

## Stay At home 351

### Chapter 351: Your Daddy Will Always be Your Daddy

“1... 1,200,000 copper coins!” Schonard stared at Mag with incredulity etched on his face. His voice spiked a few octaves as he exclaimed, “Are you delusional? Do you think this is Dukas Restaurant that you’re running here?”

Schonard had thought that it would cost him 20,000 copper coins at most. That was almost half of his spending money for the month, but if he could win Vivian’s heart, then the price would be well worth it.

However, Mag was asking for 1,200,000 copper coins! That was absolutely insane, and he was stipulating that cash had to be used!

Who would carry over a million copper coins with them to a restaurant?!

All of the customers in the restaurant were also a little stunned. Business was booming for the restaurant, and they charged high prices as well, so everyone could deduce that their daily revenue was quite high.

No one had done any specific calculations, but from Mag’s words, it sounded like they were making close to half a million per day.

Among all of the restaurants in the Aden Square, even the first-ranked Dukas Restaurant might not be able to compare to that.

“That’s already a discounted price.” Mag shrugged with a smile. “Besides, even if you have the money, the restaurant isn’t available for reservation anyway.”

A collective burst of laughter erupted in the restaurant. All of the customers were in a slightly foul mood from Schonard’s cocky declaration, but their spirits had been lifted again.

In terms of flexing, Mag was far superior to Schonard. “Your daddy will always be your daddy”—those words couldn’t ring any truer.

“Pfft...” Vivian almost burst into laughter upon hearing that. The boss here really was an interesting man. He wasn’t using any vulgar words, but his insults were all the more scathing for it.

However, she immediately discovered that she shouldn’t be chuckling under her breath. As such, she burst into raucous laughter, venting all of her frustration with Schonard in the process.

“You...” Schonard’s face immediately became flushed with rage. He was extremely infuriated upon hearing the customers’ laughter, and when Vivian joined in, he wanted to dig a hole in the ground and bury himself.

He was trying to take advantage of this opportunity to show off his charisma and gentlemanly side, but he had been reduced to a laughingstock. He had lived in Chaos City for two years, and it was the first time that he had ever been humiliated like this.

Mag handed a menu to Schonard, and suggested earnestly, "You can have a look at the menu first. You may not be able to reserve the whole restaurant, but you can have one of every dish like you declared earlier if you want. As for the spicy grilled fish, I think the insanely spicy level will suit you."

"Let me see what you're selling to deserve 1,200,000 copper coins." Schonard wrenched the menu from Mag's hand, and flipped it open with an enraged expression. His eyes then immediately widened, and he brought the menu closer to his face as he asked, "Are these prices correct?"

Schonard often visited high-end restaurants, so he was used to seeing a few expensive signature dishes here and there. However, the cheapest item on this menu was the tofu pudding, which cost 200 copper coins, while the braised chicken and rice cost 800! As for the most expensive spicy grilled fish, the smallest portion cost 1,200 copper coins, and the largest was labeled at 2,000!

The top-ranked Dukas Restaurant on the Aden Square food competition rankings sold a whole roast lamb for 2,500 copper coins, but that was enough for six people. Furthermore, they supplied free drinks with each order of the whole roast lamb, and they were still able to claim the top spot with that price.

But in this restaurant, which wasn't even on the rankings board, they were charging 2000 copper coins for a grilled fish. Surely even the largest grilled fish could only be enough for four people at most!

"Those are the correct prices. Every customer pays the same price, and I've never received any complaints." Mag shook his head with a smile.

These prices... Vivian opened her menu, and a hint of surprise also appeared on her face at the sight of the prices being charged here. She contemplated momentarily before nodding and thinking to herself, If the food really is as delicious as Uncle Robert says, then this isn't expensive.

However, with so many customers and such high prices, even if all of the customers only order the cheapest tofu pudding, their earnings would still be extremely high. They could easily rank as one of the top restaurants in the Aden Square based on daily earnings. It's really difficult to believe that this is a restaurant that has only been running for less than a month. If they can continue to expand, then it wouldn't be difficult at all for them to overtake Dukas Restaurant for the top spot. Vivian looked up at Mag with an intrigued expression. Not only had this man spoiled this month's Aden Square food competition rankings, it wouldn't be long before he tipped the entire restaurant industry in the Aden Square on its head. Is his food really that good? I have to taste it for myself.

"I'd like a spicy grilled fish with medium spice level and a sweet tofu pudding." Vivian closed the menu, and looked at Mag with a serious expression as she said, "I hope your dishes can live up to their hefty prices."

"My target is to always make the taste of my dishes live up to their monetary value. I'm sure you'll be satisfied." Mag smiled at Vivian, and his eyes lingered on her neck for a moment before he averted his gaze and turned away.

Schonard was clearly trying to show off to this handsome "young man" by trying to reserve the restaurant, and Mag initially had also thought that Schonard's sexual orientation was a little off. However, it appeared that this was actually a young woman. She either had an A cup chest or had bound her chest with some strapping, and her cover had most likely already been seen through by Schonard.

Has he noticed? A hint of caution welled up in Vivian's heart.

"I'll also take a spicy grilled fish, the largest one you have. As for the spice level..." Schonard turned to Mag. He didn't have 1,200,000 copper coins in cash, and even if he did, he wouldn't spend it just to reserve the restaurant for a night.

Furthermore, Mag wasn't going to let him reserve the restaurant even if he had the money, and if he were to keep bickering over that, it would only make appear barbaric in Vivian's eyes. He had already failed in his first attempt to flex, so he had to limit the damage. Even though he didn't normally eat a lot of spicy food, he wasn't going to back down in front of Vivian. Thus, he gritted his teeth, and said, "I want the insanely spicy level!"

"Alright, I'll have your orders ready soon." Mag smiled as he turned toward the kitchen. The reason why the insanely spicy level was referred to as such was because it was simply not something a normal person could handle.

Schonard was going to pay a heavy price for trying to show off in front of a woman.

Even Mag couldn't help but observe a minute of silence for his digestive system and his a\*shole. Even though he liked spicy food, he was still not insane enough to try the insanely spicy level.

Yabemiya heaved an internal sigh of relief, and went on to serve the next customer. It seemed that no matter what troubles were thrown at them, Mag could always resolve them with composure and efficiency.

All of the customers also began to focus on their meals. With Mag as the boss of the restaurant, they didn't have to worry about getting evicted, as he was a man of righteousness.

Schonard looked at Vivian with a smile, and asked, "May I sit here, brother?"

## **Chapter 352: My Eyes Sting**

"System, just the medium spice level is inducing wardrobe malfunctions; will the insanely spicy level make the customer explode?" Mag was a little concerned. The spicy grilled fish was heavily endorsed by the customers following its release, but most of them chose the mildly spicy and medium spice levels.

Urien was the only one who had asked for the super spicy level, and after taking his first bite, a vast expanse of water vapor rose from his body, making the restaurant appear as if it were a concert venue with dry ice wafting everywhere.

As for the insanely spicy level, that was the first order of its kind.

"Please do not doubt the safety standards of the food provided by the system!" The system's serious voice sounded, and it launched a long spiel. "All of the spicy grilled fish ingredients were carefully chosen by the system. The rainbow fish combines the best qualities from both grass carp and crocein croakers. It's very high in protein, and also contains traces of elemental selenium, which possesses anti-aging and nourishing properties. The tobasquin pepper derives from cross-breeding Tobasco and pequin peppers of the highest quality, and was grown on the poison fire island of the demon islands. They're baked by toxic flame daily, filtering out all impurities, and are imbued with the thermal energy

contained within those flames, so they're extremely useful for combating the cold. The wild ice heart pepper was planted in the extreme north of the Roth Empire, giving it a hint of refreshing coolness to complement its spicy taste. When used in conjunction with the tobasquin pepper, it can effectively nullify the fiery energy within the latter, preventing it from harming the consumer's body—"

"So that's why the ingredients cost me 600 copper coins just for a small portion?" Mag pursed his lips upon hearing the system.

"Your prices are set at at least twice the cost of the ingredients, so I'm sure the more the ingredients cost, the happier you are..." The system's disdainful voice sounded.

"Who told you that? My wish is to bring the best food to everyone for cheap prices, but life is too difficult, so I can only set prices this high," Mag responded in a serious voice. He then placed two marinated fish into the oven, and continued to work on making braised chicken and rice.

"Father, Ugly Duckling ate all my fishbones! Can I beat it up?" At that moment, Amy appeared in the entrance of the kitchen with a grumpy expression. She held a box in one hand and Ugly Duckling by the scruff of its neck in her other hand.

"Hmm?" Mag turned around upon hearing her complaints. The box that she was holding housed the skeleton of the fish that they had consumed for lunch, but almost all of the bones were gone, and the rest were in complete disarray.

"Meow~" Ugly Duckling was being held by the scruff of its neck, and it cried to Mag for help. However, it was looking quite guilty, which indicated that it was indeed the one who had messed up the fishbones.

"Alright, you can teach it a lesson." Mag shook his head with a resigned smile at the sight of the ruined fishbones. He had spent quite a bit of time washing and organizing the bones before carefully attaching them together using thread and needle, so he was a little frustrated that Ugly Duckling had ruined the fruits of his labor.

"Meow~" Ugly Duckling was hoping that Mag would save it, but he had already turned around, abandoning it.

"Alright." After receiving Mag's permission, Amy nodded with a solemn expression. She set the box in her hand aside before placing Ugly Duckling onto a stool, and scrunched up its chubby face in her little hands. She interrogated, "Ugly Duckling, do you know what you did wrong?"

"Meow~" Ugly Duckling hurriedly nodded with a pitiable expression in its sapphire eyes.

"What did you do wrong?" Amy asked.

Ugly Duckling turned, and pointed at the box of fishbones with its paw as a hint of desire flashed through its eyes.

"Do you feel like you did me a favor by leaving some?" Amy twisted its face back so she could look into its eyes.

"Meow~" Ugly Duckling nodded unconsciously before immediately shaking its head.

“Ugly Duckling!! How could you!!” Amy was a little angry as she squished Ugly Duckling’s face with her little hands.

What a smart little kitty, and what an adorable half-elf girl! Vivian’s eyes immediately lit up at the sight of Amy and Ugly Duckling. Her gaze then rested on Amy. She was most likely the half-elf girl that Luna often mentioned.

Even though they’re very adorable, I definitely don’t have the urge to hug them or anything. I hate annoying little kids and stuff. Vivian quickly averted her gaze.

The customers also looked at their adorable interaction with benevolent smiles on their faces. Aside from Mag’s unforgettable food, watching Amy play with her little orange kitten was also an attraction of the restaurant. Both of them were so cute that they were adorable no matter what they did.

Schonard sat nervously across from Vivian. He opened his mouth to say something on several occasions, but refrained from saying anything in the end. Normally, he was very good at smooth-talking the ladies, but those skills had completely deserted him. Vivian was the city lord’s daughter, so he didn’t dare to run his mouth; additionally, she was in male clothing, so he wasn’t sure if he should converse with her as a man or a woman.

Vivian’s eyes rested on Amy momentarily before looking away, making it appear as if she didn’t really like children. That small detail did not escape Schonard’s notice, and he smiled as he said, “Little delinquents really are annoying. I have to discipline a few annoying delinquents almost every day, teaching them how to be good people.”

“She’s quite an adorable kid, and she’s just disciplining a misbehaving kitten; how does that make her a delinquent?” Vivian pursed her lips as she looked at Schonard, and said, “In any case, shouldn’t you learn to be a decent person yourself before you try to teach others?”

Schonard was a little annoyed by the mockery in Vivian’s words, but he still repressed his vexation, and said, “The kitten is too small to understand anything. If it does something wrong, shouldn’t it be forgiven?”

“Heh, even if little girls make mistakes, they have to be disciplined so they can learn from an early age.” Vivian pursed her lips, and didn’t say anything further. She didn’t want to talk to Schonard anymore. He was just an arrogant rich boy, and not a very smart one at that, so she was not interested in wasting any more words with him. In comparison, the owner of this restaurant was a lot more intriguing.

“Looks like the insanely spicy level isn’t spicy enough.” Mag tossed another handful of tobasquin peppers into the wok. He was also very good at educating delinquents like him.

Yabemiya placed a medium-sized grilled fish in front of Vivian, and smiled as she said, “Here’s your grilled fish, please enjoy.”

“Thank you.” Vivian nodded. Her eyes had been completely drawn to the grilled fish before her. It was about the width of a hand, and was roughly 30 centimeters in length, enough for about two people. The rich spicy aroma of the fish wafted toward her, causing her to salivate involuntarily.

“Gulp.” Schonard also swallowed at the sight of Vivian’s fish. He was quite skeptical of Mag’s prices, but he had to admit that the aroma of the fish was far too alluring.

“Here’s your insanely spicy grilled fish.” Yabemiya soon arrived at their table again with an even larger grilled fish. She placed it in front of Schonard, and a fierce spicy aroma swept toward him. Schonard instinctively closed his eyes. The aroma... was making his eyes sting.

### **Chapter 353: A Smoking Red Tiger**

A ferocious spicy aroma wafted through the air, and all of the customers around Schonard were drawn to his spicy grilled fish. Everyone had seen that an insanely spicy option was available, but no one had ordered it yet.

The large grilled fish was over half a meter long, and encompassed almost half the entire table. There was a dense layer of red chili peppers covering the fish, revealing only its head and tail. Just looking at that bed of peppers struck one with the urge to down a glass of ice-cold water, and the aroma wafting from the dish was quite formidable.

It was indeed very insane.

Mag had suggested that he order the insanely spicy level, and he actually did it; he really was a brave warrior. Everyone was looking forward to seeing his reaction after eating the fish. There was an orc who had a medium spice grilled fish, and his leather belt had snapped in half.

Vivian also glanced at Schonard’s grilled fish with a hint of surprise in her eyes. Due to her condition, she couldn’t eat too much spicy or stimulating foods.

As such, she was forced to eat a bland diet at home every day, and she was really craving some actual food. She did want something with flavor, but it was clear that the insanely spicy level was not for her. Her illness was most likely incurable, but she still wanted to live for a few more years.

However, if her body could permit it, she actually really did want to try the insanely spicy level grilled fish, just to see exactly how insane it was.

Schonard looked at the bright red grilled fish in front of him, and he could barely open his eyes in the face of its insanely spicy aroma. He was suddenly regretting his decision.

However, he quickly sensed the admiring gazes from the customers around him, and even Vivian seemed to be paying attention to him. As such, he was immediately reinvigorated, and he whipped his red hair to the side as he put on a nonchalant expression. He picked up his chopsticks, and extracted a morsel of fish meat.

Many of the customers in the restaurants had paused to stare at Schonard. Mag had just finished cooking a portion of Yangzhou fried rice, and he also stopped to look at Schonard with a hint of curiosity in his eyes. He also wanted to see what reaction Schonard would have after eating the insanely spicy grilled fish.

Vivian had already extended her chopsticks toward her own fish, but she slowly withdrew her hand as she stared at Schonard. She knew that Mag hadn’t suggested the insanely spicy level to Schonard because the former was a kind person. Mag appeared to be quite amicable, but he had quite a sharp tongue, and was definitely not some benevolent restaurant owner.

Schonard was thoroughly enjoying his time in the spotlight. Even though it was quite awkward that he had failed in his attempt to reserve the entire restaurant, he was now taking a step that no one had taken. In the process, he had also successfully drawn Vivian's attention to him.

"So what if there are a few more chilis in here than normal? Heh, let me conquer this so-called insanely spicy level." Schonard wore a disdainful expression as he made his declaration, and placed the morsel of fish meat into his mouth.

"Boom!"

The spicy juices poured into his mouth, and he felt as if something in his mind had just exploded. He was stunned for several seconds before returning to his senses, upon which his tongue had gone entirely numb. He felt as if he had just taken a sip of molten lava rather than a bite of fish.

His mouth was scorching hot yet completely numb, and it felt as if it didn't even belong to him. He couldn't even spit out the fish, as his mouth was unconsciously chewing on.

After biting into the fish, its succulent flesh melted in his mouth. Even though his entire mouth had already gone numb, he was somehow still able to clearly taste the sumptuous fish and its crispy skin. Even though the scorching sensation in his mouth wasn't alleviated as a result, the delicious taste distracted him somewhat from his pain.

The instant he placed the fish meat into his mouth, his head of red hair completely stood on ends as if he had been electrocuted. His face turned red, then green, and then back to red, making it appear as if he were a human traffic light.

The most impressive of all was the fact that smoke was rising from his head like it was a chimney, and it was as if his red hair had been set alight.

"Wow, a smoking red tiger! That's awesome!" Amy's mouth was slightly agape as she clapped her little hands together.

"Pffft..." Vivian immediately burst into laughter upon hearing that. She was simply too adorable; Vivian was completely unable to suppress the urge to hug her.

"The insanely spicy level really is insane. Look at him; there's smoke rising from his head! His new nickname should be red lion!"

"No, you forgot the smoking part!"

"Hahaha, Amy is so adorable! I want to abduct her."

"You'd be sorry if you tried; she's got two 10th-tier magic casters looking out for her."

"After this ordeal, that guy will probably never want to eat anything spicy ever again. Looks like we have to be careful when we talk to Mag in the future. Otherwise, if he recommends an insanely spicy grilled fish to us, we'll have to finish it even if we cry the entire time."

All of the customers burst into laughter upon seeing that. Schonard was the one who had ordered the insanely spicy grilled fish. He was the perfect case study of a flexer who failed.

The insanely spicy level is not just adding a bit more chili than usual. Mag looked at the black chili pepper on his chopping board. That was the legendary insane chili pepper. As the name suggested, it was insanely spicy, and was a refined version of Naga Viper pepper that the system had grown in this world.

It contained an extremely high level of capsaicin, but after the system's refinements, the damage and stimulation it caused to the body was minimized. However, it was named the insane chili pepper for a reason, so it was impossible for it not to have side effects; it was just that those side effects were all acceptable for the average person.

Hopefully, the delinquent will learn how to be a decent person now. Mag turned away with a smile, and continued cooking.

Schonard could hear the Vivian and the customers' laughter, and was slightly enraged. He had still underestimated just how spicy the dish would be. However, he didn't have the spare mental capacity to focus on his anger. His chopsticks were flying through the air, shoveling morsels of fish meat into his mouth. His mouth had already become completely numb, and only the delicious fish could slightly alleviate the burning sensation, so he could only eat without pause.

The flavor of the fish was simply too exquisite. Schonard had never had such delicious fish in his life, and he simply couldn't—and didn't want to—stop. As he ate, tears flowed uncontrollably down his face.

He basked in pain and pleasure with tears and snot running down his face, and had completely forgotten that he was trying to show his gentlemanly side to Vivian.

This is the first time I've ever seen a man cry from eating chili peppers. Vivian cast a disdainful glance at him before having a taste of her own fish. Her eyes immediately lit up as she did so, but her expression then quickly changed as she could feel the strapping around her chest tearing open...

Chapter 354: There's Nothing There!

"Rip."

Vivian could clearly hear the sound of her strapping tearing, and her hand that was holding her chopsticks immediately faltered. She looked down, only to see her flat chest inflating like a balloon, and her eyes widened as she hurriedly ducked her chest under the table so no one would notice.

Why is this happening?!

Vivian was in complete shock, and her cheeks were also quite flushed. In order to put on this dashing set of male attire, she had spent a long time wrapping her chest. However, all of her efforts were being undone after taking just her first bite of spicy grilled fish. What could she do?!

Just what was in this spicy grilled fish? Schonard's head looked as if it were about to explode, and now, her chest strapping had torn open! If she were wearing some loose clothing, then everything would be revealed! This was an indecent dish!

She quickly unbuttoned her top, and leaned forward slightly as she sat. The pose was a little awkward, but her clothes were no longer as tight after being unbuttoned, so the new bulge that her chest was creating didn't appear as obvious and noticeable.



The sound of the strapping tearing wasn't very loud, and Schonard was completely immersed in his fish, so he didn't notice. None of the other customers were paying attention to her, either. Thus, she heaved a sigh of relief before turning back to her fish with glowing eyes.

The spicy juices presented a numbing sensation that she had never experienced before, and it was completely irresistible.

The crispy fish skin was enveloped in the juices, and after biting through the skin, she could taste the soft succulent flesh underneath. Even though the fish had been bathing in those spicy juices, the flesh still managed to retain much of its original delicious flavor.

All of her taste buds seemed to have been awakened instantaneously, and they were treated to an incredibly tasty feast. This was the most delicious fish that Vivian had had in over 10 years; no other fish dish could compare to it.

Furthermore, there really weren't any small fishbones that she had to contend with. Its sumptuous flavor reminded her of the saltwater fish that her father's friend had brought back for them from the ocean. That fish was also very succulent, and didn't have any small annoying bones, either. However, the dish that their chef cooked with it was completely incomparable to this spicy grilled fish.

Was 1600 copper coins for a dish expensive?

Even though Vivian felt like the dish was a bit indecent for its ability to cause wardrobe malfunctions, she didn't think it was expensive at all. Such a delicious flavor could no longer be measured using money. Just as Mag had said, the flavor of his dishes more than lived up to their prices.

He had said that very confidently, and he had delivered on that promise.

Just this dish alone was enough to vindicate Robert's words. This restaurant really could be a major attraction in the Aden Square, or even the entire Chaos City.

There was no other restaurant on the Norland Continent that could make such delicious food. If even a restaurant like this couldn't make it onto the Aden Square food competition rankings board, then the food competition shouldn't exist, as it no longer reflected the truth.

Vivian held her chopsticks, and prepared to extract a second morsel of fish.

"Eh? Big brother, your chest seems to have expanded." A mellow voice suddenly sounded.

Vivian's hand and expression immediately stiffened. Amy had made her way over to Vivian's table without her noticing, and she was currently holding Ugly Duckling in her arms as she stared at Vivian's chest with an adorkable expression. Vivian really wanted to dig a hole and bury herself in it!

'Did she have to be so loud?!

'Arrrgh!'

Sure enough, many of the customers had their attention drawn to her, and Schonard also looked up, causing Vivian to fly into a panicked frenzy. She immediately adjusted her clothes to further obscure her chest, and squeezed out a smile as she said, "Your eyes must be playing tricks on you, little girl. If you say things without thinking, you'll be taken away by a demon."

“That’s alright, Father will protect me.” Amy wasn’t fearful in the slightest as she shook her head. She then stared intently at Vivian’s chest for a while before looking up at her nervous face. She shrugged, and said, “Alright, I’ll take your word for it then.”

She turned round and departed to continue disciplining Ugly Duckling.

“There’s nothing there!” Vivian emphasized in a serious voice. She didn’t know whether she should laugh or cry at the sight of Amy’s skeptical expression. Little kids really were still quite difficult for her to deal with, especially when they weren’t scared of demons. Thankfully, she didn’t insist on throwing up a fuss. Otherwise, things could have turned a lot more awkward.

Vivian glared at Schonard with a hint of warning in her eyes. She could tell from Schonard’s reaction that he already knew who she was, and was only pretending not to recognize her.

Schonard immediately lowered his head, and continued to feast on his grilled fish. He was trying to leave Vivian with a good impression of him, which would hopefully lead to something happening between them, but his efforts had been thwarted repeatedly as soon as he walked into this restaurant.

With that in mind, tears began to flow down his face again. It wasn’t because he was too distraught; it was simply because the dish was too spicy, and he was unable to control his tear glands.

Everyone soon turned their attention away from Vivian after that small episode, leaving her to bask in the enjoyment of dining on her grilled fish. Her appetite had been captivated by the delicious grilled fish, and she didn’t have to worry about filtering about any small fishbones, so she was able to eat as quickly as she wanted, and she was completely unable to stop!

Beads of sweat began to appear on her forehead, and as she swallowed the grilled fish, a scorching sensation slid down her throat before spreading through her entire body. It was a feeling that was akin to bathing in a hot spring.

However, Vivian didn’t have the spare mental capacity to assess her body’s reaction to the dish, as she was completely focused on enjoying its flavor. At home, she would be able to eat half of a fish of this size at most. However, she felt like she could inhale the entire fish today with ease!

Looks like the spicy grilled fish will become very popular in this world as well. However, the rankings board issue is still a problem. The Catering Association has been corrupt for a long time, and that’s something that will be difficult to change in a short time. Looks like I’ll have to pay the city lord’s castle a visit tomorrow, or get the customers to sign a petition or something like that... Mag thought to himself with furrowed brows.

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Tonis looked at Warren as the two arrived outside the restaurant. He wore an excited look on his fat face, and rubbed his hands together as he asked, “President, didn’t we already remove this restaurant from our rankings board? Why are we still paying it a visit? Should we cause some trouble for the restaurant, and force it to close down?”

**Chapter 355: Isn’t That Right, President Warren?**

“No, we’re only here to eat today.” Warren shook his head. He turned to the perplexed Tonis with a smile, and said, “Robert must have already reported everything to the city lord. Even though the city lord is very busy every day, so there’s no way he can focus too much attention on a restaurant, Robert worked at the city lord’s castle for many years, and his words would hold more sway than ours. As such, we’re here to research this restaurant ourselves so that we’ll be prepared if the city lord ever asks about it.”

“But the city lord himself won’t know anything about this restaurant, so can’t we just make something up to placate him?” Tonis was still confused.

“The city lord is the master of Chaos City, and one of the smartest people on the Norland Continent. Do you really think you can just make something up to fool him?” Warren shook his head with a smile as he sighed with emotion. “Every time I see the city lord, I am stunned by his exceptional talents. How could there be a 10th-tier knight with such a brilliant mind? I am truly reverent toward him.”

A reverent expression also appeared on Tonis’ face, and he asked, “Then what are we here to do today?”

“Compared to us, the city lord will definitely be more inclined to trust Robert. Hence, we must understand more about this restaurant than Robert; we must identify its fatal flaws so we can be prepared for anything. Having a direct altercation with the owner of the restaurant is the dumbest way to do things. As a vice president of the Catering Association, I trust you know what you should be doing, and what you shouldn’t be doing.” Warren’s smile faded, and he glanced at Tonis before striding toward the restaurant’s door.

Tonis’ expression changed slightly as he ducked his head, and he also entered the restaurant.

...

“Burp...”

After devouring an entire spicy grilled fish, including every last strand of cellophane noodles, Vivian burped with contentment. Only then did she notice that her entire body was drenched in sweat. Even her hair was completely wet, and she felt very warm, just as if she had just taken a relaxing bath.

The spicy taste in her mouth was slowly receding, but the elated smile lingered on her face. She was a little bloated, but she was in far too much bliss to care.

“I’m ready for the bill.” Vivian raised her hand.

“That’ll be 1600 copper coins, Big Brother Moustache.” Amy made her way over to Vivian before extending her little hand.

Vivian raised an eyebrow upon hearing that. She did indeed have a mustache glued onto her face, but it was still a strange feeling to have such a nickname assigned to her by this little girl. After all, she was a gorgeous little girl herself!

However, her vexation quickly faded at the sight of Amy’s adorkable expression. As expected, if one was adorable enough, they could do whatever they wanted and not suffer any consequences. Thus, she proceeded to reach for her purse.

“I... I’ll bay duh bill!” Schonard immediately stood up, slurring with his numb tongue as he reached for his wallet.

“I don’t need you to pay for me. Here are 16 gold coins. See you next time, little girl.” Vivian placed the coins in Amy’s outstretched little hand, and harrumphed in a tsundere voice at Schonard before leaving the restaurant.

“Bye bye, Big Brother Moustache,” Amy responded before turning to Schonard, and saying, “Smoking Red Lion, do you want to pay your bill as well? That’ll be 2000 copper coins.”

“S... Smoking Red Lion?” Schonard’s eyes widened upon hearing that. When had he been given that nickname? He looked at Vivian’s departing figure, then down at the half-finished grilled fish before him; his numb tongue and scorching throat begged for more fish. He hesitated momentarily before sitting down, and digging into his meal again.

In that instant, nothing was more important to him than his grilled fish. His body’s instinctive craving had overcome his logical thinking capacity. In other words, the fish was simply irresistible.

Vivian walked out the door, and was immediately greeted by the sight of Warren and Tonis. A hint of surprise appeared on her face as she instinctively lowered her head, even though she was in disguise. After getting out of earshot, she murmured to herself, “Wasn’t that fatso the president of the Catering Association? Didn’t he just remove this restaurant from their rankings board today? Why is he coming here? This restaurant has an exemplary environment, service, and food, all of which deserve five-star ratings. It’s constantly packed to the rafters with customers, and its spicy grilled fish should be placed at number one on the ranking board. I have to tell father to stand up for them when I get back. If this restaurant closes down because of the Catering Association, where am I going to find such delicious grilled fish?”

“I’m only doing this for the food though; it’s not like this has anything to do with the owner or his daughter.”

A gust of wind blew past, and Vivian shivered as her clothes were already drenched with sweat. She quickly got onto a horse-drawn carriage, and went back to the city lord’s castle.

The decor is very good, and there are many customers, but everything is set up in a way that it’s not overly crowded. However, there are no racial areas, nor any restrictions on the races of their customers, so that could result in discomfort for some people. There really are many customers here. It’s already a full house, and there are still people lining up in droves. Despite that, it’s not rowdy in the slightest, and the environment deserves a five-star rating. As soon as Warren entered the restaurant, he began to formulate his own internal assessment.

Yabemiya made her way over to them, and smiled as she greeted, “Hi there, we currently have many customers at the moment, so you’ll most likely have to wait a while for a meal.”

“No problem.” Warren nodded as he sized up Yabemiya with a hint of surprise on his face. Ever since a restaurant had been demolished by a half-dragon waiter a year ago, there were almost no half-breed waiters left in the Aden Square. Who would have thought that there would be a half-dragon waitress here?

However, this half-dragon waitress was very bubbly and amicable, and her smile instilled within one a sense of comfort. Even if she were a half-dragon, Warren was willing to give her a five-star rating.

“Why is there a half-dragon waitress here?” In contrast, Tonis was a lot less tolerant, and he furrowed his brows at the sight of Yabemiya. His voice wasn’t very loud, but Yabemiya still heard what he said, and her expression changed slightly as she clenched her fists unconsciously.

Right at that moment, Sally made her way over to Yabemiya with a stack of plates in her hands. She looked Tonis in the eye, and asked, “Are there any laws in Chaos City stating that half-dragons can’t be employed as restaurant waiters?”

“Not using half-breed waiters is an unspoken rule among restaurants in the Aden Square; that’s just as applicable as a law.” Tonis was a little stunned by Sally’s beauty, but he was used to being fawned over by restaurant owners, so he was naturally irked by the fact that a waitress was talking back to him.

Many of the customers turned to look at them, and they were a bit surprised to see Warren and Tonis. Warren was the one who released the Aden Square food competition rankings every month, so everyone was familiar with him. They had just taken Mamy Restaurant off their rankings board today, so what were they here for now? Were they trying to cause trouble? That certainly appeared to be the case, considering how they were picking on a waitress here as soon as they walked in.

“Sorry, maybe I opened my restaurant too late, so I don’t know about any so-called unspoken rules. She is one of the best service staff members in my restaurant, and I believe the law is much more applicable than any unspoken rule under all circumstances.” Mag’s voice suddenly sounded at that moment, and he appeared with two plates of Yangzhou fried rice in his hands. He looked at Warren with a smile, and asked, “Isn’t that right, President Warren?”

### **Chapter 356: I Call Bullsh\*t!**

Mag stood behind Sally and Yabemiya with two plates of fried rice in his hands, and faced off against Warren. The atmosphere in the restaurant suddenly seemed to have coagulated a little.

The removal of Mamy Restaurant from the rankings board had drawn ire from all of its customers, but Boss Mag was most likely the most enraged one.

Even though he was still his usual smiling self, and didn’t display any negative emotions in front of his customers, one would assume that he was still harboring animosity toward the president of the Catering Association.

However, as expected of Mag, he was completely different from other restaurant owners. Under normal circumstances, a restaurant owner would definitely try to curry favor with the president at the expense of his employees so that he could get his restaurant back on the rankings board.

However, Mag wasn’t doing that. He was going to back his staff until the very end, and it didn’t matter to him that he was facing the president of the Catering Association.

Is Boss Mag going to have a showdown with them?

The same thought appeared in everyone's mind. If Boss Mag was going to stand up for the restaurant, then they were all prepared to back him up. After all, everyone was still fuming about how the restaurant had been removed from the rankings.

"That's right, the laws of Chaos City take priority above all else." Warren looked at Mag with a fake smile, and his narrow eyes narrowed even further as he replied, "However, unspoken rules have to be respected as well. Regardless of whether you opened your restaurant late or not, you should abide by those rules."

"That makes sense. After all, all rules should be respected, but if those rules were made more clear and transparent, they would be more worthy of respect and acknowledgment." Mag looked at Warren, and smile also faded from his face as he said, "President Warren, I'm not sure if you've heard about how Mamy Restaurant was removed from the Aden Square food competition rankings today. If the true purpose of the rankings board really is to help customers find delicious food, then according to those rules, our restaurant should be very high on the rankings board, so why was it removed for no reason? If possible, I would like a reasonable explanation from you. Your tickets are very expensive, and I bought tens of thousands of them, only for you to disqualify me from the rankings. That's not a very proper thing to do."

Mag had seen a portrait of Warren in the documents from the detective agency. Even though the portrait was a little different from the actual person, there was no mistaking his fat face and the mole on his glabella.

The one standing behind him was clearly one of his colleagues. Judging from his bulging stomach, he was most likely a high-ranking official in the Catering Association as well.

Mag was a little surprised that these two would come to dine at his restaurant after removing him from the rankings just this morning. It was quite easy to deduce that they clearly didn't harbor any good intentions.

He was concerned that there would be nowhere for him to press his case, so seeing as these two had arrived on his doorstep, he was going to discuss things with them out in the open. All of the customers present were his witnesses, and this was his home court.

All of the customers stirred upon hearing Mag's words. Mag had cut straight to the chase, and wasn't worried about offending anyone at all. However, his words also echoed the confusion and rage in everyone's hearts. They were all waiting for an official explanation from the Catering Association.

"What are you trying to say? All of the other restaurants have remained in the rankings board, and yours was the only one that was removed; do you not know why?" Tonis was a little vexed because of Mag's surly demeanor.

He was the one who had instigated the incident by questioning Yabemiya's service credentials, but he didn't see Mag as someone that was worthy of as much as second glance. He was enraged by the fact that Mag was airing doubts about the Catering Association's integrity, and he immediately tried to strike back.

"If our restaurant was removed from the rankings board because two of our dishes made it into the top 30, four made it into the top 50, and all five made it into the top 100, thereby taking too many spots,

then I have nothing to say.” Mag turned to Tonis with a mocking smile, and retorted, “You must be from the Catering Association as well, right? Even though you don’t have a uniform, your figure certainly fits the bill, so you’re quite easy to identify.”

“Hahaha!”

“I suddenly understand why Amy talks like that—she inherited it from her father!”

“The moral of the story is: don’t mess with Boss Mag, or you’ll get hurt by his sharp tongue!”

All of the customers burst into laughter upon hearing Mag’s words. They had only seen his friendly and benevolent side, so they didn’t think that he could be so savage with his words!

“You, you, you...” Tonis’ fat cheeks trembled with rage. He was used to having restaurant owners suck up to him, so he didn’t know how to respond to such scathing mockery.

“As the Catering Association of Chaos City, our employees will inevitably have to sample a lot of delicious cuisine as part of their jobs. Only after tasting the food for ourselves can we endorse it to our customers. That is the heart and soul of the Aden Square food competition. After sampling all that delicious food, our bodies have inevitably become like this. I’ve never been ashamed of my portly figure. I believe it is a manifestation of the responsibility placed on all employees of the Catering Association. It is the heart of the Catering Association.” Warren looked at Mag with a serious expression and immediately turned the tables on him, claiming the moral high ground in the process.

Mag’s eyes gradually lit up as he looked at Warren. In comparison to Tonis, who was useless in a war of words, Warren was a genius.

Through his response, he was able to attribute his obesity to a sense of responsibility, instantly turning the tides in their war of words. Mag had rarely ever encountered such a formidable adversary in a war of words in the past.

Mag smiled, and said, “Your portly figure may be a manifestation of your heart, but too much fat can cause a series of cardiovascular diseases. When that time comes, you’ll indeed be able to feel your heart.”

“Our Catering Association’s promise to everyone is that we won’t miss out on any delicious food. For that mission, all of the Catering Association’s employees, including myself, are willing to do whatever it takes, even if it means sacrificing our health and our lives.” A smile also appeared on Warren’s face as he said, “The decision to remove your restaurant from the rankings board was made by me. We received many reports and complaints from restaurants and customers alike, so we decided to remove your restaurant in accordance with our rule and regulations. Tonight, Vice President Tonis and I have come here to fulfill our promise of not missing out on any delicious food, so we’re here purely to dine. However, it appears that you don’t welcome us.”

I call bullsh\*t! Mag chuckled coldly in his heart. It certainly was through no luck that this guy was able to maintain the Aden Square food competition for so long. All of the barbed insults thrown at him were completely nullified, and Mag was unable to press the issue any further.

However, if they had come for a meal, then that was what they were going to get.

“Of course we welcome you. We welcome all paying customers. Please wait for a moment until some seats open up. I have to get back to the kitchen, so I’ll be taking my leave now,” Mag said with a smile, and emphasized the words “paying customers”. He then delivered the two plates of fried rice to their designated tables before going back into his kitchen.

### **Chapter 357: I’ll... Get One of Everything**

“Where’s the young mistress?”

In the city lord’s castle, there was a room with pink decor and pink furniture. Michael was standing in the room, and he was looking at the pile of pillows that had been stuffed under the blankets with a slightly angry expression.

A maid stood beside him with a slightly fearful expression, and explained, “The young mistress... she said she wasn’t feeling well, so she went to bed, and then... Well, as you can see, Master, we don’t know where she is, either.”

The young mistress was always sneaking out like this, and the city lord never pinned the blame on them in the end, but it was difficult to remain calm in the face of his fury.

“Perhaps the young mistress went out to eat something again. She should be back soon,” another maid chimed in. She shared a closer bond with the young mistress, so she knew that Vivian had snuck out for some food. However, what she didn’t expect was that the city lord would suddenly return home earlier; he wanted to have a meal with his daughter and wife, thus leading to the current situation.

“You can go downstairs. I’ll wait for her here.” The rage on Michael’s face receded as he dismissed the two maids. There was a hint of resignation in his eyes. He knew what kind of personality his daughter had. She refused to listen even to him, so how were two maids supposed to keep her in check?

“Yes.” The two maids immediately scurried downstairs as if they had been absolved of a cardinal sin, closing the door behind them as they left.

She must be craving some foods again. She’s had too much medicine over the years, and there are too many things that she’s not allowed to eat... Whom can I go to to cure her? Michael sighed as he sat alone in the room. The wrinkles at the corners of his eyes appeared especially pronounced in that moment. The powerful lord of Chaos City appeared slightly frail and exhausted.

...

Boss is such a good person. Yabemiya stared at Mag’s departing figure, and warmth flowed through her heart. With Mag standing beside her, she never had to worry about any doubts directed toward her half-dragon bloodline. He was like an umbrella that shielded her from the rain.

Sally took a glance at Yabemiya before making her way to the kitchen with the dishes in her hands. That was also the reason why she was gradually falling in love with this place. She didn’t have to worry about any politics or anyone stabbing her in the back. All she had to do was focus on her daily tasks.

“So he’s just going to leave us hanging like this?” Tonis looked on as Mag entered the kitchen. He had thought that they would take higher priority, and that Mag would organize them seats at the very least. However, that was not the case, and they were being asked to line up like normal customers.



“Just imagine yourself as a customer. Perhaps we’ll really be able to taste something different today.” Warren was quite calm and collected in contrast. He was observing the customers around him, and he could see the blissful expressions on their faces as they enjoyed their meals. Those expressions didn’t lie.

Back when he’d gone to dine at restaurants with Lorry, the latter had taught him how to determine whether a customer was truly enjoying their meal from their facial expressions. That was an important skill in their line of work as only food that could bring enjoyment to customers was truly delicious food.

As such, he was slightly surprised by the expressions on the faces of the restaurant’s customers. Never in any restaurant had he seen all customers so immersed in their food that blissful expressions were appearing involuntarily on their faces.

Everyone was enjoying the delicious food that they were expecting; that much was apparent from their facial expressions. Warren had thought that it was impossible to see something like this in a restaurant, but it was taking place right before his eyes.

Soon, their eyes fell on Schonard, who was eating an absurdly large fish. From the section of the skeleton that had been revealed, they could tell just how large a fish it must have been initially. However, that fish was close to being completely devoured by that young man.

What was even more curious was that as he ate, white smoke was rising from his head. All of his clothes appeared to have been drenched with water, and his lips were so swollen and red that they appeared a little purple. Despite that, his chopsticks simply refused to rest, and he panted heavily as he ate. He was also completely immersed in his own world with his grilled fish.

“What fish is that young man eating?” Warren turned to Yabemiya with a curious expression. He had never seen fish cooked that way, and it was also the first time he was seeing a dish that was still being heated even after being served onto the table.

Furthermore, that dish wasn’t one of the five Mamy Restaurant dishes on the rankings board, so it was most likely a new dish.

“That’s the spicy grilled fish; he picked the insanely spicy level,” Yabemiya explained. Her demeanor had cooled significantly after discovering that they were the president and vice president of the Catering Association. She was furious that their restaurant had been removed from the rankings.

“Heh, insanely spicy level? How spicy is it? It doesn’t look all that spicy to me.” Tonis pursed his lips with disdain.

“I’m not sure exactly how spicy it is myself. You’ll know when you taste it, though,” Yabemiya said with a smile.

“Alright, then I’ll get an insanely spicy fish.” Tonis felt like he was being looked down on by Yabemiya, and immediately tried to prove a point.

“The spicy grilled fish has small, medium, and large sizes. Which size would you like?” Yabemiya asked.

Tonis hesitated momentarily before replying, “I’ll get a medium size.”

“Alright, we’ll bring on the food once you two get seated.” Yabemiya nodded. If it were another customer, she would remind them that the insanely spicy level was not something an ordinary person could handle. However, she didn’t feel like extending that courtesy to such a despicable man.

“Tonis, when did you start eating spicy food?” Warren chuckled.

“I’m not actually a fan of spicy food, but I feel like this restaurant is merely trying to pull the wool over our eyes. What’s this about insanely spicy? I reckon it’s all a ruse.” Tonis gave an unconcerned smile.

“That might not be the case.” Warren shook his head as he looked at Schonard. However, seeing as that young man was still unwilling to put down his chopsticks despite how spicy his fish was, it had to be quite a delicious dish.

After waiting for a long time, Warren and Tonis finally managed to get seats. They were seated next to a big minotaur demon, and Tonis wiped the cold sweat from his forehead. He was feeling immense pressure just from sitting next to the demon. Thankfully, the latter was immersed in a bowl of soft white tofu pudding, and didn’t even take a glance at Tonis.

“Tonis, what do you want to eat aside from the grilled fish?” Warren opened the menu. He’d already known the prices in advance, so he wasn’t too surprised by what he saw.

Tonis hesitated momentarily before a hint of embarrassment appeared on his face, and he replied, “I want... one of everything.”

### **Chapter 358: This Flavor is Amazing!**

“Creak~”

The door was gently pushed open, and a sneaky figure slipped into the room before heaving a long sigh of relief. She stretched lazily, and burped as she fiddled with the automatic oil lamp beside her door. As she did so, she murmured to herself, “Thank heavens I wasn’t caught. Otherwise, those guys are going to report me to Father again.”

“Those guys are really annoying, right?” A voice echoed in response.

“Yes! They’re so annoy—” Vivian replied instinctively before her expression abruptly stiffened. The oil lamp slowly lit up her room, and she turned with a panicked expression toward the table, where Michael was sitting. “Father! Why are you here? Weren’t you supposed to be back really late tonight?”

“If I hadn’t come back early, I wouldn’t have caught you, you greedy little cat.” Michael wore a serious expression on his face. He was also feeling quite resigned at the sight of Vivian in male attire.

“Who told you that? I only went out for some fresh air; I’m not a greedy cat... Burp~” Vivian stared at up at the ceiling with a blush on her face. She was trying to defend herself, but had burped at a critical juncture to give her away; how embarrassing!

“Remember to wipe your mouth clean before you come in. Otherwise, I can tell that you went out for food even if you don’t burp.” Michael couldn’t help but burst into laughter as he pointed at the corner of Vivian’s lips.

Vivian wiped her hand over her lips, and a trail of red oil was left on the back of her hand, upon which her expression became even more awkward. It appeared that she hadn't cleaned her face properly after dining on the grilled fish. She scrambled for an excuse in her mind as she sat across from Michael, pouring herself a glass of water. She tipped her head back, and downed the water in the glass before looking at Michael with a serious expression as she said, "Father, I didn't go out just to have a meal today. I was doing some investigating for you."

"The result of my investigation verifies everything that Uncle Robert said earlier today. The food from that Mamy Restaurant really is super delicious, and the restaurant is extremely popular as well. They had a completely full house, but there was still a long line of customers that were willing to wait for seats. The restaurant secured those high rankings in the Aden Square food competition, only to be stripped off the rankings board. From that, I can deduce that there's definitely something wrong with the Catering Association, so you should launch an investigation against them. Otherwise, the food rankings won't be fair."

"Oh? You went to that restaurant to do your own investigation?" Michael was a little surprised as he looked at Vivian.

"That's right. I had their spicy grilled fish, and it really was very, very delicious. How about we go with mother again tomorrow?" Vivian nodded with anticipation shimmering in her eyes.

"I have many things that I have to do tomorrow. At noon, I have to welcome an orc ambassador, and at night, I have to mediate the battle between the demons and the dwarves. I won't have any time." Michael shook his head as he looked at Vivian with a stern expression, and said, "Also, Master Adams said that in your current condition, you can't eat spicy foods, so this is the last time that you can have the spicy grilled fish."

"Oh." Vivian pouted at the sight of Michael's stern expression, but she still nodded obediently.

Michael's expression softened upon seeing that, and a concerned look appeared on his face as he asked, "Are your lower abdomen and feet still cold today? It's time for your appointment with Master Adams again. I came back early today so I could take you over to him."

"Today..." Vivian raised her legs one by one before rubbing her lower abdomen, upon which an elated expression appeared on her face, and she exclaimed, "It doesn't hurt at all! And it doesn't feel cold, either; I feel like I'm completely cured!"

"Really?" Michael was clearly very skeptical. In a meaningful and heartfelt manner, he said, "Vivian, even though Master Adams' treatment process is a little painful, his fire-type magic is the best in the entire Chaos City. Only with him treating you once a month can the frosty energy in your body be suppressed—"

"But Father, it really doesn't hurt anymore! I was still feeling a little uncomfortable when I got up this morning, and nights are usually when I suffer the most, but I don't feel anything now. Could it be because of the spicy grilled fish that I just had? As I was eating it, my entire body felt really warm, and I was drenched with sweat. Now, I feel really good, and all I want is a shower." Vivian cut off Michael's words with an incredulous expression even on her own face.

“Give me your hand.” Michael laid his finger over her wrist to inspect her pulse. He closed his eyes in doing so, and abruptly opened them a short while later with incredulity as he also exclaimed, “The frosty energy within your body really has dwindled significantly, especially in your meridians. In fact, there are almost no traces of it left.”

“Father, does that mean I’ll be fully cured if I keep eating that spicy grilled fish?” Vivian’s expression lit up with joy. Compared to drinking foul concoctions every day, eating spicy grilled fish was like rising from the depths of hell right into the embrace of heaven!

“Come with me to visit Master Adams, and let him assess your condition,” Michael urged.

“Can I take a shower first?” Vivian asked.

“Alright, but make it quick. I’ll go tell your mother; she still hasn’t had dinner yet.” Michael nodded, and exited her room.

...

“Here are your tofu puddings.”

Yabemiya was holding a sweet tofu pudding and a savory tofu pudding, both of which she placed on Warren and Tonis’ table.

“I heard that the customers of this restaurant are constantly fighting over which flavor is better. What’s there to fight about over a bowl of mush like this?” Tonis looked at the savory tofu pudding in front of him with a dismissive smile.

“Let’s have a taste to find out.” Warren could feel himself salivating at the aroma of the tofu pudding wafting toward him. Back when he had joined the Food Association, it wasn’t anywhere near as prominent as the Catering Association of today. The reason he’d joined it was because he really liked to eat, and he wanted to dine at all of the best restaurants in the Aden Square.

Now, he could decide what people in the Aden Square ate, and which restaurants could thrive. Never did he think that the Aden Square food competition could change his life so drastically.

Warren looked at the tofu pudding in front of him, and found that it was a little like egg pudding, except it was bouncier. He dug into the soft white tofu pudding through the reddish-golden syrup, and the two slowly combined. The tofu pudding was enveloped in a layer of glistening syrup as it wobbled in his spoon, giving off the appearance of an intricate work of art.

“Both its aroma and presentation are exemplary; I hope the taste won’t disappoint me.” Warren placed the spoonful of tofu pudding in his mouth with an expectant look on his face. The delectable tofu pudding melted almost as soon as it entered his mouth, and the syrup was extremely rich and delightful. Despite that, it was not overpowering, and the faint taste of the tofu pudding was still clearly discernible.

“This flavor is amazing!” Warren couldn’t help but gasp with praise.

**Chapter 359: Born in the Wrong Generation**

“Is it really that good?” Tonis also had a taste of his savory tofu pudding after hearing Warren’s review, and his eyes immediately lit up.

The tofu pudding slid down his tongue, and its delectable flavor instantly combined with the savory juices.

The fresh sides went great with tofu pudding. After he swallowed, the faint fragrance lingered in his mouth long after the mouthful of tofu pudding was already gone.

“What is this stuff made from? How can it be so delicious? There’s no way that ordinary soybean could produce such delicious food! It really is amazing!” Tonis stared at the tofu pudding in his bowl with wide eyes. The flavor was simply unbelievably delicious.

He couldn’t help but feed himself another spoonful, followed by another... He was completely unable to stop.

He’d been planning to defame and denounce the dish, but forgot all of that. He was completely captivated by the delicious flavor of the tofu pudding; it had been a very long time since he had basked purely in the enjoyment of eating. It was a very special and nostalgic feeling, and he felt like he was back in that past in his younger days.

Amy held in Ugly Duckling in her arms, and she looked at the two feasting old men as she murmured, “The two old fatsos say no, but their bodies are quite honest.”

Meaningful smiles also appeared on the faces of the customers upon hearing that. They had thought that the two of them would try to criticize the dish, but they had already been conquered by the bowls of tofu pudding.

“Let them experience the pain of only being able to eat one tofu pudding. Boss Mag’s restaurant is perfect, but if there’s one thing that I want to give them a negative review on, it’s the regulation that restricts each person to only one tofu pudding.” Harrison panted as he continued to feast on his spicy grilled fish. At the same time, he was appraising Warren and Tonis with an amused expression.

Warren put down his spoon just as Yabemiya was walking past, and he said, “Phew, that was delicious. Get me another sweet tofu pudding.”

“I also want a savory tofu pudding. No, I want two!” Tonis chimed in.

Warren turned to Tonis with an earnest expression, and suggested, “Tonis, I feel like you should try the sweet tofu pudding. The sweet syrup perfectly complements the delectable taste of the pudding itself. If you add a savory flavor to it, the effect won’t be as good.”

“President, I feel like you should try the savory tofu pudding before you say that. There are pickled vegetables and dried shrimp in it, which perfectly complements the flavor of the tofu pudding. The pudding itself is already a little sweet; I struggle to imagine what it would taste like if syrup were to be added.” Tonis shook his head in disagreement.

Yabemiya looked at the two debating fatso, and said, “Sorry, but each customer is only allowed one bowl of tofu pudding.”

“What?”

Both of them turned to Yabemiya in unison, and their voices also spiked a few octaves.

“Why is there a restriction? It’s not like we’re not going to pay. I’ll just get one bowl of savory tofu pudding, then.” Tonis furrowed his brows as he looked at Yabemiya. If it weren’t for the fact that they had ordered one of everything, he felt like he could eat 10 bowls of this tofu pudding with ease!

“There is demand from the customers, and your restaurant makes tofu pudding, so why won’t you sell it to us?” Warren was also quite confused.

Yabemiya stood up straight, and adopted a serious expression as she said, “That is a rule of our restaurant. It’s written quite clearly on the menu, so we hope you can understand.”

In contrast with how uneasy she had been, she was slowly becoming more and more confident. The rule had been established by Mag, so there had to be a reason behind it.

Warren took a glance at the menu, only to find that there really was such a rule inscribed upon it. A thought suddenly occurred to him then. *If Mag were to combine those two into one dish, wouldn’t it be able to make it into the top 30 as well?*

Tonis was about to say something again, but Warren held up a hand to stop him. He looked at Yabemiya with a smile, and said, “Alright, then please bring the rest of the dishes.”

“Sure, please wait a moment.” Yabemiya nodded before turning toward the kitchen.

“President, we should have kept persisting.” Tonis was a little indignant.

“What? Keep insisting so we can show everyone how much we love this food, even to the extent that we’re even willing to beg for it?” Warren looked at Tonis with a stern expression.

Tonis’ expression abruptly changed upon hearing that. He was suddenly reminded of what they had come to the restaurant to do, and realized that he had been completely thrown off track just by that bowl of delicious tofu pudding.

Even though he knew that there was no way this restaurant could make it back onto the rankings board, he still couldn’t help but compare the tofu pudding to the other dishes on the rankings. Even if it couldn’t claim the top spot, it would at least make it into the top five. Such delicious food was simply irresistible.

Warren was waiting expressionlessly for the next dishes to arrive. No one knew what he was thinking.

“Mag’s rules really are set in stone; he’s not even making any exceptions for the president of the Catering Association.”

“I hope they can find it in their hearts to put Mamy Restaurant back onto their rankings board tomorrow. Otherwise, their hearts must be pitch-black.”

“I’m not very optimistic about that. After all, they took the restaurant off the rankings today without any prior investigation.”

All of the customers smiled upon seeing that. Watching the president of the Catering Association falling prey to the rules of the restaurant struck them with a sense of satisfaction.

Soon, the Yangzhou fried rice, roujiamo, and braised chicken and rice were ready. The two of them were completely immersed in the dishes, and their faces were glowing with joy as they ate.

“Burp...”

Warren burped with a content expression as he put down the bowl in his hand; he had completely licked it clean. He looked at the spotless bowl for a moment before pushing it toward the center of the table with a slightly awkward expression.

It had been many years since he had last felt this way. He had thought that after visiting so many restaurants in the Aden Square, there was nothing in this world that he hadn't tasted.

However, as one dish was brought out after another, he was treated to flavors that he had never tasted before. All of the dishes were new experiences to him, and he couldn't help but look forward to the next dish.

It was difficult for him to believe that all those incredibly delicious dishes were made by the same chef. The owner really was a genius.

*If this was 20 years ago, I'd place all this restaurant's dishes in the top five of the rankings board without any hesitation.* Warren looked at Mag as he prepared dishes in the kitchen, and heaved a forlorn sigh. He was a genius, one that could completely transform the gastronomic industry in the entire Aden Square. It was just a pity that he was born in the wrong generation.

Tonis also put down the bowl in his hands, and an expectant look appeared on his face as he said, “That was so delicious. I'm really looking forward to the spicy grilled fish now.”

### **Chapter 360: Dancing on a Knife's Edge**

Tonis glanced at Warren's stern expression, and he immediately shuddered as he corrected himself. “The food is nothing special. If the spicy grilled fish is of the same standard as all of these other dishes, then this restaurant really is quite ordinary.”

“Heh, then why did you lick your plates clean just then?” All of the customers rolled their eyes upon hearing that. What a shameless bastard.

“Is he about to start causing trouble now? Are they still not going to allow Mamy Restaurant back onto the rankings board?” Some of the customers felt like Tonis' reaction was a little abnormal.

“Ah, it's so spicy, but so good! Someone get me a glass of ice water! I feel like I'm about to rise into the sky!”

Right at that moment, Schonard slammed his chopsticks down onto the table. His lips were completely swollen, making him appear as if he had grown a duck's bill, and he was panting heavily. His clothes were drenched with sweat, and his face was completely flushed. Most of the white smoke wafting from the top of his head had disappeared, but he appeared to be in high spirits.

“Sorry, our restaurant doesn’t provide ice water.” Yabemiya made her way over to him, and she was also quite surprised at the sight of Schonard. He had come in looking like an arrogant, uncouth rich boy, but after finishing the insanely spicy grilled fish, he looked like a dead fish himself.

“What? No ice water?!” Schonard’s voice was a little hoarse. He felt as if his throat were on fire.

He had just experienced the horror of having the insanely spicy grilled fish take over his body. It was so spicy that he felt as if he were about to die, but his mouth simply refused to stop. It was as if his body didn’t even belong to him anymore, and all he could think about was finishing the grilled fish. That was a very scary feeling.

His tongue and mouth were completely numb, and his body was boiling hot. Furthermore, what was a little distressing him was that his stomach was already churning. After consuming close to 10kg of that insanely spicy grilled fish, his a\*shole was really going to hate him soon.

Schonard was feeling a little downcast, and he wanted some ice water to soothe his physical discomfort. Upon hearing Yabemiya’s words, he immediately flared with rage, and yelled, “Your grilled fish is way too spicy! And yet you *don’t* supply ice water? What kind of service is this?”

“Sorry, but you were the one who ordered the dish, and you chose the spice level. Our restaurant has never supplied ice water, and we have no plans of starting anytime soon.” Yabemiya was a little apologetic, but her demeanor was a lot more resolute as she rejected Schonard’s desperate pleas.

“Here are two dragon coins!” Schonard glanced at Yabemiya before slamming two dragon coins onto the table, and rushing out of the restaurant. There were still faint wisps of smoke rising from the top of his head.

He had come today to pursue Vivian, only to be thoroughly embarrassed in front of her. His digestive system was about to be in a world of pain, but the taste of the grilled fish was absolutely impeccable, so he couldn’t do anything aside from suppressing his rage and fleeing from the restaurant.

He learned a valuable life lesson that day: chefs were not to be messed with, especially when they were also the owner of the restaurant.

“Insanely spicy really isn’t something normal people can handle.” All of the customers who were aware of the context had smiles on their faces. All of them were glad that the arrogant rich boy had been taught a lesson.

*Being a good person is a difficult skill. I hope he’s learned his lesson today.* A smile also appeared on Mag’s face as he glanced at Tonis and Warren. He sliced up half of an insanely spicy chili pepper, and tossed it into the wok before pouring the vibrant red juices over the grilled fish.

*You can lie about the other dishes, but some dishes don’t allow you to lie... unless you never taste them in the first place,* Mag thought to himself as he put down his wok.

Tonis looked on at Schonard’s figure fleeing frantically with a worried expression before turning to Warren as he said, “President, should we change the spice level? It looks like that insanely spicy level will be a bit difficult to stomach.”

“Here’s your spicy grilled fish. Enjoy.”



As soon as Tonis finished his sentence, Yabemiya placed their spicy grilled fish in front of them. Its spicy aroma immediately swept toward them, and both of them instinctively closed their eyes in unison.

*How could the spicy aroma be so strong? Surely no amount of chili peppers can create such a powerful scent!* Tonis' heart jolted with shock. When he saw Schonard eating the fish earlier, he thought that Schonard was merely exaggerating in his reaction. Only after catching a whiff of the grilled fish did he realize that his level of spiciness wasn't like anything he had ever tasted before.

*So they grilled the fish, then continued to braise it in spicy juices over a stove. I've never seen this type of cooking method before. Could it be that this is a brand-new cooking method that he invented?* Warren quickly became accustomed to the spicy aroma, and he stared at the grilled fish before him with a hint of surprise on his face.

Mag had already given him too many surprises today. He had tasted all types of dishes in the Aden Square, and encountered many genius chefs, but none of them could even hold a candle to Mag.

Warren had to admit that Mag was a brilliant genius.

*I wonder what kind of flavor such a unique cooking method will produce,* Warren thought to himself with curiosity in his heart. He enjoyed spicy food, but there was no spicy dish that had ever left a lasting impression on him. Hopefully, this dish would show him something different.

"No need; we'll stick with this one." Warren picked up his chopsticks, and dug into the succulent flesh of the fish.

"Yeah, it probably only looks a bit spicy, but isn't actually 'insanely' spicy." Warren had already picked up his chopsticks, so Tonis could only muster up his courage and do the same. After all, he was the one who had ordered the fish, so he had to see this through to the end. Both Warren and Tonis picked up a morsel of fish with their chopsticks before placing it into their mouths.

*What?! How could there be such spicy chili peppers in this world?! No! These definitely aren't normal chili peppers. This spicy flavor is so unique and delicious, I feel like all of the sweat glands in my entire body have been opened in an instant. Furthermore, the crispy fish skin and soft succulent flesh perfectly complement the spicy flavor. The spiciness is irresistible, and the sumptuous fish keeps the spiciness just within the consumer's tolerance range.* Warren swallowed his first mouthful of fish, and stared at the dish before him with incredulity in his eyes.

*This feeling is like dancing on a knife edge, where peril and stimulation coexist. This is an addictive feeling!* Warren's chopsticks were already reaching for the fish, and he felt as if he had lost control over his hand.

*It's so spicy, but so delicious! I can't stop!* Tonis' neatly combed hair immediately stood on ends, and he began to gasp for breath. However, he didn't have the time to smooth down his hair, as he was too busy dining on the grilled fish in front of him.