang thought as he felt an inexplicable pity for himself.

"Oyster Pancake is a characteristic snack. It is made using rice milk, shredded radish, oyster, chopped onion, minced meat and various other ingredients. It is deep-fried using special methods. The taste is delicious and has a rich aftertaste and fragrance that lingers in your mouth."

Bu Fang had never tried cooking the Oyster Pancake on earth before, so he was quite interested in this new dish as well.

And so, while the battle outside was continuing, Bu Fang was joyously preparing to test out the new dish in the kitchen.

The ingredients of the Oyster Pancake were prepared by the system and stored within a separate cupboard. Bu Fang took out a luscious white radish, which had a better quality than the ones that Bu Fang used in his knife skill training.

Just from holding the white radish in his hand, he could feel the rich spirit energy and juice inside.

Slicing radishes was naturally not an issue for Bu Fang. After turning the radish into long, thin strips, he placed them on one side. He took out a piece of meat, turned it into minced meat and placed it into a small bowl. The onion was chopped and then the plump oysters were washed clean.

The oysters used were not ordinary as well. According to the system, they were the highest grade oysters obtained from the coastal area of the Southern Wastelands. Filled with an abundant amount of spirit energy, they were an excellent ingredient.

After he finished preparing the ingredients, Bu Fang started to prepare the rice milk. He needed to pay particular attention to the rice milk as it should not be too watery or too thick.

If the rice milk was too watery, the Oyster Pancake would easily break into pieces. On the other hand, if the rice milk was too thick, the Oyster Pancake would become too hard and affect the taste.

Taking out a miniature millstone from a cupboard, Bu Fang loosened his muscles and bones to get ready to personally grind the rice milk.

Chapter 53: The Clueless Oyster-Pancake-Eating Spectators

The rice used to make the rice milk was naturally provided by the system. Every single grain was round and plump like pearls, and filled with an abundant amount of spirit energy.

He scooped up a ladle of rice and poured it into the millstone. After adding a ladle of peanut and water, Bu Fang began to gently turn the millstone. This millstone was relatively primitive and its surface was somewhat glossy.

After gently milling for a while, slightly thick rice milk began to flow out into the blue and white porcelain bowl that Bu Fang placed beneath the millstone.

After collecting the rice milk that he needed, Bu Fang cleaned the millstone and took out a wok. He filled half of the wok with high quality oil, turned on the stove and waited for the temperature of the oil to rise.

The wok spatula used to deep fry Oyster Pancakes had a special shape. It was not semicircle like normal wok spatulas but was slightly flat instead.

After adding a layer of rice milk on the flat surface of the wok spatula, he spread the shredded radish and chopped onion on top of the layer of rice milk. After adding two more layers of rice milk and minced meat in between, he placed a plump oyster at the top and added another layer of rice milk to wrap up all the ingredients, creating a hemisphere shape.

Once the temperature of the oil within the wok was hot enough to scald, he dipped the wok spatula containing the Oyster Pancake into the oil. Immediately, the oil was spattering everywhere and pale yellowish bubbles were forming around the rice milk.

As the Oyster Pancake couldn't be flipped during the deep frying process, it tested the chef's control over the heat and timing. The taste would be affected whether it was too raw or overcooked.

Once the exterior of the Oyster Pancake had completely turned into a golden color, Bu Fang took it out from the wok and placed it into the wire netting he had already prepared to drain the oil.

A hemisphere-shaped Oyster Pancake was completed once the oil was completely drained.

As the rice milk was not too thick, the ingredients inside of the golden crust were still visible and lines could be seen. The fragrance of deep fried food was exuding from the Oyster Pancake and had a very unique smell.

As peanut was added during the milling process, the rice milk was particularly fragrant after it was deep fried. Moreover, the residual heat from the oil and the rice milk crust caused the ingredients to be naturally cooked and allowed the fragrance to complement each other. More importantly, the aroma of the oyster which contained a trace of ocean flavor would linger around the tip of one's nose and was difficult to disperse.

Bu Fang was already feeling famished when he saw the Oyster Pancake. While another Oyster Pancake was still being deep fried, he picked up the Oyster Pancake that was finished and eagerly took a bite.

Crunch...

The crispy texture, the rich taste, and the savory juice from the shredded white radish instantly entered his mouth and enveloped it. It was like the delicious taste had directly rushed into his brain as the pores in his whole body slightly opened.

Crispy, fragrant, delicious! Only these three words could describe this Oyster Pancake. After taking the first bite, one would be unable to help but take the second bite. With this second bite, Bu Fang tasted the meat. The flavor of the meat instantly burst forth and directly rushed into the depths of his heart.

With a third bite, Bu Fang tasted the plump oyster. The oyster was not deep fried as it was wrapped within the rice milk, so it retained the fresh taste of seafood. Accompanied with the shredded radish and minced meat, it was so delicious that he wanted to swallow his own tongue.

The taste of the Oyster Pancake... was unexpectedly delicious!

Bu Fang endured the urge to completely finish the entire Oyster Pancake and took out the other Oyster Pancake from the wok to drain the oil.

After deep frying three Oyster Pancakes, Bu Fang did not continue further.

The Oyster Pancake needed to be eaten immediately. If it was left unattended for too long, the juice of the radish and steam would cause the crust to soften and lose that crispiness, which would affect the taste.

After finishing three Oyster Pancakes, Bu Fang was still slightly craving for more. His mouth was filled with the taste of the Oyster Pancakes and he was overwhelmed with the urge to taste more.

He cleaned up the kitchen and returned to his room to sleep. During normal circumstances, he would maintain his sleep habits.

The next day, the weather was clear and the sun was shining warmly.

Bu Fang accidentally overslept a little, so he got up slightly later than usual. However, it was not a big deal.

After washing up, Bu Fang opened up the store. There was already a line of people waiting outside and Fatty Jin and his buddies were already waiting for quite some time.

"Oh my, Owner Bu, you are slightly slower today," Fatty Jin grumbled, but the expression on his face was still very happy. He was already used to eating breakfast at Bu Fang's restaurant every morning and according to him, "It was the greatest happiness to eat Bu Fang's dishes once everyday."

"Yes, I was preparing a new dish, that's why I was slightly slower than usual," Bu Fang unabashedly said.

"A new dish?" Fatty Jin was immediately excited when he heard that. He turned his head to look at the menu on the wall and saw that there was indeed a new dish at the bottom.

"Oyster Pancake, two per serving, five crystals (takeout permitted)."

"Oyster Pancake? I've never heard of this dish before," Fatty Jin thought as he went into a daze. "It seems to be very awesome from the sound of it."

"Then owner, I would like to have a serving of this Oyster Pancake," Fatty Jin readily said. He was a nouveau riche and did not lack money.

"You can order other dishes first, then ordered the Oyster Pancake as takeout and eat while walking," Bu Fang reminded him.

Fatty Jin immediately realized his mistake as he nodded and ordered other dishes.

After memorizing the orders, Bu Fang turned around and entered the kitchen and began to prepare the dishes.

Ouyang Xiaoyi skipped into the store. Even though she no longer needed to work as the waitress, she was still habitually coming to work.

Bu Fang was not opposed to this either and allowed her to do as she pleased.

"Xiaoyi, isn't it an important day for the Ouyang family? Why are you still working today?" While Fatty Jin was waiting for his food to arrive, he was slightly bored and started chatting with Ouyang Xiaoyi.

"Eh? Is there something big happening?" Ouyang Xiaoyi was startled.

Fatty Jin continued and said, "It's not really that big of a deal. It's already spread within the entire imperial city that His Majesty ordered Great General Xiao Meng and General Ouyang to jointly host today's execution. They're executing those experts from the sects at the Gate of Heavenly Mystery."

"I know, right? I heard the leaders from the Death Soul Palace are all sixth grade Battle-Emperors... They're actually going to be executed together. The entire empire was

shocked by the news. This time His Majesty is really determined to intimidate those sects outside of the border."

"Old Jin, let me tell you. I am afraid that this execution won't proceed smoothly. Didn't a great battle occur between Great General Xiao and the Heart-rending Sword Monarch yesterday? Do you know what happened? The Heart-rending Sword Monarch actually escaped!"

"Other than the mysterious Celestial Arcanum Sect, experts from the other nine great sects have all gathered within the imperial city to stop today's execution. I am afraid that an earth-shaking battle will happen today! Have you not noticed that there are several times more guards within the imperial city than usual?"

...

When Ouyang Xiaoyi heard the discussion of the customers, she suddenly became absent-minded. She thought, "According to what they're saying, doesn't that mean father and elder brothers would be in danger?"

"Xiaoyi, serve the dishes," Bu Fang's indifferent voice drifted out from the kitchen and interrupted Xiaoyi's thoughts.

When Fatty Jin and the rest finished their meals, Bu Fang had also finished deep frying the Oyster Pancake.

There were six people within this group of obese men and each of them ordered a serving of Oyster Pancakes. With a dozen of Oyster Pancakes, they had to wait for quite a while.

"This is the Oyster Pancake? It's so fragrant!" Fatty Jin looked at the two pieces of Oyster Pancake wrapped in bamboo leaves in his hands and swallowed his saliva. The golden Oyster Pancake was exuding a rich fragrance that stimulated his appetite.

Bringing along their fascination toward the Oyster Pancake, the group left Fang Fang's Little Store.

"Old Jin, why don't we take a look at the execution grounds? Six Battle-Emperors are being executed, there's no way we can miss such a grand occasion," one of them said and the rest immediately agreed.

And so, a group of obese men was holding Oyster Pancakes in their hands as they majestically headed for the execution grounds, planning to eat along the way, and became clueless Oyster-Pancake-eating spectators.

Chapter 54: The Disturbance Triggered by the Oyster Pancakes

Outside the walls of the imperial palace, in front of the entrance to the towering imperial court.

There was a large group of people forming up a long queue. These group of people were all well-known people within the imperial city. Along with their followers, they were waiting to enter the Gate of Heavenly Mystery within the imperial palace.

There were countless armor-wearing soldiers standing guard at the entrance to the imperial palace. Every single person that entered would go through an inspection.

This time, the orders from the emperor to execute the prisoners from Death Soul Palace had aroused the interest of many people and created huge ripples within the imperial city. The court officials were not the only ones who did not expect it, but even the experts from sects outside the border were caught unprepared.

Fatty Jin and his buddies majestically arrived. However, as they were not court officials, they did not have the authority to go by the backdoor and could only obediently queue up.

However, their luck was excellent. Just when they arrived, the first wave of spectators were allowed to enter. And so, they followed the crowd and Fatty Jin carried the Oyster Pancakes into the Gate of Heavenly Mystery.

The Gate of Heavenly Mystery Square was specially built by the imperial palace. Its surface area was large and wide, and many important ceremonies and events, like the imperial sacrifices, were conducted there.

On that day, the atmosphere within the Gate of Heavenly Mystery was extremely cold. An execution platform was set up in the middle and was surrounded by guards that were there to maintain order.

On the execution platform, there was a judicial desk made from sandalwood and two high chairs. Xiao Meng, who was fully armored, was sitting upright on one of the chairs. His red cloak was fluttering in the wind, like a rolling sea of blood.

Ouyang Zongheng was also wearing armor. His long hair was tied with a black woolen rope while two bangs of hair were drifting with the wind in front of his forehead. His gaze was solemn while his expression was cold.

The two of them were like statues as they sat on top of the high chairs. Regardless of the chilliness of the autumn wind, their expressions were still that cold.

Suddenly, Ouyang Zongheng raised his head and looked at the sky. The clouds were slowly moving due to the autumn wind blowing, but could never block the radiance released by the scorching sun.

"It's time, bring the prisoners to the execution platform."

With a solemn expression, Ouyang Zongheng's indifferent voice resounded around the entire Gate of Heavenly Mystery, causing the clamoring audience to become silent as they gravely looked toward the execution platform.

The sound of chains colliding rang out. From a distance, guards were escorting six men with disheveled hair in prisoner clothes while they slowly approached. Their hands and feet were bound by cold shackles.

...

As Fatty Jin ripped the bamboo leaves, the golden and slightly hot Oyster Pancake was revealed. The rich fragrance drifted out and dispersed through the surroundings, causing the spectators around him to sniff the air.

A smile appeared on Fatty Jin's face as he intoxicatedly inhaled the smell and the pudgy flesh on his face was slightly trembling from happiness.

"Owner Bu's dishes are definitely the best. With such a sweet fragrance, the taste is definitely delicious as well," Fatty Jin thought as he opened his mouth and took a bite.

Crunch! A clear sound rang out. The crispy texture caused Fatty Jin's eyes to open wide in astonishment. After the crispiness, it was the tenderness and juiciness of the shredded radishes that flowed into his mouth. Immediately, an indescribable aroma flooded his mouth and even gushed out from his nostrils.

"Oh, my heavens! It's so delicious!" Fatty Jin was enthralled as he took another bite. With this second bite, he tasted the meat and the aroma abruptly upgraded to the next level.

Gulp!

Even Fatty Jin did not expect that with the two bites, the fragrance of the Oyster Pancake would immediately diffuse. That fragrance was like silk brushing across skin as it drifted into the air with the help of the autumn wind.

The rest of the obese men could not help it any longer and ripped open their own Oyster Pancakes. As they each bit down on the Oyster Pancakes, a series of crunching sounds rang out and lingered around a corner of the Gate of Heavenly Mystery.

A burst of fragrance might not be concentrated enough. However, if several bursts of fragrance were released at the same time, and with the help of the autumn wind, it would turn into a surging wave.

The fragrance of the Oyster Pancake was like an aroma bomb. With several aromatic explosions happening at the same time, the entire Gate of Heavenly Mystery began to clamor.

"What the?! This smell... Who's releasing poison at the execution grounds?!"

"It's so fragrant! It's really fragrant! How could it possibly be so fragrant?!"

"Are you still human! Is this the sort of place to eat delicious food? I just want to say... Give me a serving as well!"

...

The Gate of Heavenly Mystery was in complete chaos. Everyone was constantly looking for the source of the fragrance. They had never smelled such a sweet fragrance.

The guards immediately increased their vigilance. However, as they inhaled the fragrance, they could not help but swallow their salivas as well. This smell seemed to possess magical powers as it instantly infiltrated their marrows.

Crunch... Fatty took another bite of the Oyster Pancake. Immediately, he became intoxicated once more as he tasted the plump oyster. He opened his mouth to exhale and the fragrance gushed out.

"Get lost! Don't eat in front of me..." A sullen voice rang out next to Fatty Jin. The cold voice seemed to have permeated from the netherworlds.

Fatty Jin was startled. When he turned his head, he saw a man that looked slightly ugly standing next to him. The man was swallowing his saliva while looking at him with a cold gaze.

"Who the hell are you? So what if I am eating, how is it any of your business? I am going to continue eating, what are you going to do about it?" Fatty Jin said as he took another bite of Oyster Pancake and snorted.

The ugly man fiercely glared at Fatty Jin and clenched his fist tightly, as if he was going to smash Fatty Jin's annoying face.

However, when the man thought about the sect's plans later, he suppressed his anger and coldly glanced at Fatty Jin and said, "Damn fatty, just you wait!"

"Oh hoh! You're even threatening me. I am definitely going to eat in front of you today, why don't you bite me!" Fatty Jin said as he finished the rest of the Oyster Pancake with a single bite. Then he took out the second Oyster Pancake from the bamboo leaves and brandished it in front of the man.

The man took a deep breath and the blue veins on his fists became apparent.

At that moment, the six prisoners were already kneeling down on the execution platform with their heads hanging down. Beside each of the prisoners, there was a burly executioner with red scarves wrapped around their heads. They looked boorish and exuded powerful auras. Every single one of them was a fourth grade Battle-Spirit.

The spectating crowd became quiet once more. The temperature within the Gate of Heavenly Mystery seemed to have become much colder in that moment as a killing intent instantly burst out from the center of the execution platform.

Xiao Meng glanced toward the scorching sun. Then with a wave of his hand, a token made from black iron immediately floated up from the judicial desk. The word "behead" was inscribed upon it.

Just when he was about to throw the token, he suddenly sensed something and puzzledly looked toward the direction of the crowd.

"Damn fatty! Ahh! I am going to kill you!"

A roar filled with anger and grief rang out as a terrifying true energy burst out from that location.

"Hmm? Soul refinement true energy from the Soul Sect?" Xiao Meng muttered as his eyes narrowed and briefly flashed for a moment.

Following the initial outburst, sources of true energy started appearing one by one among the spectators gathered at the Gate of Heavenly Mystery and were followed by bone chilling shouts.

The levels of the true energy were extremely powerful. Each of them were at the level of a fifth grade Battle-King.

Without a doubt, the experts from the sects were making their move!

However, Xiao Meng and Ouyang Zongheng were both slightly baffled as the timing utilized by the experts from the sects was strange...

Bang bang bang!

One by one, the Tiger Guards of the Xiao family standing near the execution platform charged into the crowd toward the source of the auras.

Fatty Jin's face went pale while the pudgy flesh throughout his entire body began to tremble as he looked toward the ugly man, who seemed as if he had just instantly become a towering mountain.

"Elder brother... I won't mess around anymore... You can eat this Oyster Pancake..."

"Eat?! I'll eat your sister, you damn fatty!"

The ugly man was currently feeling anguish. The instant he released his true energy, he knew that all the plans... were thrown into disorder!

The meticulous plot of the ten great sects to interrupt the execution was actually ruined by an... Oyster Pancake!

Who the hell cooked this heinous Oyster Pancake?!

Chapter 55: Someone Is Causing Trouble... Owner Bu, Are You Going to Intervene?

"What's going on?! Why is there someone not following the plan?! Hun Qianduan, how did you educate your subordinates?!"

Within the crowd, the expression of a smiling merchant, who wore an embroidered robe, suddenly changed and became gloomy as he asked the hunchbacked elderly man next to him in a hoarse voice.

The hunchbacked elderly man's face contorted as he straightened his body and cold words drifted out from his mouth as well, "Xiao Yue, don't use that kind of tone with me. I am not your subordinate..."

The elderly man's face continued to contort, then suddenly, it actually peeled off like flowing water and turned into a pale looking face. His eye sockets were deeply sunken and there seemed to be a ghost fire pulsing within.

"Very well! The Soul Sect is indeed formidable... If the plan fails, you'll be assuming responsibility for it." The plump body of the rich merchant suddenly shrunk and as the clothes exploded into pieces, a lean and tall figure was revealed.

A handsome face that was like a piece of ice that did not melt in ten thousand years glanced at Hun Qianduan. With the sonorous cry of a sword, Xiao Yue's body flew into the air as true energy surged out from him. His figure immediately charged toward the execution platform, leaving a contrail at his wake.

Hun Qianduan's expression became sullen and he coldly snorted. The tip of his toes tapped against the ground and he flew into the air. His black robes spread open and soul refinement true energy surged out.

At the center of the execution platform, Xiao Meng's eyes narrowed as he raised his head and looked toward the two figures approaching. He slapped the table and angrily yelled with a voice like rolling thunder as it dispersed into a distance.

"You fiend! I wasn't able to kill you yesterday, but you won't be able to get away today!"

Boom!

The terrifying aura of a seventh grade Battle-Saint suddenly skyrocketed as Xiao Meng turned into a stream of light and charged toward Xiao Yue and Hun Qianduan.

The corner of Ouyang Zongheng's mouth widened into a smile as he fiercely stomped the ground and charged out. He landed on the execution platform and knocked away two experts from the sects that were charging toward the platform with a sudden palm strike.

"With I, Ouyang Zongheng, overseeing this execution, who has the audacity to be impudent?!"

Within the crowd, powerful auras continued to appear. The Tiger Guards of the Xiao family had already made contact and were fighting with the experts from the sects. The sound of battle could be heard throughout the Gate of Heavenly Mystery as it suddenly turned into a field of blood.

...

Deep within the resplendent imperial palace, an elderly figure was sitting on the dragon throne with a white-haired eunuch in robes standing next to him, with his head lowered.

The elderly figure was wearing a purple crown embedded with gems with his hair tied up and a golden headband embroidered with an illustration of two dragons vying for a pearl[1]. Even though his appearance was old, the domineering aura of an emperor was still present.

"Is the matter of the Gate of Heavenly Mystery proceeding smoothly?" A slightly low voice came from the emperor's mouth.

"Your Majesty, Great General Xiao and General Ouyang have already begun the execution. The experts from the sects hiding within the imperial city finally lost their patience and made a move," the corner of the white-haired eunuch's mouth curled up as he slightly bowed and uttered with a high-pitched voice.

"They have no choice but to raid the execution grounds. After all, they can't afford to lose six Battle-Emperors... That's why even though they know that this is a trap that I set for them, they would still jump into it... Cough," the emperor faintly smiled with unfathomable eyes and lightly coughed.

"Your Majesty is brilliant. The sects will definitely be destroyed and the Light Wind Empire will regain its peace," the eunuch lightly patted the emperor's back as he softly said.

The emperor waved him away as he lightly sighed, "I know my own body very well. I know that I won't be able to last until all the sects are destroyed, otherwise I wouldn't have laid such a trap for them... Xiao Fu, go help them as well. According to our intelligence, out of the ten great sects, only the old foxes from the Celestial Arcanum Sect aren't participating. The other sects should've dispatched quite a number of experts. I am afraid that General Xiao won't be able to cope with it."

The white-haired eunuch took a step, slightly bowed and said, "As you command."

The lonesome emperor watched as the eunuch left. He was the only person left in such a big palace.

"With Xiao Fu helping out, this time... should be in the bag. Even if they're not completely destroyed, it should be enough to greatly damage them... Cough, cough, cough."

...

The battle at the Gate of Heavenly Mystery was extremely harsh. The number of experts from the sects that infiltrated was slightly out of the expectation of Xiao Meng and the others. The soldier standing guard at the entrance had also been slaughtered as countless experts charged in.

Xiao Meng was unmatched in indomitability as he faced the Battle-Emperor Xiao Yue along with the peak-level Battle-Emperor Hun Qianduan, and actually managed to suppress both of them to the point where they could only passively defend.

Ouyang Zongheng faced numerous enemies as he aggressively protected the execution platform and prevented anyone from approaching. As the experts from the sects charged into the fray, the imperial guards joined the battle as well. The two armies started fighting.

There were experts appearing on both sides of the forces. As the battle became even harsher, warm blood continued to spray onto the tiles of the solemn Gate of Heavenly Mystery.

"Fiends from the sects, it's time for you to die!"

Just when everyone was fighting, a high-pitched angry yell came from the depths of the imperial palace. A white-haired figure flew out, lightly waved a horsetail whisk, and joined the battle.

Xiao Yue's expression changed and he was startled, "Chief Eunuch, Lian Fu! Isn't he always protecting the emperor? He actually made a move as well!"

Hun Qianduan's expression was unsightly as well as he quietly cursed. The cultivation level of the Chief of the Eunuchs was comparable to Xiao Meng. With both of them working together, even though they had more Battle-Emperors on their side, there was still no chance of winning.

"As expected, this is Ji Changfeng's trap! We've been deceived! Let's retreat!"

...

"Smelly boss, since there's no customers around today, can I go back earlier?" Ouyang Xiaoyi asked Bu Fang, who was curled up on a chair near the entrance, with a pout on her face.

There were indeed less customers than usual. After Fatty Jin and his buddies left, only a few other customers sporadically turned up. His regular customers like Ji Chengxue and the others did not appear at all.

"Alright, you can go back first," Bu Fang expressionlessly replied. It was comfortably warm under the autumn sun and it was making him drowsy.

When Ouyang Xiaoyi heard Bu Fang's reply, her eyes started smiling. She charmingly nodded, then impatiently dashed out of the store and headed for the Gate of Heavenly Mystery.

After hearing the discussion between Fatty Jin and his buddies, she had been feeling restless. After all, her father was one of the people in charge of the execution. If what they said was true, then her father would be in danger.

She lightly sighed as she was about to walk out of the alleyway. However, just as she reached the entrance, she felt a terrifying aura surging toward her.

Ouyang Xiaoyi's expression immediately changed. Without even thinking about anything, her body automatically turned around and headed the way she came from.

However, before she could take a second step, she discovered that a figure had appeared next to her. Then she felt a powerful arm grabbing hold of her and lifting her up.

"Xiao Meng! Stop! Otherwise, I'll kill the young lady of the Ouyang family!"

Xiao Yue hoarsely shouted. He was bleeding all over his body and the smell of blood was even wafting out from his mouth. His eyes were like those of a fierce wolf as he glanced toward his pursuers: Xiao Meng and the white-haired eunuch, Lian Fu.

Hun Qianduan's chest had deeply caved in and there was not even the slightest color on his pale face.

"Retreat into the alleyway. Do you see the store there? Go inside," Xiao Yue indifferently said toward Hun Qianduan while clutching Ouyang Xiaoyi with one hand.

Ouyang Xiaoyi's adorable face was rosy red as she randomly flailed her limbs around. While panting with rage, she angrily scolded, "Xiao Yue! Let me down this instant!"

Xiao Yue did not have the leisure to pay any attention to Ouyang Xiaoyi. His eyes were coldly watching the movements of Xiao Meng and Lian Fu as he retreated toward the entrance of the store with Hun Qianduan.

Bu Fang's eyes had just closed when he heard Ouyang Xiaoyi's unique way of cursing. Immediately, he puzzledly opened his eyes and saw Xiao Yue, who was injured all over and carrying Ouyang Xiaoyi, and a man who looked like a ghost, charging into the store.

Bu Fang was slightly startled. What was going on?

Xiao Yue let go of Ouyang Xiaoyi as he collapsed onto the ground and continuously vomited blood. He hurriedly took out an elixir from his bosoms and swallowed it, stabilizing his injuries.

Only after doing all of this, Xiao Yue smiled at Bu Fang with a pale complexion.

"Owner Bu, someone is causing trouble in your store... Are you going to intervene?"

[1] Golden headband embroidered with an illustration of two dragons vying for a pearl - This is an accessory that originated from the Spring and Autumn Warring States period. The phrase used by the author was from the Dream of the Red Chamber.

Chapter 56: Don't Smile... I Might Just Throw You Out

There was blood trickling from the corner of Xiao Yue's mouth and his handsome face had become slightly ghastly. However, he was still forcing himself to smile as he looked at Bu Fang.

"Owner Bu, someone is causing trouble in the store... Are you going to intervene?"

Hun Qianduan, whose face was as white as paper, looked toward Xiao Yue as if he was looking at a madman, while thinking, "This fellow... Is he injured in the head? What kind of nonsense is he spouting? There's two seventh grade Battle-Saints right outside! What is he trying to do by asking the owner of a store for help?"

"Have you gone mad?! Cough... This guy is only a Battle-Maniac. Do you really think he can help us?" Hun Qianduan was coughing blood as he shook his head in despair and said.

This time, the nine great sects had really suffered an immense loss. At least half of their experts were killed during the rescue operation. They did not expect that Ji Changfeng would be that vicious!

"Shut up! If your useless subordinate didn't expose his identity beforehand... Would the result of this operation turn out like this? Your Soul Sect will be taking responsibility for the failure of this operation!" Xiao Yue's eyes went cold as he glanced at Hun Qianduan. "Right now, I don't want to argue with you. If you want to continue living, then you should obediently shut up. This store isn't as simple as you think!"

"You!"

Hun Qianduan was so riled up that the injuries at his chest began to ache. He could not bear it any longer and coughed out a large mouthful of blood once more. He hurriedly fished out elixirs from his bosom and shoved them into his mouth.

Xiao Yue turned around and looked at Bu Fang with hope in his eyes. He knew that his only chance of survival was to rely on Bu Fang.

Bu Fang was curled up on a chair. With the sunlight shining on his face, he looked slightly holy.

Ouyang Xiaoyi was panting with rage as she hid behind Bu Fang and angrily glared at Xiao Yue. She thought, "This bad man... He actually dared to lift me up! And even said he would kill me! Simply unforgivable!"

Bu Fang expressionlessly stared at Xiao Yue, while Xiao Yue calmly looked back at him.

Finally, it seemed that Xiao Yue could not stand Bu Fang's indifferent gaze any longer. His heart quivered and he could not help but look away.

Bu Fang satisfactorily nodded and thought, "That's right, who's afraid of a staring contest!"

"Owner Bu?" A deep voice came from outside the store. Xiao Meng, who was in armor, vigorously approached with a solemn expression.

"What do you want?" Bu Fang puzzledly looked at him.

"Owner Bu, criminals wanted by the imperial court entered your store just now. I desire to enter your store to catch them." Xiao Meng was slightly fearful of the mysterious store.

An owner with an unknown background, a mysterious and powerful big black dog, and a puppet that was a match for a Battle-Saint... If he tried to forcibly enter, it probably would not end well.

Lian Fu was baffled as he looked at Xiao Meng. Swinging his horsetail whisk and pinching his thumb and index finger together[1], he said with a high-pitched voice, "General Xiao, why aren't we going in to catch the fiends from the sects that are hiding inside? Don't tell me you still consider that fiend as your son?"

"Gong gong[2], you don't understand... This store isn't simple. Forcibly entering is inadvisable!" Xiao Meng solemnly said.

"General Xiao... How could a mere store situated within the alleyways of the imperial city frighten you like this? This doesn't seem to tally with the reputation of the valiant general of our Light Wind Empire." Lian Fu sneered as he gestured toward Xiao Meng while pinching his thumb and index finger together.

"Who're you trying to deceive? There are countless stores like this within the imperial city. You can tell the cultivation level of the owner in a single glance. He's just a mere Battle-Maniac, what's there for you to be afraid of? Is there a need for a Battle-Saint like you to hesitate?" Lian Fu thought.

Bu Fang expressionlessly looked toward Xiao Meng and that... eunuch.

"Eh... Eunuch?" Bu Fang thought as he blinked. It was the first time that he had seen a live eunuch. "How amazing."

"You can enter the store, but fighting and causing trouble is prohibited. Otherwise, you will know the consequences," Bu Fang simply said.

Xiao Meng knitted his eyebrows together. If he was not allowed to make a move, how could he capture Xiao Yue? Even though Xiao Yue was badly injured, it would still be difficult to arrest him if he tried to resist.

"Oh my! Just because we're showing respect to you, you really think that you're something... A mere Battle-Maniac that as arrogant as an eighth grade War-God. Oh, I am so scared."

Before Xiao Meng could reply, Lian Fu scornfully said as he pinched his thumb and middle finger together and gestured toward Bu Fang while his other hand was propped under his chin.

Bu Fang instantly felt goosebumps all over his body... He thought, "Good heavens... Elder brother, isn't it better for us to talk it out?"

Shua shua shua!

While they were talking, several figures appeared within the alleyway.

Ouyang Zongheng valiantly arrived with an unmatched domineering aura while his ferocious face was trembling with fury. At the execution platform, he fought against multiple opponents and swept away multiple sixth grade Battle-Emperors while killing numerous fifth grade Battle-Kings. He truly was akin to a human-shaped wild beast!

"God damn! Tell me, who's left!" Ouyang Zongheng said as he stroked his beard. He truly was ferocious!

"Good heavens! My obedient daughter, what are you doing inside? It's dangerous there, so quickly come out!" When Ouyang Zongheng noticed that Ouyang Xiaoyi was inside the store, his heart immediately started quivering. There were two ruthless people inside, if anything happened to her... He would definitely get it from her mother!

"Dad!" Ouyang Xiaoyi's eyes lit up when she saw Ouyang Zongheng and charmingly yelled out.

"Oh, my obedient daughter," Ouyang Zongheng replied with a face filled with love, no longer resembling the wild beast that was there a few moments ago.

The big pile of soldiers standing behind Ouyang Zongheng were dumbfounded as they looked at their general... What happened to the dignity of their general?

The corner of Xiao Yue's mouth curled into a smile. Indeed... Xiao Meng did not dare to directly charge into the store and was afraid of the mysterious store as well.

He made the right choice!

Hun Qianduan looked at Bu Fang as if he had seen a ghost. The ant-like owner of a store... actually caused the number one expert of the Light Wind Empire to hesitate? What exactly happened to the world?

Like the eunuch, Lian Fu, Hun Qianduan could not understand the situation.

"General Xiao, hurry up and capture the fiends from the sects hiding inside the store!" Lian Fu coldly said.

"No way!"

"No way!!"

Ouyang Zongheng and Xiao Meng replied in unison. Xiao Meng was afraid, while Ouyang Zongheng was purely worried about Ouyang Xiaoyi.

"Xiaoyi, come over here to dad. Be obedient," After shouting, Ouyang Zongheng sweetly said toward Ouyang Xiaoyi.

Ouyang Xiaoyi glanced at the smelly boss and looked toward her boorish father. She was slightly hesitating as she blinked her adorable eyes.

"You should go over there," Bu Fang simply said as he patted Ouyang Xiaoyi's head.

"Alright! Smelly boss, you should be careful," Ouyang Xiaoyi charmingly said as she stood on tiptoes and patted Bu Fang's shoulder.

After she finished, she eagerly ran toward Ouyang Zongheng's side.

"God damn! Someone! Go in there and arrest those fiends from the sects!" Once Ouyang Xiaoyi was at his side, Ouyang Zongheng's tenderness immediately turn into malevolence as he put his hands at his waist and angrily ordered while pointing at the store.

Xiao Meng's expression immediately changed.

Lian Fu faintly smiled as he pinched his thumb and middle finger together.

After receiving the order, five of Ouyang Zongheng's Battle-King subordinates yelled a battle cry as they charged toward the store. Their objective was to capture Xiao Yue and Hun Qianduan!

Xiao Yue's face was pale, but he had a smile on his face as he looked at the five people approaching.

A gigantic figure suddenly appeared at the entrance and its mechanical eyes flashed.

The five Battle-Kings were immediately startled. They subconsciously evoked their true energy and aimed for the mechanical puppet blocking their way.

With a loud noise, the five Battle-Kings flew backward and crashed into the ground, rolling a few times before they came to a stop.

"I already said. You can enter the store, but don't cause any trouble..." Bu Fang folded his arms across his chest and expressionlessly said, "Do you think my words are nonsense?"

At that moment, the people gathered outside the store sucked in a breath of cold air as they thought, "To be able to defeat five Battle-Kings in a single move, what the hell is that puppet?! This brat... What kind of background does he have?!"

Hun Qianduan's expression was frozen as well, while Xiao Yue was smiling.

Suddenly, Bu Fang turned his head. He looked toward Xiao Yue and indifferently said, "I hate being used by others, so don't smile... If I feel like it, I might just throw you out."

The expression on Xiao Yue's face immediately froze...

[1] "pinching his thumb and index finger together" (兰花指) - In Chinese culture, eunuchs and homosexuals are often depicted doing this sort of gesture.

[2] Gong gong (公公) - In the past, people address eunuchs as gong gong as a form of respect. The term, gong gong, also refers to grandfather or a married woman's father-in-law.

Chapter 57: The Blacky That Knows Human Speech

The smile on Xiao Yue's face froze, then slowly disappeared. He meaningfully looked at Bu Fang and could feel from Bu Fang's indifferent gaze that he was not joking.

After Bu Fang indifferently glanced at Xiao Yue, he turned back and looked toward the dumbfounded crowd gathered outside the store.

Hun Qianduan suppressed the shock within his mind and looked toward Xiao Yue, whose expression was gradually turning sullen. He could not help but narrow his eyes and feel an inexplicable joy from watching the Heart-rending Sword Monarch Xiao Yue admit defeat in front of someone else.

"I will admit... I made an error in judgement, but do you really think that this puppet alone would be able to block both Xiao Meng and Eunuch Lian?" Hun Qianduan twitched his mouth and said after calming down. Xiao Meng and Lian Fu were the two strongest people within the imperial city. How could a mere puppet block the both of them?

"Do you really think that I would stay within this store for the rest of my life?" Xiao Yue said as he coldly glanced toward Hun Qianduan and the corner of his mouth curled up.

Hun Qianduan's pupils constricted. As expected of Xiao Yue, he probably already thought of a way to retreat. If the Soul Sect disciple had not spoiled their plans, then the plan might really had perfectly gone the way Xiao Yue had plotted.

.....

"So, you have some tricks up your sleeve after all. No wonder you were able to cause General Xiao to hesitate," Lian Fu sneered as he pinched his thumb and middle finger together. His eyes were curiously sizing up Whitey. "This puppet is indeed quite powerful to be able to actually defeat five Battle-Kings within one move."

Ouyang Zongheng was staring at Whitey as well. He did not think that the things that Xiaoyi said were real. This puppet really was tough and was even much tougher than him.

Ouyang Xiaoyi tugged on Ouyang Zongheng's armor and charmingly said, "Dad, let's not fight with Whitey. Even though the smelly boss is old-fashioned, he's still not bad."

"Oh, my obedient daughter. I'll listen to you," Ouyang Zongheng narrowed his eyes and was all smiles as he patted Ouyang Xiaoyi's head.

"As if I would go and fight that puppet... Even five Battle-Kings were defeated by a single move. I am only a sixth grade Battle-Emperor. Even if I went up there, I would only be easily defeated as well. I better leave the puppet to Old Xiao and that damn eunuch. I'd only disgrace myself if I tried."

While having such thoughts, the pamperedness on Ouyang Zongheng's face increased even more as he said, "If that's what my daughter wants, then I won't participate."

"Owner Bu, do you really intend to shelter those criminals from the sects?" Xiao Meng solemnly said in a low voice. If Bu Fang really insisted on sheltering Xiao Yue, then he could only forcibly barge in.

"I am not sheltering them. You can come in as well, but fighting is prohibited within the store," Bu Fang expressionlessly replied.

"Oh my, don't think that you're invincible just because of that puppet! I really want to see what other tricks you have other than this puppet!" Lian Fu's high-pitched voice echoed around the alleyway as true energy surged out from his body.

"General Xiao, obstruct that puppet while I capture those fiends from the sects!"

With his thumb and middle finger pinched together, the horsetail whisk extended toward his enemies.

With unfathomable movement and extremely fast speed, Lian Fu preemptively made a move as he swung his horsetail whisk toward Whitey. The innumerable hair of the horsetail whisk suddenly shot out and became as hard as steel needles under the influence of true energy.

Xiao Meng's expression changed. With no other choice, he could only make a move. His armor collided with a long crash and emitted a sonorous sound.

While Xiao Meng obstructed Whitey, Lian Fu's attack managed to dodge Whitey's interception. His targets were Xiao Yue and Hun Qianduan, who were hiding within the store.

The expression on the faces of both Xiao Yue and Hun Qianduan immediately changed. The worst situation had indeed occurred. Even though Whitey was powerful, it was only a Battle-Saint level puppet. With Xiao Meng obstructing it, the other Battle-Saint, Eunuch Lian, would be free to deal with them.

Bu Fang folded his arms across his chest as he indifferently looked toward the rapidly approaching Eunuch Lian. He seemed unconcerned and stood there without doing anything.

Xiao Yue's heart sank. He could not just give up now. He struggled with great difficulty to reach his current level, how could he just let Eunuch Lian catch him! Once he was caught by the imperial court, he would be dead without a doubt.

Hun Qianduan's eyes were filled with despair as well. He was already severely injured, how could he face Eunuch Lian who was in a perfect condition?

Was he really going to die there? He could not accept it!

Lian Fu's horsetail whisk had become as sharp as a knife as it propelled toward Xiao Yue. The terrifyingly sharp true energy stirred up the surroundings and seemingly intended to tear everything apart.

"I can't die like this! I can't die!" Xiao Yue's eyes suddenly turned bloodshot as his handsome face contorted together.

He lastly looked toward Bu Fang, but Bu Fang remained unconcerned.

Damn it!

"Like I thought, I need to rely on myself for everything!" Xiao Yue thought as he loudly cried out. As he opened his mouth, there seemed to be a bright light blooming within his throat.

A boundless sword energy abruptly rose up within the store. The terrifying will of the sword seemed to desire to cut space and penetrate the entire store.

Boom!

The collision between the life-seizing true energy hidden within Xiao Yue's mouth and Eunuch Lian's attack immediately created an astonishing shockwave.

Bu Fang knitted his eyebrows together as he felt that a barrier suddenly appeared outside of his body and blocked the torrent of energy.

A burst of powerful wind blew away the smoke and dust drifting within the store and revealed the scene within.

Taking into account the power of the shockwave between the two, the store would definitely be destroyed. After all, it was a collision between the desperate blow of a Battle-Emperor and the all-out attack of a Battle-Saint. The outcome would be enough to completely level everything within a ten miles radius.

The people gathered outside the store swallowed their saliva as they looked at the situation within the store in disbelief.

The store was standing there in perfect condition and the collapse and ruin that they imagined did not appear.

It was as if the shockwave of their attacks was a breeze blowing.

"Hmm?! What's going on?" Lian Fu thought.

When Eunuch Lian looked around, his pupils constricted. When he discovered that there was not even a trace of destruction in his surroundings, even his eyelids quivered.

Xiao Yue's entire body was dyed with blood and was practically red from head to toe. He was bitterly laughing but the light in his eyes became brighter and brighter.

"I already said... Creating trouble within the store is prohibited. Did you not understand?" He expressionlessly said as he looked toward Xiao Yue and Lian Fu. The barrier had disappeared and revealed Bu Fang's immaculate figure.

Xiao Meng's knocked back Whitey with a punch and took a step back. Looking at the situation within the store, a trace of unease suddenly emerged in his heart.

The source of unease... Xiao Meng's heart skipped a beat when he turned his head and looked toward the big black dog that was always lying at the corner.

At that moment... The big black dog actually stood up!

"Hmm? Blacky actually stood up?" Bu Fang looked toward Blacky as if he had just discovered a new continent. That lazy dog... actually moved!

Striding elegantly like a cat, Blacky arrived at Eunuch Lian's feet.

Its doggy eyes slightly lifted up as it lazily glanced at the eunuch. Lian Fu was slightly startled as he thought, "Where did this black dog... appear from?"

"Shoo... Go somewhere else to play! Don't get too close to me!" Lian Fu disdainfully covered his nose and continuously waved his hand to drive Blacky away. He hated dogs the most!

Blacky rolled its eyes and thought, "This lord dog also hates eunuchs the most!"

After scornfully glancing at the eunuch, Black strode like a cat to Bu Fang's side.

"He said not to create trouble within the store... Did you not understand?"

Blacky turned its head and looked toward Xiao Yue and Lian Fu. As it opens its mouth, it actually started speaking like a human.

Bu Fang went into a daze then jumped up like he had just seen a ghost as he stared at Blacky.

"Good heavens... This lazy dog actually knows human speech?"

Blacky glanced at Bu Fang and could not be bothered to reply to him. It turned its head back to the three of them and the indifferent, masculine voice rang out once more, "I'll borrow a sentence from that lump of iron... Troublemakers will be stripped as an example to others."

Lian Fu, Xiao Yue, and Hun Qianduan all went into a daze...

Then right in front of their eyes, that tame and lazy dog suddenly opened its mouth. That mouth became larger and larger and finally seemed to have turned into the mouth of a wild beast.

"Bark!"

A bark that was like the furious roar of an ancient ominous beast sounded out as an overwhelming hurricane gushed out from the doggy mouth.

Chapter 58: Your Majesty... You Must Seek Justice for Your Humble Servant

Ouyang Zongheng narrowed his eyes as he craned his neck in an attempt to clearly observe the situation within the store.

"As long as that damn eunuch, Lian Fu, participates, victory should be guaranteed. After all, even though that damn eunuch looks like a transvestite, his cultivation level is indeed strong.

"As a seventh grade Battle-Saint, even though he's weaker than Old Xiao by just a little and stronger than me by just a bit, capturing the heavily injured Xiao Yue should still be effortless for him," Ouyang Zongheng thought as he cringed his nose and twitched his mouth.

The other soldiers behind him were also curiously trying to peek into the store. If they could capture Xiao Yue, it would be a big event that would shock the entire empire! They did not want to miss such a chance to witness this historic moment.

Xiao Meng's eyebrows were knitted together when his expression abruptly changed. True energy instantly gushed out from his entire body and enveloped the surface of his armor.

From within the store, a burst of violent wind suddenly gushed out. It was like a rampaging dragon as an intimidating aura surged out and spread with a loud rumble.

Ouyang Zongheng, who was stretching his neck out, suddenly froze as his eyes widened and he angrily cursed, "God damn!"

He turned around and hugged Ouyang Xiaoyi. Boom! The violent wind was like a spiraling dragon as it directly smashed on his back and sent him flying.

Fortunately, even though this violent wind was fierce and was also mixed with bad breath... Ouyang Zongheng did not embarrass himself too much due to his huge body and the fact the force of the wind had weakened.

After all, Ouyang Zongheng was a peak-level Battle-Emperor.

With a somersault, he landed onto the ground in an elegant manner. Ouyang Zongheng patted the head of Ouyang Xiaoyi and laughed as he said, "My obedient daughter, isn't daddy awesome?"

Ouyang Xiaoyi speechlessly rolled her eyes and snorted.

Xiu xiu xu!

A loud and clear bark of a dog that sounded like the roar of an ancient ominous beast rang out, and was followed by the whistling sound of a hurricane.

Three figures flew out from the store while whirling in the air, accompanied by blood-curdling screams and cries of fear.

Even though Xiao Meng's hair was fluttering in the wind, his body was firmly planted to the ground and unaffected by the violent wind. He was swift as the wind as he reached out his hand and grabbed one of the figures.

"Hmm?" Xiao Meng was startled as he thought, "What's with this smooth feeling in my hands?"

"Oh my! How annoying, General Xiao! Let me down!" A high-pitched voice filled with resentment and a little shyness rang out.

Xiao Meng expressionlessly looked at the person in his hands, who was wearing nothing but an underwear... the Chief Eunuch Lian Fu.

"Cough... Your skin isn't bad," Xiao Meng calmly said as he lightly coughed and lay down Lian Fu.

Lian Fu resentfully rolled his eyes at Xiao Meng. When he looked toward the store, his eyes were filled with shame and anger. That dog... was definitely not a normal breed of dog!

Boom boom!!

Xiao Yue and Hun Qianduan ruthlessly slammed into the wall and fell onto the ground. Both of their clothes were torn into pieces in the violent wind and revealed their naked bodies with only a loincloth left on their bodies.

"Xiao Yue!" Xiao Meng instantly noticed Xiao Yue who was thrown out and an overwhelming killing intent immediately burst forth from his eyes. As he ferociously stomped the ground, the tiles underneath him collapsed and broke into pieces, and he charged toward Xiao Yue with a single step.

Xiao Yue was bleeding all over his body as he unsteadily stood up from the ground. There was a strange smile on his face.

"Xiao Meng... You can't keep me here. You couldn't do it yesterday, you won't be able to do it today as well!"

As he finished speaking, a few sword cries that sounded like dragons came from above as four figures suddenly descended and landed in front of Xiao Yue.

As the four figures and three swords suspended in the air appeared, a powerful and intimidating aura suddenly exploded.

"Void Sword Pavilion! Nine Stars Temple!"

Xiao Meng's pupils constricted but his movements did not stop. His fist flew out with an unmatched might and the true energy was practically tearing up the air.

The three swordsmen waved their fingers like swords and the three flying swords immediately formed a sword formation to block the attack.

The remaining taoist priest formed several hand seals as he gathered true energy into his hand and threw his fist toward Xiao Meng as well. The three of them collided in the air and created an astonishing shockwave.

Chi chi!

Each of the four men blocking in front of Xiao Yue spat out a mouthful of blood as they took a step back. They grabbed hold of Xiao Yue and Hun Qianduan, and escaped by flying away.

Xiao Meng's figure trembled and his entire body convulsed before he was able to dissipate the energy that was twined around his body. However, within that short period of time, Xiao Yue was already taken away.

"Damn it... I knew Xiao Yue had a backup plan!" Xiao Meng was unable to accept it as he silently cursed. He smashed his fist into the wall out of frustration and innumerable cracks immediately appeared.

"It's all because of this big black dog! Xiao Yue was already surrounded by us... and his capture was nigh! Why did you blow him out!" Lian Fu was exasperated as he turned around and gestured toward the interior of the store with his thumb and middle finger pinched together.

"Are you pointing at me with your fingers?" A dog strode out of the store like a cat and stood at the entrance as it arrogantly looked toward Lian Fu.

"I am talking about you! Don't think that I would be afraid of you just because your surprise attack succeeded!" Lian Fu said as he rocked and swung his slim waist.

Blacky's doggy mouth slightly widened into a meaningful smile...

Then, Lian Fu felt a surge of intimidating aura poured down from above the nine heavens and instantly pressed down on him. It was like he was being pressed down by a majestic mountain as he lay on his stomach and could not move.

Lian Fu went into a daze as his white hair dangled in front of him and completely covered his face... How embarrassing.

Xiao Meng's pupils constricted as he thought, "This intimidating aura... This big black dog is actually... a ninth grade supreme beast!"

"Owner Bu... This time, it's our fault for offending you. Could you let this... lord dog back off?" Xiao Meng said toward the store as he executed a fist and palm salute.

Bu Fang walked out from the store. His lean figure and tied up long hair made him appear neat and tidy.

"This lazy dog, Blacky, has a bad temper... I will take this time as a lesson to the eunuch. Remember, next time when you're here... Make sure to follow the rules," Bu Fang expressionlessly said.

After he finished speaking, Bu Fang stroked Blacky's smooth and immaculate fur, and indifferently said, "Stop fooling around and release that eunuch."

Blacky turned its head and said, "What if I said no?"

"Then I'll wake up later tomorrow and skip cooking practice..." Bu Fang remained expressionless as he seriously said.

"Alright, I'll let him go." Blacky snorted as it rolled his eyes at Bu Fang. It strode like a cat toward the corner of the wall and went to sleep at a comfortable spot.

The corner of Bu Fang's mouth slightly widened as he thought, "So, the final line of defence mentioned by the system was this freeloading dog. No wonder... With the system's miserly personality, there's no way that the system would be raising a big black dog that was ready to evolve into a pig."

"Oh, my waist!" When Lian Fu felt that the intimidating aura pressing down on him had disappeared, he hurriedly got up from the ground and fearfully looked toward Blacky. He did not dare to say anything else and ran away with his tail between his legs while only wearing a loincloth.

"Blacky is awesome!" Ouyang Xiaoyi happily clapped her hands as her eyes narrowed into a crescent shape. "He's so much stronger than dad."

General Ouyang Zongheng felt as if an invisible arrow had pierced into his chest... In the eyes of his obedient daughter, he was already incomparable to a dog.

"Thank you, Owner Bu," Xiao Meng solemnly thanked Bu Fang. Then he meaningfully looked toward Blacky who was soundly asleep and left.

Xiao Meng needed to report to the emperor that the plan to capture Xiao Yue and Hun Qianduan had failed.

Immediately, the experts within the alleyway quickly disappeared like a receding tide. Ouyang Xiaoyi was taken away by Ouyang Zongheng as well. While she was leaving, she even happily waved toward Bu Fang.

Once everyone had left, Bu Fang glanced toward Blacky, who was soundly asleep. He then entered the store and closed up the entrance.

...

"Your Majesty, you must seek justice for me! That unscrupulous store is really impudent and has no respect for the law! They actually dare to shelter criminals from the sects! When I tried to intervene... They even tore off my clothes!" Lian Fu grievously complained to Ji Changfeng, who was sitting on the dragon throne. His entire face was filled with tears.

The emperor only chuckled as he placated Lian Fu. His gaze shifted toward Xiao Meng who was standing upright within the large hall.

"General Xiao... Is the store really as magical as you said? There's a ninth grade supreme beast guarding the place?"

"Your humble servant's words are all true," Xiao Meng solemnly said.

The emperor's eyes narrowed as he stroked his white beard and faintly smiled. "I heard that the dishes within the store are delicious... That there's even a rumor of a wine that's better than the Bejewelled Nectar Wine?"

"I... am really quite curious."

Chapter 59: His Majesty Ordered Takeout

A period of coldness follows after an autumn rain, and winter follows after ten autumn rains.

After a few periods of autumn rain, the temperature within the imperial city was gradually decreasing. The autumn wind was beginning to change into a bone-chilling cold wind. Bu Fang woke up early in the morning. It was so cold that he did not want to leave his bed.

After washing up, Bu Fang wrapped himself in a thick coat and opened up the store. As the cold wind blew into the store, he felt a chill along his back as the cold air burrowed down his neck.

Bu Fang rubbed his hands together and lightly sucked in a breath of cold air.

Glancing at Blacky who was lying on the ground, Bu Fang pursed his lips and thought, "This lazy dog... It only knows how to sleep all day. Why doesn't it have the sort of awareness a supreme beast should have? Shouldn't it be standing in a majestic manner at the entrance to improve the classiness of the store?"

"Brat, this lord dog wants to eat Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs," Blacky opened its eyes and lazily said to Bu Fang. Its voice was not considered old, but was masculine and filled with magnetism instead.

Bu Fang raised his eyebrows. "You lazy dog, you've only been freeloading here and now, you're even ordering dishes?"

Blacky rolled his eyes and ignored Bu Fang. It buried its head in its paws and went back to sleep. Its meaning was obvious, whether he cooked the dish was up to him.

Bu Fang was furious... How dare the lazy dog ignore him! Was it not afraid that he would add a large spoonful of Abyssal Chilli Sauce into the Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs? It would make that lazy dog wish for death.

Bu Fang turned around and returned to the kitchen. Even though he said he did not want to cook the Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs, Blacky helped out yesterday after all. So, Bu Fang reluctantly decided to agree to its request for once.

He took out some of the main ingredients needed to cook the Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs from the freezer: the prime ribs of the Flying Cloud Boar, some starch, and the sauce used for seasoning.

Bu Fang placed the prime ribs onto the chopping board. As he waved his hand, a kitchen knife glimmering with sharpness began to twirl in his hand. After twirling the knife in his hands a few times, Bu Fang rapidly smacked the prime ribs with the back of the kitchen knife.

The meat was easier to chop once he loosened the meat by smacking it. After practicing the Meteor Cutting Technique for so many days, Bu Fang's skills had improved by quite a margin. As the kitchen knife firmly chopped into the prime ribs, only an afterimage could be seen.

When Bu Fang first tried cooking the Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs, he felt that chopping the meat was extremely tiring. However, since his cutting technique had improved, it was much easier to chop it.

Once he chopped the prime ribs, that were filled with spirit energy, into pieces, he placed them into the starch paste that had just been prepared and ensured that each piece was coated.

Filling half of the wok with oil, he waited until the hot air rising up was hot enough to scald his hand and placed each piece of meat into the wok.

Pssst!

As the pieces of meat rolled within the oil, a fragrance was drifting out.

Once all of the pieces of meat were deep fried, Bu Fang placed them into a large bowl. The tangerine sweet and sour sauce was mixed together with the meat and finally placed onto a plate.

"Blacky, it's time to eat," Bu Fang walked out of the kitchen with the plate of Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs and lightly called out.

Blacky's half-opened eyes immediately lit up as its doggy nose sniffed the air. Its tongue was hanging out of its mouth as it eagerly looked at the plate of Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs in Bu Fang's hands.

As he placed the plate of Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs in front of Blacky, it began to gobble down the food in the plate while wagging its tail.

The corner of Bu Fang's mouth widened into a smile as he stroked Black's smooth and immaculate fur. He stood up and pulled a chair toward the entrance. As he sat down, he began to leisurely bask himself in the sun.

Even though a large battle between the top experts of the imperial city happened yesterday within the store, there was not much of a change to Bu Fang's daily life.

The rays of the late autumn sun were even warmer and more comfortable and his clothing was exuding an intoxicating light fragrance under the sun's rays.

What a wonderful day.

From a distance, Fatty Jin and his buddies were majestically approaching. Fatty Jin who was leading the group was limping and his pudgy face was even slightly swollen.

"Good morning, Owner Bu. You're sunbathing? What a leisure mood you're in," Fatty Jin greeted Bu Fang.

Bu Fang nodded and puzzledly stared at him as he said, "Why's your face swollen? You're already very fat, there's no need to make it swell up even more.[1]"

"Owner Bu... Can't we have a proper chat? Isn't this all because of you?" The moment the wounds on his face were mentioned, Fatty Jin's eyes were filled with resentment.

"Your Oyster Pancakes were too fragrant..." He recounted everything that had happened at the execution grounds to Bu Fang, causing the latter to be slightly stunned...

So, the debut of the Oyster Pancake created such a stir.

"You did such an inhumane act, why didn't he just beat you to death..." Bu Fang simply said as he stood up and stretched his body. Then he walked toward the kitchen.

Fatty Jin did not know whether to laugh or cry. He did not expect Owner Bu to mock him. "Owner Bu, I'll have the same as usual."

Bu Fang waved his hand to indicate that he heard. After a while, a rich fragrance drifted out from the kitchen.

Ouyang Xiaoyi was skipping as she arrived. Her mood that day was pretty good.

"Oh my, Fatty Jin. What are you trying to pretend to be by making your face swell up like that?[1]" The first thing Ouyang Xiaoyi noticed when she entered the store was Fatty Jin's wretched appearance and she immediately laughed out loud.

Fatty Jin could only bitterly smile. Under Ouyang Xiaoyi's constant pestering, he recounted the story about the Oyster Pancake once more.

"Is the Oyster Pancake really that delicious? Then, I'll have to make the smelly boss make a serving for me. I'll bring it back to let mom, dad and grandpa have a taste," Ouyang Xiaoyi thought.

"Xiao Yi, serve the dish," Bu Fang lightly shouted. He knew that Xiaoyi had arrived when he heard her laughter coming from the dining area.

"Oh!" Ouyang Xiaoyi eagerly ran toward the kitchen window and served the dishes to Fatty Jin and his buddies.

Fatty Jin and his buddies satisfactorily finished their food and left after paying their bills. Naturally, each of them was carrying Oyster Pancakes when they left.

Ji Chengxue was wearing a white robe as he elegantly arrived. He was practically a regular customer of the store and a gentle smile could often be seen on his face

"Your Highness big brother, what do you want to eat?" Ouyang Xiaoyi asked.

"I'll have a serving of Lees Fish and a jar of Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine." Ji Chengxue chuckled.

After a while, the dishes were served. Ji Chengxue contentedly poured and drank the Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine by himself as he ate the Lees Fish.

At the entrance of the alleyway, a slim figure with white hair was approaching while swaying his hips.

"My gosh, I almost got a heart attack. Why is this dog still staying here! You're still a supreme beast after all, could you at least display the domineering aura of a supreme beast?"

Lian Fu had fair and clear skin and was wearing casual clothes with his white hair rolled up and bound by a bronze headdress. When he saw Blacky, his heart quivered as he pinched his thumb and middle finger together and said.

Blacky could not be bothered to care about the damn eunuch. It was slowly gnawing on the Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs with a contented expression as a fragrance drifted everywhere.

"Hmm, it's... quite fragrant," Lian Fu muttered as he gestured while pinching his thumb and middle finger together.

Blacky's body froze as it alertly glanced at the damn eunuch. Then, it shifted its body so that its buttocks was facing Lian Fu before it continued to gnaw on its Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs.

Who would want that! Lian was exasperated. As if he, the Chief Eunuch, would fight over dog food.

Hmph! Lian Fu proudly snorted as he stepped into Bu Fang's store while swaying his hips. He was not there to create trouble or to capture anyone. He was purely there to buy food.

His Majesty had given him an imperial edict the day before to bring back all the dishes in the store to let him have a taste. If the taste was alright, he would even entice Bu Fang into joining the imperial palace.

"He's just a little cook from a store located inside an alleyway. Are his skills really comparable to the imperial chefs?" However, Lian Fu was not particularly keen about his mission that day.

"Oh my, Your Highness! Why are you here? Oh my, isn't this our General Ouyang's young lady?" The moment he stepped into the store, Lian Fu's eyes immediately lit up when he saw Ji Chengxue who was eating and drinking, and the adorable Ouyang Xiaoyi who was nearby.

"Hmm? Lian gong gong, why... are you here today?" Ji Chengxue was slightly surprised. Lian Fu was his father's personal eunuch. It was truly strange that he would appear within the store...

"There's something Your Highness is unaware. His Majesty ordered me to bring back all of the dishes to the palace. Isn't that why I am here? I can't disobey my orders."

"Hmm... Eh? Takeout?" Ji Chengxue nodded but soon his expression became strange as he looked toward Lian Fu.

[1] To beat up one's own face to pretend to be fat (打肿脸充胖子) - When someone does something beyond their own abilities to impress others.

Chapter 60: Xiaoyi, Serve the Dish

"Are you really here to order takeout?" Ji Chengxue's expression was strange as he looked toward Lian Fu. There was a trace of humor in his eyes.

"That's right, His Majesty said he wanted to eat the food from this place. That's why I hurried over here, although I personally don't think there would be any delicious dishes in this store. Don't tell me that it would be better than the food from the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant and the imperial kitchen?" Lian Fu unconcernedly said as he pinched his thumb and middle finger together and played with the bangs hanging in front of his forehead.

At that moment, Ji Chengxue had already finished his food. He calmly stood up and solemnly said to Lian Fu, "No, gong gong, what you're saying is incorrect. Owner Bu's culinary skills is definitely the best. His culinary skills deserve his asking price."

Lian Fu was slightly startled as he thought, "To think that the third prince would think so highly of this store. It looks like this store might have some capabilities after all."

"I hope that's the case. By the way, didn't His Majesty appoint Your Highness in the military campaign against the sects? When is Your Highness going to set off?" Lian Fu suddenly seemed to remember something as he asked Ji Chengxue.

"There's still a few more days," Ji Chengxue seemed to be uninterested in the question as he lightly sighed and stopped the conversation. After paying the bill, he was carrying a serving of Oyster Pancakes as takeout while leaving the store.

"Gong gong, what do you want to eat?" Ouyang Xiaoyi charmingly asked Lian Fu.

Lian Fu walked toward a seat while swaying his hips and sat down. He crossed his leg over the other and asked with a smile, "What's... delicious here?"

"Gonggong, look behind you. The menu is on the wall," Ouyang Xiao pointed to the wall behind Lian Fu and seriously said.

Lian Fu was slightly surprised for a moment. When he turned his head, he immediately saw the menu and the astronomical price of the dishes.

"Oh my! As expected of the rumored black-hearted store that is known throughout the imperial city. A plate of Egg-Fried Rice actually costs ten crystals, it's even faster than snatching money." Lian Fu raised his eyebrows and there was a trace of ridicule in his high-pitched voice.

Bu Fang walked out of the kitchen and wiped off the water droplets on his hands. He expressionlessly glanced toward Lian Fu.

"The price is clearly indicated and our customers are treated fairly. It's up to you whether you want to eat or not," Bu Fang simply said.

"Heh! You're really bad tempered even though you're not strong at all. Do you really think I am bothered by the price? I have nothing but money! I've more than enough money to buy ten of your stores!" Lian Fu snorted and said.

"No, your money can't purchase the store," Bu Fang seriously replied.

"I don't want to argue with a country bumpkin like you. Do you know how much assets I have? It's enough to crush you to death if I stacked them into gold coins!" Lian Fu pinched his thumb and middle finger, and played with his fingernails as he scornfully glanced at Bu Fang.

"I don't want to say any more, just serve the dishes first. I want to try out each dish. If I find them delicious, pack a serving of each dish for me."

"Our store doesn't provide takeout service. There's only one dish that permits takeout," Bu Fang expressionlessly replied.

Lian Fu was slightly stunned as he carefully observed Bu Fang. When he discovered the solemn expression on Bu Fang's face and realized he was not bluffing, he was immediately furious.

"If I am telling you to pack the food, you should just pack the food. What's with all this nonsense?" Lian Fu uncrossed his legs. He pointed toward Bu Fang with one hand while placing the other hand on his waist as he snorted and said.

"Hmm? Are you trying to cause trouble?" Bu Fang frowned and simply said.

Lian Fu's body immediately froze as he sneaked a peek at Blacky, who was lying at the entrance and still gnawing on the Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs, from the corner of his eye. When

he recalled the terrifying moment when that black dog blew away his clothes with a single breath, his entire body shuddered.

"I am not trying to cause trouble. Just serve the dishes and let me have a taste first." Lian Fu twitched his mouth and finally yielded.

"What do you want to eat?"

"Didn't I already said it? I'll have all the dishes," Lian Fu impatiently replied.

Bu Fang expressionlessly looked at him and asked, "Are you sure?"

When Lian Fu did not reply any further, Bu Fang nodded and returned to the kitchen.

After a while, the rich fragrance of the Egg-Fried Rice drifted out into the dining area.

"The first dish, Ordinary Egg-Fried Rice. Xiaoyi, serve the dish," Bu Fang's indifferent voice rang out from the kitchen.

Xiaoyi eagerly ran toward the window and brought the overwhelmingly fragrant Egg-Fried Rice to Lian Fu. She placed the plate of Egg-Fried Rice onto the table and charmingly said, "Here's your Egg-Fried Rice. Please enjoy your meal."

Lian Fu nodded. As his gaze shifted toward the Egg-Fried Rice, his eyes immediately lit up and found the sight in front of him slightly incredible. The plate of Egg-Fried Rice in front of him seemed to be slightly giving off light.

Using a porcelain spoon to scoop up a spoonful of rice, the golden egg fluid left a string-like trail as he lifted it up. An even richer fragrance surged out from within the Egg-Fried Rice and assaulted Lian Fu's nasal cavities. He could not help but take a deep breath.

"How fragrant! Looks like he has some skills after all," Lian Fu muttered. As he shoved the spoonful of Egg-Fried Rice into his mouth, the delicious taste immediately burst forth. The supple and smooth egg fluid instantly solidified inside his mouth and became springy as it smacked his taste buds. He was completely captivated by the food.

"De... Delicious!" After eating a mouthful, Lian Fu could not stop any longer. He continued to shove spoon after spoon of Egg-Fried Rice into his mouth.

When Ouyang Xiao saw Lian Fu's appearance, she covered her mouth and laughed as she said, "Gong gong, take your time. No one is going to snatch your food, there's still more dishes later."

"Hmm... De... Delicious!" Lian Fu continuously nodded his head as he replied. A grain of golden rice fell out and landed onto the table. Lian Fu's eyes immediately widened as he hurriedly picked the rice grain up and shoved it into his mouth.

"The second dish, Improved Egg-Fried Rice. Xiaoyi, serve the dish," Bu Fang's voice rang out once more. Another dish was completed once again.

When Lian Fu took a bite of the Improved Egg-Fried Rice, his expression changed. He could not believe the dense amount of spirit energy circulating within the Egg-Fried Rice. It was practically more effective than eating an elixir!

"The third dish, Dry-Mixed Noodles and Stir-Fried Vegetables."

"The fourth dish, Fish Head Tofu Soup. Xiaoyi, serve the dish."

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"The eighth dish, Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs. Xiaoyi, serve the dish," Bu Fang's voice rang out once more and Ouyang Xiaoyi cheerfully ran over to pick up the dish.

"Burp! Why is there still more dishes... How fragrant... Burp!" Lian Fu's stomach was filled to the point of bursting but his mouth could not stop at all. He had just swallowed the overwhelmingly fragrant Golden Shumai when the Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs that was exuding a rich aroma was served.

The tangerine color of the Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs was extremely appetizing. Even though Lian Fu had already eaten a lot of dishes, he could not help but reach out his chopsticks when he smelled the aroma.

As a piece of Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs entered his mouth, the intoxicating taste of the sauce spread within it and instantly captivated Lian Fu within the rich taste of the meat.

"Hmm, it's so delicious!" Lian Fu uncontrollably muttered as he gestured with his thumb and middle finger pinched together.

"Gonggong, do you still feel that the smelly boss' dishes are incomparable to the food from Immortal Phoenix Restaurant?" Ouyang Xiaoyi calmly asked as she proudly looked at the Chief Eunuch Lian Fu, who was completely captivated by the delicious food.

Lian Fu had just finished the Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs and was using a handkerchief to lightly dab his lips while occasionally burping.

"I'll admit... Burp! The food here indeed tastes delicious and deserves the price. In addition, these dishes contain a dense amount of spirit energy that would help in cultivating. The price is considered fair as well," Lian Fu nodded and said as he smacked his lips.

"It's really good. I didn't expect a little cook like you would actually have such culinary skills. It's my oversight." Lian Fu gave a heartfelt praise as he glanced at Bu Fang, who had just walked out of the kitchen, with awe.

Naturally, Bu Fang would gladly accept when someone praised his culinary skills. He nodded as a form of acknowledgement.

"Very well, little cook, pack a serving of each dish for me," Lian Fu said as he rubbed the jade pendant hanging at his waist with his palm. Suddenly, a lot of crystals appeared.

"The rules of the store only permit each customer to order each dish only once and takeouts are not available. Oh, there's one dish that is permitted for takeouts... the Oyster Pancake."

Bu Fang looked toward the crystals on the table and expressionlessly said.