

Read Gourmet of Another World

Chapter 91: Once the Kitchen Knife Is Drawn, All Beasts Shall Submit

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Within the valley shrouded with spirit energy, whitish waves of water produced thunderous noise as the water descended from above the cliff and resulted in water vapor scattering in all directions.

Not far from the waterfall, Bu Fang and the other two were alertly scanning their surroundings.

A series of soft bestial howls rang out as spirit beasts emerged from the area around the valley one after another while releasing a surge of spirit energy. A macabre atmosphere pervaded the entire valley. Within the herd of bestial figures, there was at least a few hundred spirit beasts.

Tang Yin's complexion had become extremely pale. As his gaze swept over the bestial figures, his eyes were filled with despair.

He did not think... He really did not think that the temptation of the Phoenix Blood Herb would be so great that the spirit energy released when it was about to mature would actually attract so many spirit beasts.

There was a disparity in the strength of the spirit beasts. They were mostly fifth grade spirit beasts, but there were over a dozen sixth grade spirit beasts among them as well. With this kind of line-up, Tang Yin would not be able to survive even if there were ten of him.

"Se... Second brother... Why is this happening? Why are there so many spirit beasts? I... I don't want to die here!" As Lu Xiaoxiao's large eyes swept across these spirit beasts, both of her legs suddenly started to tremble.

If she knew there were so many spirit beasts hiding within the Valley of the Fallen Phoenix... She would never have come!

On the other hand, there was not much change in Bu Fang's expression. He only slightly frowned as he scanned the surrounding spirit beasts in astonishment.

"The Phoenix Blood Herb is filled with a dense amount of spirit energy and has a huge enhancement effect to the evolution of the spirit beasts. Therefore, its attractiveness to the spirit beasts is tremendous," Tang Yin solemnly said as his gaze landed on Bu Fang.

"Senior. If you manage to escape, I hope you would bring the news about our deaths back to our sect." Tang Yin had fallen into despair and his voice was filled with helplessness.

Lu Xiaoxiao was already lying limply on the ground while crying like a pearblossom moistened by raindrops[1]. She really regretted her reckless decision to enter the valley. Suddenly, Lu Xiaoxiao seemed to have recalled something. She looked toward Bu Fang with hope in her eyes while still sobbing.

"Senior... With your capabilities, you must have a way of saving us, right?"

"Don't you guys want the Phoenix Blood Herb as well?" Bu Fang asked as he indifferently looked at Lu Xiaoxiao.

Lu Xiaoxiao's expression immediately stiffened as she blankly stared at Bu Fang. She watched as a wisp of green smoke emerged from Bu Fang's hand and that unassuming kitchen knife appeared in his hand.

"Don't take me for a fool. You were trying to use me from the beginning. It's true that there are spirit beasts here, but you only wanted to make use of me to get rid of them. Then, it would be easier for you to acquire that Phoenix Blood Herb, right?"

The corners of Bu Fang's mouth widened and revealed a mocking smile as he looked toward the bewildered Lu Xiaoxiao.

When Tang Yin heard Bu Fang's words, he suddenly sighed. He realized that Bu Fang had figured out their intent from the beginning. However, Bu Fang might not have minded earlier on since his objective was capturing the spirit beasts as ingredients. However, at the current moment, they had already fallen into a crisis. In this sort of situation, Bu Fang had no reason to be courteous any longer.

Tang Yin was feeling helpless as well. His junior sister, Lu Xiaoxiao, was actually not that bad of a person. The thing was she happened to be a crafty person. Normally, it was still fine since she was within the sect. However, once she was outside, it was easy to offend others with her ploys...

"Do you guys still want the Phoenix Blood Herb?" Bu Fang expressionlessly asked.

At the moment, Lu Xiaoxiao's heart was already in her mouth. When she heard Bu Fang's question, she hurriedly replied while shaking her head, "I don't want it anymore! I don't want it anymore!"

Between her life and the Phoenix Blood Herb, Lu Xiaoxiao chose her own life without any hesitation.

Tang Yin was dazed for a moment, then suddenly became overjoyed as he excitedly asked, "Does senior have a method of resolving this perilous situation?"

As expected of his senior... This sort of situation might be a desperate situation for them. However, that was not the case for that unfathomable senior, Bu Fang.

Bu Fang glanced at him and was just about to nod his head, when he discovered the bestial horde in their surroundings were getting restless.

Rumble!

An intense tremor occurred in both the left and right directions, then the sound of trees breaking rang out. Two gigantic figures walked out and their terrifying aura pressed down on the entire valley.

Tang Yin's complexion suddenly became deathly pale... His eyes were fixated on the two figures that just appeared. The hope that had just arisen was destroyed once more.

"Two seventh grade spirit beasts... It's over, we're done for."

Lu Xiaoxiao broke out in tears once more. The hope that had just arisen was suddenly crushed. The difference between her expectation and the result had caused her mental breakdown.

When Bu Fang looked to his right at the gigantic bovine figure whose entire body was ignited in light red flames, his eyes suddenly lit up with an intense brightness.

"What a fellow... This ingredient is far better than the Thunderfire Spirit Pig!"

There were two seventh grade spirit beasts. On the right side was the seventh grade Wandering Dragon Cow whose body was enveloped by everlasting flames. It possesses the head of a cow and the tail of a dragon, and its breathing sounded like the rumble of thunder.

The spirit beast on the left was seventh grade as well. It was a gigantic Spirit Ape with golden fur all over its body.

Tang Yin knew there was a seventh grade Wandering Dragon Cow within the valley. However, he did not know there was a Spirit Ape as well. With two seventh grade spirit beasts guarding the valley, Tang Yin would never dare to enter even if he was given a hundred times the courage.

No matter how powerful his senior was, how could he handle two seventh grade spirit beasts at once? Even a seventh grade Battle-Saint would flee in panic if these two spirit beasts were encountered.

Rumble!

With the Wandering Dragon Cow's roar, the entire valley seemed to be trembling and continued to shake. The Spirit Ape bared its teeth and started screeching in response. The auras of the two immediately started opposing each other with equal ferocity.

The Phoenix Blood Herb atop of the small hill was swaying even more rapidly and the spirit energy leaking out was becoming even more intense. Vaguely, there seemed to be a phoenix rising from the ashes and attempting to ascend into the skies.

The Phoenix Blood Herb was about to mature.

Tang Yin and Lu Xiaoxiao were close to despair as well.

They understood that the entire valley would turn into a battlefield for the two seventh grade spirit beasts once the Phoenix Blood Herb matured. When that time comes, they would definitely be torn into pieces by the enraged spirit beasts.

Bu Fang ignored the others. Like the two seventh grade spirit beasts, his gaze was fixated on the Phoenix Blood Herb, the spirit herb that was precious enough to bring about the battle between two seventh grade spirit beasts.

The water plummeted from the top of the waterfall and smashed into the plunge pool below with a loud noise. Suddenly, within that single moment, the entire valley became absolutely quiet. The deafening silence was disturbing.

The thunderous roar of the waterfall disappeared. The breathing noise of the Wandering Dragon Cow also disappeared. The screeching of the Spirit Ape could not be heard as well. The entire valley seemed to have turned into a restricted zone for sound.

Atop the small hill, the Phoenix Blood Herb was swaying as red specks of light emerged from within. Red spots began to appear on the leaves and the bright red color was just like the color of burning blood. The cry of a phoenix resounded within the entire valley. After the cry ended, all of the sound returned.

The Phoenix Blood Herb... has matured!

"Moo!!" The Wandering Dragon Cow roared and its eyes abruptly turned blood red. It suddenly stepped forward with its cow hooves and charged toward the Phoenix Blood Herb. The entire valley was trembling.

The other spirit beasts behind the Wandering Dragon Cow bellowed with rage as they rushed out one after another and followed after it.

The Spirit Ape suddenly beat its chest with its fist. With a loud screech, it dashed toward the Phoenix Blood Herb as well. The horde of spirit beasts behind it also followed after it.

Bu Fang and the other two were located in-between the two approaching stampedes. They were just like a fragile boat made from leaves floating in a vast ocean. In front of these gigantic spirit beasts, it seemed as if they would be stomped into minced meat at any moment.

Tang Yin and Lu Xiaoxiao had already closed their eyes in despair.

Bu Fang expressionlessly swept his gaze over the spirit beasts that were rapidly approaching them from two different directions and leisurely lifted up the Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife. As he raised the kitchen knife over his head, the true energy within his body immediately burst out and flowed into the Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife.

A golden radiance blossomed intensely like the sun and was extremely glaring. A gigantic, golden kitchen knife was hoisted over Bu Fang's shoulder. The boundless aura of a dragon, with Bu Fang in the center, suddenly spread in all directions and turned into a ripple.

In the next moment, the stampede of spirit beasts abruptly stopped and laid on the ground in panic.

Once the knife is drawn, all beasts shall submit!

The Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife from the God of Cooking Set... was just that overbearing!

[1] Pearblossom moistened by raindrops (梨花帶雨) - Originated from The Song of Everlasting Regret by Bai Juyi, this was originally used to describe Yang Guifei's beautiful appearance even while she was crying, but was later used to describe a woman's charm.

Chapter 92: Mission Complete, and Return

The aura released by the Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen was like a spreading ripple. It instantly expanded and made all of the spirit beasts lie down on the ground. The spirit beasts that were under fifth grade were all shivering from the effects of the aura.

The spirit beasts were a species with a very strict hierarchy. They worshipped the strong but also feared them as well. The suppression effect of higher grade spirit beasts toward lower grade spirit beasts was very clear. Therefore, the spirit beasts clearly divided their territories within the Wildlands.

This was the reason for the existence of the outskirts, inner layer, and central zone within the Wildlands.

The aura of the dragons was contained within the Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife. The dragon race had always been standing atop the food chain of the spirit beasts. They looked down upon the spirit beasts and ruled over them. They had the power to suppress any spirit beast.

Therefore, Bu Fang lifted up the Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife, injected his true energy, and activated the current form of the Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife. That blinding golden radiance, accompanied with the surging golden dragon's aura, directly forced all of the spirit beasts within the Valley of the Fallen Phoenix to lie down on the ground. Even the Spirit Ape and the Wandering Dragon Cow were no exceptions.

A violent wind spread into the surroundings with Bu Fang in the center, causing his hair to flutter and his clothes to make flapping noises. He was carrying the gigantic Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife with his head held high as he expressionlessly swept his eyes over all of the spirit beasts.

Even though the Wandering Dragon Cow was a seventh grade spirit beast, the suppressive effect of the Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife was much stronger toward it than the other spirit beasts. The reason was the dash of dragon's blood flowing in its veins. Therefore, when facing the authentic aura of the dragon race, it could only lie on the ground while shivering.

Tang Yin had already closed his eyes in despair. However, he suddenly realized the surroundings seemed to have quieted down and getting trampled by the stampede of beasts did not happen. He suddenly opened his eyes in puzzlement and immediately saw a scene that he would never forget for the rest of his life.

Lu Xiaoxiao's frightened face was also filled with astonishment. There was still some remnants of tears on her face. Her mouth was slightly opened as she blankly stared at Bu Fang, who stood a distance away while holding a gigantic golden kitchen knife.

The area around them was filled with prostrating spirit beasts...

"This... What's going on?! Senior..." Tang Yin's mouth felt somewhat dry. Just what was he witnessing? What exactly was going on?

The spirit beasts, including the two seventh grade spirit beasts, were all actually prostrating in front of that senior. He... was actually this powerful?!

Was he subduing a horde of spirit beasts by purely relying on his aura? Was this the senior's actual strength?

Tang Yin's awe grew even more. He only felt Bu Fang was unfathomable and was even more impressive than his own sect leader... At least, his sect leader was unable to make spirit beasts prostrate.

At the moment, Bu Fang, who was only a fourth grade Battle-Spirit, was suddenly as imposing as an eighth grade War-God in his eyes.

Bu Fang was carrying the kitchen knife over his shoulders as his eyes turned toward Tang Yin, whose expression was constantly changing. He puzzledly frowned and said, "Are you guys still not going to run?"

"Ah?!" Tang Yin blankly replied.

"If I were you, I would immediately run away and never look back. I would run as far as possible," Bu Fang expressionlessly said.

Tang Yin suddenly sucked in a breath of cold air. He immediately understood Bu Fang's meaning. Their senior was creating a chance for them to escape! Otherwise, with their senior's unfathomable cultivation level, he would have already started slaughtering those spirit beasts! Where would he have the time to care for them!

He felt an indescribable feeling in his chest!

Tang Yin clenched his teeth and helped the bewildered Lu Xiaoxiao up. He respectfully kowtowed toward Bu Fang and solemnly said, "Senior, I'll never be able to repay your kindness for saving our lives today. Senior... please take care!"

"Alright, hurry up and go. Oh, remember to visit Fang Fang's Little Store at the Light Wind Empire when you have the time. The food there is pretty good and the price is extremely affordable as well," Bu Fang indifferently said.

Tang Yin was surprised for a moment, then earnestly nodded and was about to leave while pulling Lu Xiaoxiao along.

"Ah! Se... Second brother, what about the Phoenix Blood Herb?!" Lu Xiaoxiao seemed to have just recovered from her shock. When she saw that Tang Yin was actually leaving while pulling her along, she immediately exclaimed in anxiety.

"Are you still thinking about the Phoenix Blood Herb? Do you want to die?" Tang Yin was furious! Their senior magnanimously created a chance for them to escape, yet this junior sister of his was still thinking about the Phoenix Blood Herb! She was simply... unreasonable!

At that moment, Lu Xiaoxiao finally realized the situation. Her entire body shivered when she glanced toward that expressionless and unfathomable Bu Fang. Then, without saying a word, she left while following Tang Yin's pace.

When Bu Fang saw the figures of the two had left the Valley of the Fallen Phoenix, his gaze once again shifted toward the spirit beasts in front of him. The true energy within his body which he used to sustain the Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife's current form was gradually running out...

Therefore, Bu Fang no longer hesitated. With one hand grabbing the kitchen knife's hilt which had a sinister dragon head carved upon it, he suddenly pressed downward and the surging aura was immediately released once more.

The horde of spirit beasts lying flat on the ground all shivered...

Bu Fang pointed his kitchen knife at the Spirit Ape, lifted his face and indifferently said, "You're not suitable to be my ingredient. So... get lost!"

The figure of the Spirit Ape trembled and immediately bared its teeth toward Bu Fang. However, its eyes were still filled with horror and unwillingness.

The Phoenix Blood Herb had already matured. Giving up like this... As a seventh grade spirit beast that had just become enlightened, it was naturally unwilling to just leave.

"Hmm? You're really not leaving?" Bu Fang knitted his eyebrows together. He swung the kitchen knife around a few times and walked toward the Wandering Dragon Cow.

The entire head of the Wandering Dragon Cow was buried underneath the ground and its dragon tail was curled up. It was not moving even an inch. As the possessor of the dragon race's bloodline, it was completely suppressed.

Bu Fang did not say anything as he indifferently looked toward the Spirit Ape. Then he swung his kitchen knife and sliced off the Wandering Dragon Cow's horn like it was tofu...

The Wandering Dragon Cow felt wronged... It thought, "If you wanted him to leave, shouldn't you be bothering him? Why are you bullying this cow? You really think cows are easy targets..."

As a long-time rival of the Wandering Dragon Cow, the Spirit Ape naturally knew quite well how hard and sharp its horn was... However, this horn was actually sliced off with a single swing by this human with a terrifying aura... It thought, "Fine, this good monkey shall not pick a fight with a cunning human like you!"

With a sharp screech, the seventh grade Spirit Ape while filled with reluctance leapt out of the valley with a single bound and instantly vanished.

The spirit beasts following the Spirit Ape also receded like tidewater.

Using the same method to drive off the spirit beasts behind the Wandering Dragon Cow, the entire valley was only left with Bu Fang, who was carrying the gigantic Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife over his shoulder, and the shivering Wandering Dragon Cow, who was missing a horn...

Bu Fang patted the Wandering Dragon Cow's gigantic body as he clicked his tongue and exclaimed in wonder, "Not bad, this ingredient is far better than the Thunderfire Spirit Pig."

The Wandering Dragon Cow's big head was filled with suspicions... Ingredient? What ingredient?

In the next moment, in the eyes of the Wandering Dragon Cow, the Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen gradually grew bigger... and bigger... sphhhlt.

The true energy within Bu Fang's body finally ran out and he was unable to sustain the Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife's current form. It transformed back into its unassuming appearance and disappeared after turning into green smoke.

Bu Fang patted the Wandering Dragon Cow's gigantic body once more. With a wave of his hand, he stored it into the dimensional bag provided by the system.

"Congratulations to the host for completing the abrupt mission: carry out the first ingredient capture. The system reward will now be released. After a minute, the return teleportation will be carried out. Would the host please get ready," the system's solemn voice resounded within Bu Fang's mind, just as the corpse of the Wandering Dragon Cow was stored.

Bu Fang was startled. Only a minute was left? The Phoenix Blood Herb was still not harvested yet!

Above Bu Fang's head, a speck of light had already appeared. This speck of light was slowly drawing a mysterious teleportation magic array. Regarding this, Bu Fang was already used to it.

Bu Fang did not hesitate as he turned around and ran toward the small hill. Above his head, the speck of light was still drawing. As time went by, the magic array was already halfway to completion.

"Ten seconds left until return. Begin countdown. Ten... Nine..."

Bu Fang was still expressionless, but his anxiety could be seen in his eyes. He was getting closer and closer to the Phoenix Blood Herb, but the countdown was also getting closer to finishing...

"Just give me one more second... I can pry open the entire valley!" Bu Fang shouted in his mind as he leapt with all his strength and grabbed onto the Phoenix Blood Herb that was ascending into the skies like a phoenix. A sharp pain was instantly transmitted from his palm into his mind!

However, before he could scream from the pain, the drawing of the magic array was completed. A burst of violent wind emerged and then dissipated...

The Valley of the Fallen Phoenix regained its peace once more. The flow of the waterfall continued its natural course. Everything was as usual.

Chapter 93: The Fragrant, Smooth, and Tasty Rice Noodle Roll

Light Wind Empire, imperial city, Fang Fang's Little Store.

A speck of light appeared within the empty space of the store. Then, this speck of light rapidly flew around the air while drawing a magic array. A burst of violent wind cropped up and a figure appeared within the magic array.

Bu Fang came back to the store in a trance. He was having dizzy spells as he fell down on his buttocks and gasped for air with deep breaths.

"The host has already returned to the store. The system reward will now be released," the system's solemn voice resounded within Bu Fang's mind.

However, Bu Fang ignored the message. His gaze was fixated on the fiery-red herb tightly grasped in his hand. The herb felt extremely hot as he held it within his hand. It was like holding a piece of magma.

"Thankfully, I still managed to catch it. Otherwise, after toiling for so long, it would be a huge loss if I had missed this seventh grade spirit herb." The corners of Bu Fang's mouth widened and a faint smile seemed to appear on his rigid face.

The Phoenix Blood Herb was entirely red in color. After maturation, the herb became even more dazzling as if it was carved from an exquisite red agate. On its surface, it was filled with dark red spots as if it was stained with blood.

Grasping the herb in his hand, he felt an extreme hotness. However, this hotness was not felt on his skin but in his mind.

After finding a jade box, he placed the Phoenix Blood Herb inside. He did not choose to store it within the dimensional bag provided by the system, but kept it within a cupboard.

Similarly, he took out the Sage Herb he harvested from within the dimensional bag. This plump Sage Herb was exuding an enticing fragrance.

Bu Fang endured the temptation as he placed the Sage Herb into a jade box before storing it into the cupboard as well.

After completing all of these actions, only then did Bu Fang heavily breathe out. As he stretched himself, the joints within his body produced popping sounds. Contrary to his expectation, his first ingredient capture was a meaningful experience.

"As expected of the God of Cooking set. Without the Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife, I really wouldn't be able to do anything. No wonder the system waited until I obtained the God of Cooking set before initiating this ingredient capture mission." Bu Fang stretched his sore neck as he headed up the stairs.

Bu Fang first took a shower. His hair was let loose and water was still dripping off the ends as he returned to his room while feeling more refreshed.

After spending two days hunting for ingredients, Bu Fang was feeling tired. It was time for him to have a good sleep.

However, before he could go to sleep, he needed to find out more about the mission reward that was newly released by the system.

"The Rice Noodle Roll cooking technique?" Bu Fang narrowed his eyes. He was actually very interested in this new dish. As a chef, he was naturally familiar with the Rice Noodle Roll. After all, this was an extremely delicious breakfast.

The Rice Noodle Roll was a type of rice product. It was also known as steamed rice roll, jyu cheung fan, and chee cheong fun. It was considered a relatively simple dish. The main point was making the thin wrappers by steaming the rice milk and then wrapping the freshly stir-fried filling with the thin wrappers.

As Bu Fang pondered the Rice Noodle Roll's cooking method in his mind, he felt an itch to try it out. He was eager to cook the new dish and have a taste. However, after considering for a while, he gave up in the end.

The main reason was after expending too much true energy, he was rather tired and feeling somewhat languid. The other reason was that the Rice Noodle Roll was a breakfast dish and waking up earlier to cook it was the best choice.

Therefore, Bu Fang endured the impulse to get up and practice the dish. He lay down on his bed and soon fell asleep.

The night quietly passed.

The next day, Bu Fang got up from bed just as the sun rose, and stretched his body. After washing up, he went into the kitchen and first practiced his cutting technique. His Level One Meteor Cutting Technique was already close to culmination. He would most probably be able to reach culmination after practicing for one more day.

After finishing his cutting technique practice, Bu Fang made a plate of Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs. This was Blacky's daily meal and Bu Fang was extremely experienced with making this dish. Soon, a rich, captivating aroma of meat was wafting within the kitchen.

Carrying the plate of Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs to the dining area, Bu Fang opened up the entrance and the cold wind immediately blew into the store. The imperial city of the Light Wind Empire had already officially entered winter. The sky was overcast as if foreshadowing heavy snow.

"Blacky, it's time to eat." Bu Fang arrived in front of Blacky with the plate of Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs. The gluttonous dog instantly jumped up and excitedly stared at the plate in Bu Fang's hands with its tongue hanging out.

"Deprived of food for two days... Your lord dog is craving to death!" Blacky thought as his eyes gleamed while staring fixedly at the Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs.

That bewitching aroma of the meat was almost causing Blacky to degenerate. When Bu Fang placed the Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs in front of it, it eagerly began gobbling down the meat on the plate.

It was still the same recipe with the same taste! This... was the taste of Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs!

The corners of Bu Fang's mouth curled up as he watched Blacky gobble down the food while wagging its tail. He turned around and entered the kitchen. He was about to start cooking the Rice Noodle Roll.

He first took out the rice milk prepared by the system. The rice milk was pure white like milk and was exuding a faint fragrance. Evidently, the rice used to make it was not ordinary.

He poured the rice milk into a specially-made tray. This tray was not thick, so the height of the rice milk layer was not that high either. It was around two millimeters. After pouring the rice milk, Bu Fang placed the tray onto the steam rack to be cooked.

While the rice milk was being steamed, Bu Fang began preparing the filling needed for the Rice Noodle Roll.

"Pork or beef, shrimp, bok choy, dried radish granules..." Bu Fang muttered as he prepared these ingredients.

However, as he was about to take out the pork prepared by the system, he suddenly paused for a moment. An idea could not help but surface within his mind.

"System, what if I were to replace this pork with the meat of the Wandering Dragon Cow... is it feasible?" Bu Fang asked.

"Yes. However, since an ingredient would be replaced, the price of the dish will change," the system seriously replied.

"Hmm? How will it change?" Bu Fang asked in curiosity.

The system's solemn voice resounded within his mind once more. "The original filling of the Rice Noodle Roll uses pork from a third grade spirit beast. After the host replaces the ingredient with the seventh grade Wandering Dragon Cow, the price of the Rice Noodle Roll will be increased from ten crystals to sixty crystals per serving."

Increased from ten crystals to sixty crystals... Bu Fang blinked his eyes. He could not help but exclaim in his mind, "As expected of a seventh grade ingredient, it definitely doesn't disappoint. However, there's probably no one who would chose to eat such an expensive serving of Rice Noodle Roll."

"System, could you treat the Rice Noodle Roll with the meat of the Wandering Dragon Cow as filling as the improved version of the Rice Noodle Roll?"

"Of course," the system replied. This was actually the same as the Egg-Fried Rice and Improved Egg-Fried Rice.

Bu Fang nodded. Green smoke emerged around his wrist and the Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife appeared in his hand. He started off with the filling needed for the dish. He first cooked the third grade spirit pork in preparation for making the normal Rice Noodle Roll. After he finished preparing the filling, he took out a small piece of the Wandering Dragon Cow's meat. With the gigantic size of the Wandering Dragon Cow, using such a small piece was not a big deal.

With the two types of filling readied, the rice milk was done as well.

As Bu Fang took the tray out, clouds of white steam rose into the air. The steam was mixed with the rich, mesmerizing aroma of rice, causing him to deeply inhale.

He separated the steamed gelatinous sheet from the tray. The sheet was crystal clear like jade, smooth as a mirror, and pleasing to the eyes.

The Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife in Bu Fang's hands performed a few spins and the sheet was equally sliced into rectangular-shaped pieces.

Bu Fang first placed the filling made from third grade spirit pork, shrimps, and dried radish granules onto one of the pieces, and then carefully wrapped it up. A "white as snow, thin as paper, shiny, fragrant, smooth, and delicious" Rice Noodle Roll was completed.

Chapter 94: The Rice Noodle Roll That Costs Twenty Crystals per Mouthful

Bu Fang brought the Rice Noodle Roll that was like an exquisitely carved jade into the dining area. As he looked at the glistening Rice Noodle Roll, a soft growl came from his stomach.

The fragrance of the Rice Noodle Roll was not strong—perhaps due to the filling being enveloped within the wrapper—but its appearance was extremely appetizing. At least, Bu Fang was already unable to hold himself back any longer.

When eating Rice Noodle Roll, a special sauce should naturally be used. Just the thought of eating the smooth and tasty Rice Noodle Roll dipped with the savory sour sauce was enough to excite anyone.

After he took a bite of the Rice Noodle Roll, the oil immediately seeped out from the meat filling. The accumulated fragrance burst out at that moment and instantly rushed into Bu Fang's face, causing him to involuntarily lapse into an euphoric state. The wrapping of the Rice Noodle Roll was gratifyingly smooth and its texture was extremely good. It slightly bounced around in his mouth and produced a springy feeling when he bit down.

As expected, the products provided by the system were definitely the finest. The taste of the Rice Noodle Roll was indeed pretty good and was certainly worthy of its pricing of ten crystals. Bu Fang nodded as he continued to gobble down the Rice Noodle Roll.

"Oh my! Owner Bu, you're finally opened! I've missed you so much for the past two days!"

While Bu Fang was eating the Rice Noodle Roll, a boorish voice came from outside the store. Fatty Jin and his buddies had arrived in a majestic manner and they immediately spotted Bu Fang as they stepped into the store.

Fatty Jin's eyes immediately lit up and seemed rather impatient as he inhaled the fragrance wafting within the store.

"Owner Bu, have you added another new dish?" Fatty Jin asked.

"Oh... That's right," Bu Fang mumbled as he glanced at Fatty Jin with his mouth stuffed with the Rice Noodle Roll.

Fatty Jin swallowed his saliva and a series of growls involuntarily sounded out from his stomach as he watched Bu Fang finish off the last piece of Rice Noodle Roll. He turned his head and looked at the menu on the wall.

"The new dish is... Rice Noodle Roll, right? Eh? There's an improved version like the Egg-Fried Rice?" Fatty Jin exclaimed. When he took another look at the price, he saw that the ordinary Rice Noodle Roll was ten crystals per serving while the improved version of the Rice Noodle Roll was... Good heavens! Sixty crystals per serving?!

"Owner Bu... The difference in the prices is ridiculous!" Fatty Jin said as he turned his head and looked toward Bu Fang, who was tidying up after finishing the food.

"Once you have a taste, you'll understand the reason for the pricing," Bu Fang expressionlessly replied before he went back into the kitchen. He placed the plate into the automatic dishwasher and returned to the dining area.

Fatty Jin was actually feeling rather conflicted. Although he was rich, spending a few hundred crystals per day was somewhat unbearable even if his family owned a crystal mine.

"I'll have a serving of the ordinary Rice Noodle Roll first, as well as a serving of Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs and Red Braised Meat each. Oh, I'll have the Improved Egg-Fried Rice as well! After eating Owner Bu's Egg-Fried Rice, my cultivating speed has become much faster," Fatty Jin said with a chuckle.

"Alright, wait a moment," Bu Fang said with a nod. After he noted the orders of the others, he turned around and went back into the kitchen.

Now that Bu Fang obtained the Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife, his cutting technique had improved quite a bit. His speed when handling the ingredients was also much faster than before. After a short while, he finished dealing with the ingredients of the dishes and started cooking.

A rich fragrance once again drifted out from the kitchen and into the dining area of the store, causing Fatty Jin and his buddies to involuntarily lapse into an euphoric state.

"The dishes cooked by Owner Bu still smell the best. Smelling the aroma alone is enough to make one feel a sense of satisfaction." Fatty Jin hummed in euphoria.

After a while, Bu Fang walked out of the kitchen while carrying a dish. The first dish he served to Fatty Jin was the Rice Noodle Roll, which was also the dish that Fatty Jin wanted to eat the most. Since it was a new dish, he wanted to try it out.

"Here's your Rice Noodle Roll, please enjoy your meal," Bu Fang said as he placed the plate of Rice Noodle Roll as well as a condiment bowl filled with sauce in front of Fatty Jin.

When Fatty Jin saw the crystal-clear Rice Noodle Roll that looked like a piece of artwork, he could not help but lick his lips. He immediately picked up the Rice Noodle Roll, dipped it in the sauce and impatiently took a bite.

As he bit into the springy wrapper that contained the aromatic spirit pork, the oil that overflowed into Fatty Jin's mouth caused his entire body to tremble in happiness and his eyes to instantly light up.

"Delicious! Owner Bu's dishes are indeed all excellent!" Fatty Jin licked his lips clean before he continued eating the Rice Noodle Roll. However, with his food intake, the entire serving of Rice Noodle Roll only lasted three bites.

As Fatty Jin sucked on his fingers, the flesh on his face was almost scrunched together. With such a small serving, he was still not satisfied.

However, Fang Fang's Little Store only allowed dishes to be ordered once...

"Owner Bu, give me a serving of the Improved Rice Noodle Roll!" Unable to resist the temptation any longer, Fatty clenched his teeth and ordered the Improved Rice Noodle Roll, which was six times costlier than the normal version.

Bu Fang, who was in the kitchen, was surprised for a moment. Then, the corners of his mouth widened into a smile as he nodded.

Only after Bu Fang served Fatty Jin's remaining orders as well as the other's orders, did he finally start cooking Fatty Jin's Improved Rice Noodle Roll.

There was basically no difference in the steps for the improved version of the Rice Noodle Roll. The main difference was in the filling. The ingredient used was the meat of the seventh grade Wandering Dragon Cow that Bu Fang personally acquired.

Bu Fang sliced off a small piece of the Wandering Dragon Cow's meat. It was extremely fresh and tender and the marbling on its surface seemed to be glistening with vibrant colors. A dense amount of spirit energy was packed within the meat.

Bu Fang used the Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife to turn the piece of beef into mincemeat. Since the Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife had the ability to preserve the spirit energy within the ingredients, the spirit energy within the Wandering Dragon Cow's meat was perfectly retained.

After the cooking finished, the aroma of the meat was like a bomb had exploded within the kitchen. Even the obese men in the dining area were attracted by the smell. They were swallowing their salivas as they looked toward Bu Fang's direction.

"What kind of meat is this... What a strong fragrance! I've never smelled any meat as aromatic as this before!" This was what the obese men were thinking. Their expectations were high for the next dish Bu Fang was about to bring out.

Soon, a slim and tall figure walked out of the kitchen. His slender fingers were grasping a porcelain plate and a crystal-clear Rice Noodle Roll was placed in the middle...

Everyone's eyes that were originally filled with expectation immediately revealed a trace of disappointment. So, it was still a Rice Noodle Roll...

On the other hand, Fatty Jin did not care. He was the one who was going to eat it after all. Thus, he cheerfully waited for the Improved Rice Noodle Roll.

"You fools! This is the Improved Rice Noodle Roll, which costs sixty crystals per serving! How could you judge its quality from the appearance? You need to focus on the inner beauty!" The pudgy flesh on Fatty Jin's face continuously trembled.

"Improved Rice Noodle Roll, please enjoy your meal," Bu Fang simply said.

Fatty Jin glanced at Bu Fang before he picked up the Rice Noodle Roll and dipped it with a little bit of sauce. His hand was trembling as he sent it into his mouth.

This mouthful... was exactly twenty crystals!

Fatty Jin felt as if he was not biting a Rice Noodle Roll... but an expensive crystal essence!

So, he acted very carefully. After taking a bite, he even pursed his lips so that not even a single piece of minced meat was wasted.

As the Rice Noodle Roll entered his mouth, Fatty Jin immediately felt the difference. His eyes were originally very small. However, as everyone watched, his tiny eyes actually widened to the max within a second.

His nostrils widened and two streams of hot air gushed out! Within that hot air, dense amount of spirit energy was present!

Gulp!

After chewing for a while, Fatty Jin swallowed the piece of Rice Noodle Roll in his mouth. He sighed in relief as if he had just experienced a roller coaster ride.

"How's the taste?" Bu Fang asked in curiosity. Even he had not tasted the Improved Rice Noodle Roll yet. However, Bu Fang was very confident that the taste of the Wandering Dragon Cow's meat would be good.

Fatty Jin's lips were trembling as spirit energy continued to gush out from his nostrils. He looked at Bu Fang and gave two thumbs up.

"It's unparalleled! It's extremely delicious!" Fatty Jin grinned as he said, "This dense amount of spirit energy... made the true energy within my body instantly reach the bottleneck! My confidence in advancing to the next level has become even higher!"

After Fatty Jin finished praising the dish, he did not say anything further. He finished off the rest of the Rice Noodle Roll and hurriedly paid the bill before leaving with his buddies.

He wanted to go home and advance to the next level.

Bu Fang breathed a sigh of relief in his mind as well. "Looks like the reaction isn't bad for the ingredient I personally acquired..."

After cleaning up the tableware, the interior of the store became deserted for a moment.

Bu Fang pulled a chair toward the entrance and curled up on it. As he stared at the empty alleyway—which was already repaired by the crown prince's men—a question surfaced in his mind.

"Usually, shouldn't that girl have already arrived by now? Why isn't she here yet? Did she forget that the store is opened today?"

Bu Fang thought as he cozily yawned.

Chapter 95: The Imperial City's First Snow

Imperial city, Ouyang manor.

The elderly Ouyang's expression was stern as he sat above the great hall. Most of the Ouyang family members were present within the hall.

Ouyang Zongheng was solemn as a statue as he sat below his father. The mood within the hall was extremely serious.

Xiaoyi was sulking with a pout on her face and her large eyes were filled with dissatisfaction. She glanced at the elderly Ouyang sitting above the great hall and bitterly snorted as she turned her head away.

"You rascals, watch Xiaoyi properly. She's absolutely not allowed to take even half a step outside of the manor today." The elderly Ouyang's head ached whenever he saw

Ouyang Xiaoyi's behavior, but he still pulled a long face as he instructed the three barbarians of Ouyang.

The three barbarians of Ouyang nodded. Their eyes were sternly fixated on Ouyang Xiaoyi. However, when they were glared at by the sullen Ouyang Xiaoyi, the three brothers immediately looked away in guilt.

"Grandpa! Why am I not allowed to go out! The store still needs my help!" Ouyang Xiaoyi indignantly asked the elderly Ouyang.

The elderly Ouyang scowled at her. "Xiaoyi, grandpa is only thinking for your sake. For the past few days, the situation within the imperial city has become grim. The crown prince and the second prince has been openly roping in the imperial court's officials. They're willing to do anything in order to pull people to their side! We're afraid for your safety!"

"Even if that's the case... You still can't stop me from helping out at the store!" Ouyang Xiaoyi was still unhappy as she pouted her mouth while puffing up her cheeks and said.

"Help... What sort of help can you provide! You're the daughter of a general! How could you always run around in public and even work as a waitress in a restaurant! What a disgrace!" The elderly Ouyang was exasperated by the stubborn Xiaoyi. His beard was twitching with anger.

When Ouyang Xiaoyi heard his words, she suddenly held her arms across her chest. She coldly glanced at the elderly Ouyang and softly laughed. "Grandpa, that's not what you were saying yesterday! When I advanced to fourth grade Battle-Spirit, you were definitely overjoyed! You were even glad to let me be a waitress everyday!"

The elderly Ouyang's body stiffened as a hint of embarrassment appeared on his face. However, a grin soon appeared on his face as he shamelessly said, "If I say you can't go, then you can't go! Today, you still have to obediently stay within the manor!"

"Hmph! Smelly grandpa! I am going to ignore you from now on!"

Ouyang Xiaoyi was furious! She snorted toward the elderly Ouyang and left the great hall in a huff with her head held high.

"What are you three rascals doing! Go and watch over that girl!" The elderly Ouyang angrily shouted at the three barbarians of Ouyang, who were busy watching the show.

Below the elderly Ouyang, Ouyang Zongheng was wiping away his cold sweat as he thought, "Father... What kind of example are you setting for the youngsters..."

The elderly Ouyang calmed down after the three barbarians of Ouyang left in low spirits. He turned his head toward Ouyang Zongheng and asked, "What's the situation on His Majesty's side?"

Ouyang Zongheng's expression immediately turned cold as he solemnly replied, "His Majesty's condition is not optimistic."

The elderly Ouyang suddenly sighed. The emperor had spent his youth leading campaigns against the sects and fought with many experts. His wounds accumulated and left hidden ailments throughout his body. Now that he reached old age, even the mighty Emperor Changfeng was unable to withstand these hidden ailments that suddenly flared up.

Ouyang Zongheng helplessly sighed as well. The situation within the imperial city was already somewhat grim. If the emperor passed away, the entire imperial city would instantly descend into chaos. This was also the reason the elderly Ouyang prohibited Ouyang Xiaoyi from leaving the manor.

For a while, the great hall became quiet and no one said a word.

After a long time, a lone figure rapidly approached the great hall. He swiftly entered the great hall and knelt before the elderly Ouyang with a sealed envelope held in his hand.

The elderly Ouyang's eyelids twitched as he opened the envelope and rapidly scanned its contents.

When he finished reading, his complexion was extremely dreadful and his beard was trembling.

Ouyang Zongheng swallowed his saliva, and asked, "Father... What's the situation?"

With a burst of true energy emitted from his hand, the letter was immediately turned into ashes. The elderly Ouyang's eyes contained a trace of melancholy and sorrow.

"His Majesty... passed away."

As the elderly Ouyang said those words, he seemed to have aged ten years within an instant.

...

On the main road of the imperial city, a petite figure was skipping while heading toward Fang Fang's Little Store.

"Hmph! Stupid grandpa, you actually let my three foolish brothers watch over me. With how thickheaded they are, how could they watch over the resourceful and intelligent

Xiaoyi!" Ouyang Xiaoyi's eyes were curved into crescents. When she thought about her grandpa's fuming expression when he realized she ran away, she could not help but exult in her mind.

"Eh? It's snowing."

Ouyang Xiaoyi was walking along when she suddenly exclaimed and raised her head in puzzlement. A burst of winter wind blew across the grey skies and then snowflakes as white as goose feathers silently descended.

Xiaoyi stretched out her fair hand and a snowflake fell onto her palm. It silently melted and turned into ice-cold, bone-chilling water. It was like the sky was weeping.

"How beautiful," Xiaoyi expelled a white cloud of breath as she softly muttered. She flung off the water on her palm and continued moving forward.

The arrival of the imperial city's first snow was that sudden. The pedestrians on the main road all stopped to admire the snow for a while before they hurriedly resumed walking.

Behind Ouyang Xiaoyi, several figures suddenly started to follow her. Within an instant, they sped up and completely surrounded her.

Xiaoyi's large eyes suddenly widened as true energy immediately burst forth from her body in order to escape their encirclement.

However, the cultivation level of the attackers were high. They were actually all fifth grade Battle-Kings. Ouyang Xiaoyi was captured before she could make any attempts to escape.

"Let go of me! My father is General Ouyang and my grandfather is a doyen of the current dynasty! If you kidnap me... you'll be beaten up!" Ouyang Xiaoyi was infuriated! There was actually someone who was brazen enough to kidnap a general's daughter within the imperial city!

Those Battle-King experts glanced at Ouyang Xiaoyi. They could not even be bothered to give a reply as they immediately stuffed a rag into her mouth and carried her away.

"Go back and report to the young master that the mission is completed."

One of the figures nodded, and then, he instantly separated from the group as the tip of his toes tapped the ground.

...

Bu Fang was curled up on his chair. As he watched the heavy snow slowly descending from the gray skies, he subconsciously curled up his body even more.

It was snowing and the weather became colder as well.

There were very few customers on that day, to the point where Bu Fang was not used to it. Basically, those regular customers did not appear.

"Is it because it's snowing?" Bu Fang softly muttered while he remained curled up on the chair.

Suddenly, the sound of messy footsteps came from within the alleyway as three bear-like, boorish figures appeared in front of the store.

"Eh? Isn't this the really invincible Ouyang brothers?" Bu Fang thought. He was slightly surprised as he puzzledly looked at the anxious Ouyang brothers that appeared in front of his store.

"Owner Bu... Is that girl, Xiaoyi, here?" Ouyang Zhen immediately asked while breathing heavily.

"That girl actually deceived us and secretly snuck out! What happened to the basic trust between siblings!" Ouyang Di said.

Bu Fang expressionlessly looked at the three brothers and simply said, "Ouyang Xiaoyi didn't come here today."

"She's not here?! How could that... She..." Ouyang Wu glared at Bu Fang. Then, he seemed to have thought of something. The expressions of the three brothers suddenly changed as they looked at each other and said, "Oh no!"

Xiaoyi secretly snuck out in order to help out at the store. However, she was not inside the store... There was only one possibility.

"Motherfucker, these bunch of despicable scumbags dare to kidnap my sister..." Ouyang Zhen angrily shouted. The three brothers immediately turned after and left in a rage, leaving a bewildered Bu Fang behind.

As Bu Fang expressionlessly watched the three of them leaving, the corners of his mouth widened into a bemused smile. "These three brothers... must have turned stupid."

Chapter 96: Who Kidnapped the Little Girl?

Translator: OnGoingWhy Editor: OnGoingWhy

Within the Xiao manor, Xiao Meng blankly stared at the secret letter in his hand without saying anything.

After a long while, Xiao Meng let out a deep sigh. He raised his head and looked toward the direction of the imperial palace's Great Hall. His eyes were filled with sorrow and indescribable grief.

"Father, what happened?" Xiao Yanyu worriedly asked with a frown as she looked at her father's sorrowful appearance.

Xiao Xiaolong puzzledly looked at his powerful father as well. Since earlier on in the morning, Xiao Meng forbade them from leaving the manor. The two siblings who were planning to head to Fang Fang's Little Store to enjoy delicious food were extremely bewildered.

Xiao Yanyu had an astute mind and she was more perceptive than the carefree Ouyang Xiaoyi. She could guess that the reason their father forbade them from leaving the Xiao manor was probably for their own safety.

If they needed protection even while they were inside the imperial city, it could only mean one thing. The imperial city was no longer safe, or... it was no longer safe for those with important statuses like the children of court officials.

"Has the imperial city descended into chaos?" Xiao Yanyu's voice that was like the singing of birds rang out as she asked Xiao Meng.

Xiao Meng glanced at Xiao Yanyu. The muscles on his face slightly trembled before he slowly opened his mouth.

"His Majesty... passed away."

When Xiao Yanyu and Xiao Xiaolong heard those words, their bodies shuddered and then their eyes suddenly widened...

The Xiao family was not the only one who received the news. The various rich and influential families living within the imperial city were informed as well. The news of the emperor's death was like a tsunami that instantly engulfed the imperial city.

The ruler of a generation, Emperor Changfeng... had passed away.

This was like a tumultuous earthquake for the entire Light Wind Empire.

The situation within the imperial city was already quite uncertain. With the death of the emperor, the city immediately became turbulent. The fight over the throne between the crown prince and the second prince was also completely moved into the open.

This could be seen from the fact that all of the rich and influential were making their children obediently stay within their manors.

Once the fight over the throne began, the princes would need to rope in helpers. They needed the support of the court officials and they had to win this support on their own. In order to gain the allegiance of the court officials, they would make use of unscrupulous methods like blackmail, kidnapping... They would use any method available to achieve their goal.

On this day, the news of Emperor Changfeng's passing spread. The crown prince, Ji Chengan, as well as King Yu hurriedly entered the imperial palace and headed for the Great Hall.

After approximately an hour or so, the crown prince and King Yu left the imperial palace. After preparing horses and carriages, they begun visiting the manors of each court official in order to enlist their support.

The fight between the crown prince and King Yu had finally turned into a showdown.

...

Zhao manor, the official residence of the Minister of the Left, Zhao Musheng.

As the Light Wind Empire's Minister of the Left, Zhao Musheng's position was so great that even the princes had to treat him courteously. It was to the point where his rank within the Light Wind Empire could be said to be second only to its guardian, Xiao Meng.

Zhao Musheng's was not considered old. He looked rather healthy from his overall appearance. However, his hair color that alternated between black and white gave him the feeling of vicissitude.

He was sitting in a wooden armchair with his eyes slightly narrowed and slapping his belly with one hand.

Suddenly, the sound of footsteps came from beyond the door and a figure stepped into the room..

"Father! Your child has returned," Zhao Ruge stepped into the room in a brocade robe and respectfully greeted Zhao Musheng, who was seated in the armchair.

"Has the matter been settled?" Zhao Musheng narrowed his eyes and simply asked.

"The matter was completed without a hitch. However... Why did father send someone to abduct Ouyang Xiaoyi? Are you not afraid of angering that madman, Ouyang Qi?" Zhao

Ruge looked at Zhao Musheng in puzzlement. He could not understand why they participated in this messy situation under this sort of circumstances.

"Ji Changfeng is dead. Now that he's dead, the pot of soup called the imperial city is finally going to boil. In order to make this pot of soup even tastier, we'll need to add some condiments..." Zhao Musheng opened his eyes. His eyes were profoundly harmonious and seemed to possess a calming aura.

Zhao Ruge's reverence toward his father became even stronger.

"Leave now, and make sure that girl isn't mistreated. We only brought her here to bring things to a head. If she gets hurt, Ouyang Qi will really try to kill us. That old fogey really cherishes this granddaughter of his," Zhao Musheng said with a chuckle.

"We'll have him cause trouble with the crown prince and King Yu first. Let him stir up this pot of soup..."

Zhao Ruge was startled for a moment and then seemed to have understood something. A hint of a smile tugged at the corners of his mouth as he nodded and left.

As Zhao Musheng watched Zhao Ruge's disappearing figure, he chuckled once more.

After Zhao Ruge left the room Zhao Musheng was in, he walked for a while inside of the Zhao manor and soon arrived before a room guarded by two Battle-Kings.

"Watch after that girl properly. She's very clever. Don't give her a chance to escape," Zhao Ruge solemnly said.

The two Battle-Kings gravely nodded.

As Zhao Ruge gazed at the quiet room, the corners of his mouth widened into a smile. "I am really curious. If Owner Bu found out that this girl was kidnapped... What would he do? Would he immediately rush over while bringing along that iron lump? That would be interesting."

...

Within the crown prince's palace, the crown prince had a forced smile plastered on his face as he looked at the menacing elderly Ouyang. This doyen level figure was not someone he could afford to anger.

"Elder, I can vouch with my life that I've never touched a single hair on Ouyang Xiaoyi!" Ji Chengan's expression was solemn as he took an oath-taking pose while facing the elderly Ouyang.

"Motherfucker! Who else could it be other than you? If my precious Xiaoyi is missing even a single strand of hair, I am going to fucking demolish this crown prince palace of yours!" The elderly Ouyang's temper was not good. He was cursing and swearing while pointing at the crown prince's nose. He was scolding the crown prince to the point where the crown prince almost lost his composure.

However, the crown prince had no other choice. He could only maintain a forced smile as he watched the elderly Ouyang leave with a strut.

Similarly, after the elderly Ouyang left the crown prince's palace, he immediately headed toward King Yu's manor. He chewed out King Yu as well, but he still could not obtain any information on Ouyang Xiaoyi.

However, after the two princes were scolded by the elderly Ouyang, they kept in check their overt actions and their confrontations became less brazen.

After returning to the Ouyang manor, the elderly Ouyang had already lost the dominance he had when scolding the crown prince and King Yu. His expression became rather unpleasant.

If King Yu and the crown prince were not responsible for abducting Xiaoyi, then who was the culprit?

Within the imperial city, who would have the nerve to capture Ouyang Qi's granddaughter?

The elderly Ouyang pondered for a while. Finally, a name surfaced in his mind... Zhao Musheng?!

...

For the past three days, the amount of customers that visited Fang Fang Little Store's became very small. It reached a point where Bu Fang was bored to death everyday. He could not sense the stormy situation within the imperial city. The only thing he could sense was that his customers had decreased in number.

Ouyang Xiaoyi did not come to the store during the three days either. Bu Fang found out that the situation within the imperial city was extremely grim from Fatty Jin, who came on time everyday to eat. Every single influential family was carefully choosing a faction to side with.

With the passing of the emperor, the crown prince and King Yu began fighting over the throne.

Bu Fang was perplexed after hearing all of this information. He was completely clueless about the so-called fight over the throne. After listening for a short while, he walked

away in bewilderment. However, the news about the emperor passing away still made him lament.

However, he was extremely concerned about the news regarding Ouyang Xiaoyi's abduction. After all, the girl was still his waitress, someone who belonged to Fang Fang's Little Store. Since she was Bu Fang's employee, he would not allow her to be easily bullied.

Bu Fang was curled up on his chair, watching the heavy snow that continuously descended. The pure white snow had already begun covering the entire imperial city with a layer of silver coating, giving the city an exquisite appearance.

"Owner Bu, you seem to be free. Looks like I came at the right time." A familiar voice—that was mild but contained a bit of arrogance—rang out.

Zhao Ruge was standing at the entrance of the store, looking at Bu Fang with a smile on his face.

Chapter 97: Owner Bu, Do You Feel No Shame

Zhao Ruge was wearing a brocade robe and had a refined and handsome appearance. He was standing at the entrance of the store with a smile on his face as he looked toward Bu Fang, who was curled up on a chair.

Bu Fang raised his eyebrows in surprise. He recognized this fellow who tried to tempt him with crystals on two separate occasions but he resolutely turned him down. However, despite their brief encounter, Bu Fang still remembered Zhao Ruge's appearance.

Bu Fang stood up from his chair. He glanced at Zhao Ruge and asked, "What are you ordering?"

Zhao Ruge stepped into the store and shook off the snow that had clung onto him. He expelled a cloud of breath before he sat down on a chair. After taking a glance at the menu, he realized the store had added many new dishes since his last visit.

As the delicious dishes cooked by Bu Fang involuntarily surfaced within his mind, his stomach slightly growled in response. Zhao Ruge ordered a serving of Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs and Improved Egg-Fried Rice, as well as a jar of Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine.

Bu Fang nodded. He went back into the kitchen and started cooking the dishes. After a while, a rich aroma wafted out from the kitchen. That fragrance was extremely strong, causing Zhao Ruge to sniff the air.

After a long while, Bu Fang's slender figure walked out from the kitchen while carrying a dish in his hand and he placed it in front of Zhao Ruge.

Zhao Ruge did not immediately start eating. Even though the rising steam emanating from the dish was continuously arousing his appetite, Zhao Ruge still managed to endure it. His eyes appeared to be smiling as they landed on Bu Fang.

"Owner Bu, where's Xiaoyi? Didn't she come here today?" Zhao Ruge's tone contained a trace of mockery.

Bu Fang expressionlessly glanced at him, then pulled out a chair and sat down. He sat upright in front of Zhao Ruge. Everything was completed in an unhurried and leisure manner.

"She didn't come today," Bu Fang simply replied as his pitch-black pupils locked onto Zhao Ruge's cheek.

Zhao Ruge was extremely calm. Even though Bu Fang was staring right at him, there was not even a slightest change in his expression. After suffering so many losses within the store, this was the first time he felt he was holding the initiative. He could use the attitude of a superior to face Bu Fang.

"Is Owner Bu not curious why she didn't come?" Zhao Ruge asked as the corners of his mouth curled up.

Bu Fang did not reply this time around and only watched Zhao Ruge. Zhao Ruge was not flustered either. With a faint smile, he removed the cloth cover of the Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine and poured a cup of wine for himself. The rich aroma of wine immediately spread into the surroundings. As the aroma hovered around the tip of his nose, an euphoric expression was revealed on his face.

In the past, he used to believe the number one wine within the Light Wind Empire was the imperial palace's Bejewelled Nectar Wine. However, ever since he tasted the store's Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine, he was completely subdued by this fine wine.

"Owner Bu, do you want a cup as well?" Zhao Ruge shook the blue and white porcelain wine cup in his hand as he asked Bu Fang out of politeness.

"Oh, hold on," Bu Fang softly replied. Then, under the embarrassed gaze of Zhao Ruge, he stood up and headed toward the kitchen. After a while, he returned with a clean porcelain wine cup.

"Fill it to the brim, don't be shy," Bu Fang said.

Zhao Ruge was speechless as he looked at Bu Fang. He thought, "Don't you realize I was only being polite? With our relationship, do you think I would treat you to a drink?"

This wine costs fifteen crystals per jar, and more importantly, there isn't much of it in the first place."

Under Bu Fang's sincere gaze, Zhao Ruge was unable to refuse his request out of politeness. He could only fill Bu Fang's wine cup to the brim with a deadpan expression.

Bu Fang raised the wine cup to his mouth and took a sip of wine, revealing a trace of contentment in his eyes.

With the cold temperature and the snow fluttering about outside of the store, warming up the body with fine wine was such a wonderful pleasure...

"Owner Bu, are you really not curious why Xiaoyi did not come?" Zhao Ruge asked once more. He finished the wine within his cup and narrowed his eyes at Bu Fang.

Bu Fang glanced at him as he placed the already emptied wine cup on the table and he took the liberty of grabbing the wine jar. After filling up his wine cup to the brim, he simply replied, "Why do I need to know..."

Zhao Ruge expressionlessly watched as Bu Fang unceremoniously drank the Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine that he ordered. He suddenly felt a touch of sadness as he regretted opening his mouth.

"She's your employee! As an employer, shouldn't you be worried about your employees?" Zhao Ruge asked.

"I am very concerned," Bu Fang replied.

"How is this the appearance of someone who is concerned?" Zhao Ruge was somewhat speechless as he pursed his lips.

As Bu Fang finished the cup of wine once more, a touch of faint redness appeared on his fair cheeks. This was a sign that the alcohol was taking effect.

However, once a person started drinking the Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine, they would get the feeling of not being able to stop themselves. Therefore, Bu Fang poured another cup for himself...

Zhao Ruge's eyes that were directed at Bu Fang were almost spewing fire... He thought, "There isn't much wine in the jar, yet you're still pouring even though you've already drunk two cups! Do you feel no shame?!"

Bu Fang placed the wine cup on the table and heavily breathed out before he replied, "I am very concerned, but I am not worried since you won't do anything to her."

Bu Fang indifferently looked at Zhao Ruge and the latter's pupils constricted in response. He did not think Bu Fang would immediately guess that he was the one who abducted Ouyang Xiaoyi.

"You came here to tell me about this matter for no particular reason, that's no different than admitting that you're culprit... However, I am not worried since you wouldn't dare to do anything to her. You can't afford to offend the Ouyang family," Bu Fang said.

"Hahaha! Owner Bu has completely seen through me. I was really too reckless. I wonder if Owner Bu has any interest in joining hands with me. Now that the imperial city has descended into chaos, it's a good chance to choose a side. As long as Owner Bu is willing to join hands with me, I can guarantee that Fang Fang's Little Store shall become the most famous restaurant within the imperial city and even the entire Light Wind Empire."

Zhao Ruge's eyes suddenly became fervent as he stared at Bu Fang.

"Cooperation?" Bu Fang expressionlessly looked at Zhao Ruge. "Not interested."

"Owner Bu, don't be in a hurry to refuse me. My father is the current dynasty's Minister of the Left. We definitely have the ability to make Fang Fang's Little Store the number one restaurant within the Light Wind Empire. With your powerful puppet and supreme beast companion, it'll be easy for us to assist one of the princes into becoming the emperor," Zhao Ruge said.

Bu Fang shook his head after giving Zhao Ruge a single glance. He poured himself another cup of wine and a jar of Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine was finished just like that.

After finishing the cup of wine, Bu Fang did not even give a response to Zhao Ruge. He stood up while slightly swaying and slowly walked into the kitchen.

His silence meant refusal.

The fervent expression on Zhao Ruge's face gradually disappeared, and then, he began tasting the Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs and Egg-Fried Rice with a composed expression. However, when he picked up the Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine, he discovered the jar was already empty...

At that moment, Zhao Ruge really wanted to throw the empty jar at Bu Fang's head! That fellow was truly outrageous!

After he finished his meal, Zhao Ruge threw down some crystals and left in a huff. He only managed to drink a single cup of wine out of an entire jar of Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine that costed him fifteen crystals, and the rest ended up in Bu Fang's stomach. How infuriating!

...

Inside of the Zhao manor, Zhao Musheng was slowly walking within the garden while wearing an overcoat with images of cranes sewn on it. However, there was nothing beautiful about the garden that was covered by a layer of snow.

A figure glided into the manor, landed in front of Zhao Musheng and respectfully said, "The secret letter has been delivered into the hands of the crown prince."

Zhao Musheng imperceptibly nodded. He raised his hand and a lump of pale yellow true energy that gave a feeling of tranquility and harmony hovered on his palm.

"Very good. Has the young Marquis Yang been captured?" Zhao Musheng indifferently asked.

"He has already been caught. We've placed him into the same room as Ouyang Xiaoyi," the figure respectfully replied.

Zhao Musheng lightly exhaled a cloud of white breath. A snowflake drifted into his palm and was instantly shattered into pieces by the true energy gathered there.

A terrifying force was actually hidden underneath that tranquil and harmonious true energy.

"With both the young marquis and the Ouyang family's girl on our hands, the crown prince won't be able to reject our offer... The emperor of the Light Wind Empire, very good."

Zhao Musheng dispersed the true energy gathered within his palm. He slowly stepped on the snow and left the garden, leaving behind meaningful words that lingered in the surroundings.

Chapter 98: Obey This Lord Dog's Words, Let Go of That Girl

Translator: OnGoingWhy Editor: OnGoingWhy, Vermillion

Ouyang Xiaoyi's eyes widened as she stared at the extremely haughty boy in front of her. She recognized the brat as the extremely well-known heir of a Marquis. However, what was he doing there?

Yang Chen was the seventh child of the Marquis Who Pacifies the West, Yang Mo. Whenever the Yang family was mentioned, their deeds of sacrificing themselves for their country had to be acknowledged. The head of the Yang family, Yang Mo, had four sons. The first three sons were extremely talented individuals that used to be influential figures within the imperial city. Unfortunately, all three of them died on the battlefield

during their participation on military campaigns. In the end, Yang Chen was the only son left in the entire Yang family.

Therefore, the Yang family was extremely concerned about Yang Chen. As the first-in-line successor to the Marquis position, there was no room for mistakes.

"What is a brat like you doing here?" Yang Chen was very arrogant. He had always been putting effort in his cultivation with his elder brothers as his goal. Now, he had already reached the level of a fourth grade Battle-Spirit. This degree of talent and cultivation level was already considered the highest among his peers.

When Ouyang Xiaoyi looked at Yang Chen's immature yet arrogant face, she could not help but roll her eyes and reply with a pout, "Do you really think I want to be here? There isn't even anything delicious here... This place is like hell on earth!"

Yang Chen was unable to understand Ouyang Xiaoyi's words. Even though they were being held captive, the people who abducted them was not ill-treating them. They were properly served with three meals each day and the taste of the dishes brought to them was very good. Yang Chen ate his meals with great relish.

"If you're getting excited over eating this sort of dishes, I can tell that you're someone who hasn't seen the world." Ouyang Xiaoyi held her arms across her chest as she disdainfully glanced at the dishes placed on the table as well as Yang Chen, whose lips were covered with oil.

"I haven't seen the world? A little brat like you is the one that hasn't seen the world! I've been to the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant numerous times!" Yang Chen unhappily mumbled while his mouth was filled with food.

"Immortal Phoenix Restaurant?" When the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant was mentioned, Ouyang Xiaoyi snorted and rolled her eyes in disdain.

"What's going on? Are you looking down on the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant as well?" Yang Chen's eyes widened as he looked at Ouyang Xiaoyi.

Ouyang Xiaoyi pursed her lips and said, "Compared to the dishes made by the smelly boss, the food from Immortal Phoenix Restaurant is no better than dregs. You haven't even tasted Owner Bu's dishes and you still dare to claim that you've seen the world... Let me ask you, have you ever tasted Fish Head Tofu Soup that increases the true energy within your body? Have you ever eaten Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs that sends you into an euphoric state just from smelling the aroma? Have you ever eaten Egg-Fried Rice that sparkles?"

Ouyang Xiaoyi mentioned a few dishes from Fang Fang's Little Store in a row. As a waitress, she was naturally familiar enough with the names of the dishes to immediately list them.

Yang Chen blankly stared at Ouyang Xiaoyi in an adorable manner. He had never heard of the names of these dishes before... However, they sounded really impressive. Could a person really increase their cultivation level by eating a meal?

"Hmph! Impressive, right? I've eaten all of these dishes before!" Ouyang Xiaoyi loftily said.

Yang Chen picked up some food with his chopsticks and shoved it into his mouth. As he chewed the food, he said, "It sounds pretty good. Where's the location of the store? When are you bringing me there to have a look?"

When Ouyang Xiaoyi heard his words, her large eyes immediately did a little turn. Then, a smile appeared on her adorable face as she said, "Let's go right now. None of these dishes suit my appetite. I haven't eaten anything for over a day!"

"Right now?" Yang Chen was stunned. They were currently held captive, how would they be able to leave?

"That fellow who's monitoring us is only a fifth grade Battle-King. With our cultivation level, we can instantly deal with him if we take him by surprise. Then, we'll be able to make our escape!" Ouyang Xiaoyi said with sparkling eyes.

Yang Chen raised his eyebrows and then suddenly excitedly nodded.

Immediately after, Ouyang Xiaoyi fell onto the ground and started throwing a tantrum. Her acting that was instantly performed startled Yang Chen for a moment.

When the guard outside heard the commotion, he stepped into the room and immediately saw Ouyang Xiaoyi kicking a fuss onto the ground.

"What's going on? Stop making so much noise!" The guard impatiently knitted his eyebrows together. He was annoyed that the two brats were not behaving.

"She thinks the taste of the food is too terrible. She also said your chef is a pig," Yang Chen earnestly said.

Upon hearing Yang Chen's words, the guard did not know whether to laugh or cry. After he approached the food on the table and sampled it, he said, "The taste is pretty good though?"

Yang Chen approached the guard and said with a nod, "I think it's pretty good as well... However, she thinks the chef is a pig, so she doesn't want to eat the food here and wants to go outside."

"Hmm?" Just then, the guard noticed something was wrong. In the next moment, true energy burst forth from Yang Chen and restricted the guard's limbs. Even though the

guard was a fifth grade Battle-King, he was unable to react after receiving a sneak attack from such a close range.

Ouyang Xiaoyi leapt off the ground while brandishing her fists and greeted the guard's face with a punch.

The Ouyang family's style was kicking their opponents when they were down. Therefore, Ouyang Xiaoyi's next few punches all landed on the guard's face. The guard fell onto the ground and lost consciousness.

Then, Ouyang Xiaoyi pulled Yang Chen along as they left the room that imprisoned them at a trot and snuck out of the mansion.

...

During the bright sunny days in the imperial city, the sunlight shining through the clouds was rather dazzling. As it shone over the people, it felt warm and comfortable.

After Bu Fang finished serving the first wave of customers, the store regained its tranquility once more. And so, Bu Fang was curled up on a chair near the entrance like the past few days. There was sunlight on that day and he was feeling drowsy from the warmth felt throughout his body.

It was quite comfortable to pass the days like this.

"Smelly boss! Save me!" At the entrance of the alleyway, a heart-rending scream rang out. Bu Fang, whose eyes had just closed, opened them and puzzledly looked into the distance.

There, two runty figures were running like mad while taking wide strides as a few experts with powerful auras chased after them. The speed of the pursuers was very fast and they were right about to catch up to the two brats.

One of the Battle-Kings caught up with them and directly grabbed hold of Ouyang Xiaoyi. He picked her up and said with a sneer, "Let's see how you're going to run now!"

They did not expect the two canaries kept within a birdcage would be able to get out! They almost let them escape!

"Do you know who I am? I'll make my grandpa strip you down and hang you up on the walls of the imperial city!" Ouyang Xiaoyi was furious. The smelly boss' store was not far from there, but she was caught at the last moment. The anxious feeling of waiting for help made her want to go crazy.

"Smelly boss, save me! Blacky, save me!" Therefore, Ouyang Xiaoyi started screaming for help, hoping that Bu Fang would save her. However, she felt that her chances of escaping might be much higher if Blacky came instead...

Blacky, who was lying on the ground, murmured as it opened its eyes. It lazily yawned while sticking its tongue out and exhaled a cloud of white breath.

"Who's calling for your lord dog?" Blacky puzzledly scanned its surroundings and soon found Ouyang Xiaoyi struggling to escape at the entrance of the alleyway.

"You brat, why are you calling your lord dog for no reason? Don't you know how busy your lord dog is..." Blacky lazily got up and slowly headed for the alleyway's entrance while striding like a cat.

Bu Fang slowly walked out of the store. He stood at the entrance and expressionlessly looked toward the alleyway's entrance.

Ouyang Xiaoyi's large eyes immediately lit up when she spotted the big black dog slowly approaching them. She yelled out, "Blacky, save me!"

Yang Chen sniffed his nose that was slightly numb from the cold and puzzledly looked at the swarthy big black dog that was rather overweight...

The few guards were also looking at Blacky with weird expressions on their faces.

Did this girl really think a dog would be able to rescue her from the hands of a few Battle-Kings? Should they call her naive... or naive?

However, in the next moment, these people were all shocked by the big black dog that started speaking like a human.

"Obey this lord dog's words, let go of that girl..." Blacky's lukewarm voice sounded out of nowhere.

Chapter 99: Don't Break the Floor Tiles

Next to the Gate of Heavenly Mystery, the crown prince palace.

Inside the huge palace, the crown prince was sitting up straight, alone. His expression was grave and his eyes revealed the myriad of thoughts running through his mind. There were a few sheets of secret letters lying on the table in front of him.

"Zhao Musheng, that wily old fox... I knew he was the one behind all of this!" The crown prince's expression was agitated. He picked up one of the secret letters from the table and became even angrier as he looked at it. The letter was soon crumpled into a ball.

"If only Xushi was still around..." Ji Chengan thought as he let out a long sigh. If Xushi was around, he would probably be able to provide him with a good idea. At the very least, he would not appear as passive.

The emperor's sudden passing caught everyone by surprise. If the news was not accidentally leaked by one of the eunuchs working in the palace, they might still be in the dark.

"Abducting both Ouyang Xiaoyi and Yang Chen... This Zhao Musheng really is brazen. Nevertheless, there's no reason why we can't work together. If I agreed to his offer, that would be equivalent to gaining the support of both the Ouyang family and the Yang family... In that case, it wouldn't be easy for my second brother to overthrow me... even if he's colluding with the sects!" The crown prince muttered. Then, he unravelled the crumpled piece of secret letter once more and carefully examined it for a while. He seemed to have made some kind of huge decision in his mind.

...

Zhao Musheng lightly blew on the cup of tea in his hands. He took a sip of tea before he mildly asked, "What did you say? A few Battle-Kings can't even watch over two Battle-Spirit level brats?"

The complexion of the man in brocade robe, standing before him, suddenly became extremely pale. He hurriedly knelt down on the floor and fearfully said, "My lord, the fault lies with me. I've already sent some of the men to bring them back... But..."

"But what?" Zhao Musheng indifferently asked as he continued to drink his tea.

The man in brocade robe sneaked a peek at Zhao Musheng before he cautiously replied, "The Ouyang family's little princess and Yang family's heir are fleeing toward that mysterious store..."

"Mysterious store? Hmm? Are you talking about the place that has been the talk of the town recently? The restaurant that even the emperor himself personally visited?" Zhao Musheng's drinking movement suddenly paused as he puzzledly asked. He had heard some rumors about that little restaurant as well, but he did not know much about it.

However, from the data he gathered, he knew that the background of the restaurant was definitely not simple.

"A supreme beast and a puppet with the capability of repelling a seventh grade Battle-Saint? This store is really something else... Have you investigated them yet?" Zhao Musheng asked.

"We did, but we didn't find out anything," the man in brocade robe replied. That was the reason he was feeling fearful. If Ouyang Xiaoyi and Yang Chen escaped into that store, they would need to get through that store in order to catch them once again. However, the store... seemed to be out of the ordinary.

"Hmph! If you can't even accomplish something like this, what am I keeping you around for? I am spending tens of thousands of crystals on your intelligence network every year, yet you can't even find out anything about a little restaurant?" Zhao Musheng coldly sorted and said, while glancing at the man.

The man felt cold sweat running down his back.

"Forget it, perhaps this store really is more mysterious. On this vast continent, there are many unknown powers that we can't even imagine. It's not your fault that you can't find out anything. However... you must definitely bring the Ouyang family's girl and the Yang family's heir back here! If need be, you'll personally do it. At any rate, I want to see them standing in front of me."

That man's expression suddenly became ghastly. "My lord, but there's... a supreme beast watching over that store! Furthermore, even that iron puppet is not something a mere sixth grade Battle-Emperor like me could deal with."

"A supreme beast? Hmph... Do you really believe the rumors? Do you really think a supreme beast would act as a watchdog for a store? Even the Celestial Arcanum Sect, the most mysterious group within the ten great sects, doesn't have that capability, let alone some store."

Evidently, Zhao Musheng did not believe a supreme beast would be watching over a store. Perhaps the failure of both Xiao Meng and Eunuch Lian was just a fluke? They might have been accidentally deluded by that dog.

Zhao Musheng was very confident of his hypothesis because he had seen a real ninth grade supreme beast before. He knew how terrifying those existences were. How could one of them become a watchdog for a little restaurant... That was something completely unfounded.

Zhao Musheng's adamant attitude was very upsetting for the man in the brocade robe... However, there was nothing else he could do. He could only give it a shot. At the moment, the only choice he had was to believe that his master's conjecture was correct.

...

"There's actually such a wondrous dog in this world?! It's actually capable of human speech!" A fifth grade Battle-King was blankly staring at Blacky. He felt as if his world view was completely flipped over.

Yang Chen was also blankly staring at Blacky. This was his first time meeting Blacky and he did not expect this dog would actually start speaking.

"Let go of that girl... Is that what a dog like you should be saying?" Yang Chen thought while feeling dumbfounded.

"Hahaha! Is a fat dog like you planning to save a damsel in distress? This is just too..." The Battle-Kings were all laughing and were completely unable to stop.

Bu Fang was standing at the entrance of the store. He could hear their completely unstoppable laughter, but his expression was deadpan. A faint trace of pity for them appeared in his eyes.

The other Battle-Kings who behaved arrogantly in front of Blacky... were all dead.

While thinking about this, Bu Fang could not help but open his mouth as he suddenly said, "Lazy dog, go easy on them. Don't break the floor again. It was just repaired and repairing the tiles again would be... troublesome."

When Blacky heard Bu Fang's words, it immediately rolled its eyes and muttered under its breath. It could not be even bothered to reply.

The Battle-King that was restraining Ouyang Xiaoyi was frowning as he watched the scene unfold. Alarms were going off in his mind... A restaurant situated within an alleyway and a dog that was capable of human speech? He could not figure out why everything seemed so familiar.

"Why are we wasting our breath on a dog? This dog is so fat, this is just nice for us to have a dog meat hot pot! Delicious!" However, the other Battle-King was not taking the situation seriously. He was rolling up his sleeves as he walked toward Blacky with a sneer on his face. From his posture, he seemed to be... trying to catch a dog?

Blacky was looking at that Battle-King with sincere eyes as it stretched out an exquisite paw that was trembling.

"Hehe, you finally understood the situation. Too bad, it's already too late. There's no use even if you act cute!" That Battle-King suddenly started laughing.

However, in the next moment, when Blacky's paw lightly touched his body, the Battle-King's laughter was stifled and he became frozen on the spot.

"Hmm? What's going on?" The Battle-King restraining Ouyang Xiaoyi puzzledly asked with a frown.

As he finished speaking, he felt a terrifying gust of wind blew past his body—along with a human figure—causing his hair to flutter around.

Boom!!

A human figure was instantly shot through half of the imperial city and it pierced through countless amount of houses before ending up as a pile of meat paste on the ground.

"Oh, this way the ground won't be damaged. Bark," Blacky mildly said as an imperious aura suddenly burst forth from its eyes. In front of it, that Battle-King was no different from an ant.

The remaining Battle-King, who was restraining Xiaoyi, started trembling when he finally realized where he was.

According to the rumors, there was a black-hearted store situated within an alleyway inside the imperial city with a supreme beast watching over it... He originally thought the rumor was just a joke. However, his colleague was just sent flying and turned into meat paste with the touch of a single dog paw... If anyone dared to claim this dog was not a supreme beast, he would personally confront them!

At that moment, the Battle-King was kicking himself inwardly. He never expected the two brats would actually flee toward this store...

Suddenly, the Battle-King felt his hands went empty. Ouyang Xiaoyi had stomped on his face and broken free from his restraints. She landed on the ground and quickly made her escape.

"I..." The Battle-King's pupils constricted as he suddenly felt a dreadful feeling before a furry and cute dog paw tapped on his stomach.

It was a very light tap...

Chapter 100: The Tsundere Shota

Rumble!

When Song Tao hurried to the alleyway where the store was located, his body froze for a moment when a violent gust of wind suddenly blew past him. During that instant, he seemed to have spotted a pitiful figure within that gust of wind.

"What's going on?" Song Tao thought as he looked behind him in confusion. Then, he heard a loud noise. The ground started trembling and a cloud of dust was slowly rising from the debris in the distance.

Song Tao suddenly felt a chill coursing through his body.

"Oh, not bad. Doing it this way simplify things," Bu Fang said in satisfaction with a nod. At least, the alleyway's newly repaired quartzite flooring was not broken by Blacky's paws once more.

While Song Tao was still in a daze, two of the Battle-Kings were scrambling to escape. When they saw Song Tao, they fearfully shouted, "Sir... Sir! Hurry up and run! That dog... is too terrifying!"

Song Tao's heart sank. As he had expected... the mission failed. Not even four Battle-Kings were able to bring back Ouyang Xiaoyi and Yang Chen. How was he going to make a report when he got back?

However, Song Tao was unwilling to just leave like that. Therefore, he headed into the alleyway to face that terrifying big black dog who sent a Battle-King flying with a flick of its claw.

Blacky indifferently gave Song Tao a glance and rolled its eyes when it saw the latter's wary appearance. It lazily returned to the front of the store while striding like a cat and went back to sleep.

Meanwhile, Ouyang Xiaoyi was pulling Yang Chen into the store, while completely ignoring Song Tao who was standing at the alleyway's entrance. A gust of cold wind blew past, bringing a burst of chilliness.

"Brat, this is the place I mentioned, that... smelly boss' store. Even though the owner himself is so-so, the taste of his dishes are really good," Ouyang Xiaoyi said after she pulled Yang Chen into the store.

As Yang Chen assessed the store's environment, a look of disdain suddenly surfaced on his juvenile face. He held his arms across his chest as he said, "You were talking about this cramped little place? The furnishing is ordinary, the customers are ordinary as well... How could there be anything decent here? Were you lying to me?"

Yang Chen actually distrusted her sincere words? Ouyang Xiaoyi immediately became anxious. She gave Yang Chen a wide-eyed stare as she said, "Why would I lie to you? If I were really lying, then I'll get smelly boss to apologize to you!"

Next to them, Bu Fang was startled for a moment. A trace of confusion flashed across his face as he thought, "Why would I have to apologize if you're the one lying? Where's the logic in that?"

"Hmph! Do you think I care about his apology?" Yang Chen glanced at Bu Fang and laughed in disdain. Bu Fang was only a mere chef in his eyes. What could a chef do, ascend into the skies?

"You ignorant fellow, you'll soon understand how foolish your words are!" Ouyang Xiaoyi sneered as she turned to Bu Fang and said, "Smelly boss, give me a serving of Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs! We'll let him experience a real craving!"

Yang Chen pursed his lips. As his gaze swept toward the menu hung on the wall, his pupils constricted to nearly the size of a black sesame seed.

"Aren't these prices marked wrongly? Why are crystals used as the standard? Do you really think your dishes are panaceas?!" After seeing the prices on the menu, Yang Chen could not help but complain.

Bu Fang was almost automatically immune to his complaints and could not even be bothered to reply. So what if Yang Chen was complaining? Bu Fang was not going to lose any flesh from his complaints. If Yang Chen was going to taste his dishes, he would still have to order them... He would still have to submit to the price of the dishes.

With his skills, he was that confident.

Song Tao was unwilling to give up, so he stepped into the store as well. With a single glance, he caught sight of Yang Chen, who was expressing his disdain. Song Tao's eyes lit up as he thought, "The Yang family's heir, this is an important person. I must definitely bring him back with me."

"What are you having, look at the menu yourself." Before Song Tao could say anything, a cold voice rang out next to him.

Bu Fang was expressionlessly looking at Song Tao while pointing toward the menu behind his back.

Song Tao was startled for a moment. When he glanced at the menu, his nostrils slightly widened and steam gushed out... He thought, "Damn, this is a daylight robbery! The black-hearted store truly deserves its reputation!"

However, he was unwilling to give up like that. The fair and tender Ouyang loli was right there. The tsundere shota, Yang Chen, was standing in front of him as well. If Song Tao were to leave like this, it was not any different from giving up on eating two pieces of overwhelmingly fragrant Red Braised Meat when you were about to starve to death...

"Owner! Give me a serving of... Egg-Fried Rice!" Song Tao endured the pain in his heart as he ordered the Egg-Fried Rice, that cost one crystal per serving. His heart seemed to be bleeding. Earning crystals was not so easy nowadays!

When Ouyang Xiaoyi heard what Song Tao ordered, she immediately gave him a disdainful glance. She scornfully snorted and said, "Smelly boss, hurry up and cook my Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs that costs fifty crystals per serving!"

As the princess of the Ouyang family, she lacked anything but crystals!

"What about you? What are you ordering?" Bu Fang asked as he looked at Yang Chen.

"Since they've already ordered, then get me a serving of... Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine," Yang Chen said with his chin held high.

The corners of Bu Fang's mouth widened as he glanced at Yang Chen and said, "Children are not allowed to drink alcohol."

Yang Chen's body suddenly stiffened for a moment. His little eyes widened as he looked straight at Bu Fang, while the latter expressionlessly looked back at him. After a while, Yang Chen looked away in defeat... How exasperating!

"Forget it, give me a serving of Red Braised Meat!"

"Alright, wait a moment." Bu Fang nodded before turning around and heading into the kitchen.

Song Tao carefully found a seat and sat down. His eyes were constantly assessing his surroundings. At the entrance to the kitchen, he saw a mechanical figure... Was that the black-hearted store's puppet that could face a seventh grade Battle-Saint head-on?

When Whitey's round head suddenly turned and its mechanical red eyes met Song Tao's eyes, the latter hurriedly turned his gaze away in fear.

"Hmph! If the taste of the dishes here is terrible... I'll definitely look down on this place! How dare you charge such a high price for food that tastes terrible! I will also publicize to the entire imperial city and let everyone know that this place is a sham!" Yang Chen declared in a tsundere-like manner.

Ouyang Xiaoyi rolled her eyes. She was too lazy to care about this tsundere shota. At that moment, she just wanted to eat the smelly boss' dishes. After not eating for a day, she was feeling extremely hungry... She even lost weight!

Yang Chen was still rambling on by himself. However, the rich fragrance of meat soon wafted out from the kitchen.

The smell of meat slowly drifted out—like a piece of silk caressing their faces—giving them a false sense of reality. Ouyang Xiaoyi's exquisite nose was upturned as she furiously breathed in this meaty aroma. Her face was filled with happiness.

It was this aroma! This was the smelly boss' aroma!

After a while, a figure walked out from the darkness of the kitchen. Bu Fang's slender fingers were holding a porcelain plate containing the amber-colored Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs, which was overflowing with vibrant colors and light. Piping hot steam, accompanied with a rich fragrance, was rising from the plate.

Ouyang Xiaoyi was already quite eager to start eating. Her large eyes were staring straight at Bu Fang.

"Here's your Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs, take your time," Bu Fang said as he placed the plate in front of Ouyang Xiaoyi and patted her head.

Then, he returned into the kitchen and began cooking the other dishes.

The Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs was captivatingly fragrant. The smell alone was causing Yang Chen, who had been complaining all day, to enter into a daze. His eyes were staring straight at the amber-colored pieces of meat.

Even Song Tao could not help but be attracted by the aroma. However, he was more concerned about how he was going to snatch the two brats out of the store...

"Oh... without having to get into a fight," Song Tao timidly thought as he glanced at Whitey and the latter's mechanical eyes turned toward him once more.