

Big Shot 691

Chapter 691: Invited a Famous International Gourmet

"Hey bro, why did you suddenly come back?"

"To find you a little sister-in-law! Your brother is going on a blind date, hehe!"

"Weird, what's so exciting about a blind date? It's not like no one else has ever been on one."

"Ha, what do you know, kid? I have to take a quick shower and fix my hair, not talking to you."

"Tch, who has the time to chat with you? I'm going out to meet friends, leaving the house to you for whatever..."

Bai He rolled her eyes speechlessly, floored the gas pedal, and sped away.

Leaving Bai Fei happily humming a tune as he prepared to bathe and burn incense, waiting for the meeting with Zuzi...

Neither of them knew that the person they wanted to meet was the same person!

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Golden Diamond Corridor.

Even though there was a previous scandal about spoiled ingredients, the internet famous restaurant was too hot and soon became crowded again.

In front of the Famo Mansion, a long queue of eager guests watched as a group of luxuriously dressed young ladies, walking together, bypassed the line and entered the restaurant straight away.

The guests in line protested, "Why can they go in directly?!"

The numbering had already reached over 800, and they estimated it would take a few hours to wait until they could eat late in the evening, so seeing people cut in line made them especially angry.

The manager quickly explained, "Ah, well, they are Chef Fang's honored guests and have reserved the entire second floor for a socialite cocktail party—it's an exclusive booking!"

Under the envious and jealous gazes of the queue, Gu Shiyin led a group of socialite girlfriends numbering dozens straight up to the duplex second floor of the restaurant.

To restore the reputation, Gu Shiyin was exceptionally humble and cautious today: "Everyone here is a gourmet expert, so please give Chef Fang plenty of feedback on her dishes later."

Miss Huangfu said, "Suddenly, the name of this chef Fang Yumei seems familiar, like I've heard it somewhere before?"

Gu Shiyin hurriedly changed the topic, "Chef Fang has been specializing in French cuisine, and we've discussed it in the group before. She mostly speaks French and is bringing you all authentic classic French dishes this time."

Miss Zhou said, "Shiyin, didn't you say there's also a French cuisine master joining us for tasting? Who is the master?"

Gu Shiyin smiled, "It's the ambassador from the French Embassy in the Empire, Mr. Alexander."

"Ah, the famous international foodie and authority on French cuisine?"

"Exactly."

"Shiyin, you have such wide connections!"

"Hehe, just happened to know them."

Socialites love mingling with industry elite to differentiate their identity from ordinary people, a notion well captured by the saying "converse with the learned, seldom with the commoners."

The presence of Ambassador Alexandria undoubtedly added prestige to the gathering.

She took a call and said with a smile, "I'm going to the entrance to welcome the ambassador."

She gracefully descended the stairs from the second floor when suddenly, Gu Pingting's call interrupted her.

"Aunt, Aunt, I've been looking for you for so long, where are you, boohoo, my bracelet is lost..."

Gu Shiyin frowned, "Lost?"

"Yes, Aunt, as soon as you left, I noticed the bracelet had run away!"

This side still had to prepare for the banquet and help establish Chef Fang Yumei's reputation while winning hearts, so Gu Shiyin was extremely busy and didn't have time to keep chatting with Gu Pingting.

But hearing that the bracelet 'ran away'—such an odd thing, she couldn't help but ask a few more questions: "Where did it run off to? Why would it run away just like that?"

"Aunt, I don't know, boohoo, I came to you for help because I didn't know where it went. I can't live without the bracelet. I want to beg it to come back... It said it wasn't full, I can cut lots and lots of meat for it. If mine's not enough, I can go home and cut some from Mama and Papa for it!"

Chapter 692: The Bracelet Rolled to the Foot of the Ancestor!

Although Gu Pingting was pleading desperately over the phone.

However, as soon as Gu Shiyin heard that the Medical Beauty Bracelet was truly lost, her attitude immediately turned cold:

"Pingting? Hello? Pingting? Sorry Pingting, I have to board the plane now, the signal isn't very good, I'll contact you when I have time..."

Click, the call ended.

Her Medical Beauty Bracelet is so valuable, yet that fool Gu Pinting lost it, and still has the face to ask her for help?

If it weren't for Fang Yumei diligently supplying her these days, she would almost not have enough nourishment to support all these facades and her delicate appearance.

Without the bracelet, Gu Pinting is as useless as trash to her.

Trash isn't worth wasting a second on.

Better to spend time cultivating Fang Yumei's Gourmet Jade Chopsticks.

Gu Shiyin hung up the phone, walked quickly to the entrance of Famo Mansion, and saw a gray-haired, blue-eyed man. She hurried to greet him and shake hands: "Mr. Alexander, sorry to keep you waiting, this way please—"

Alexander said thank you in French and then in unclear Chinese, "Why are people in the Empire so strange?"

He pointed at the queue at the Famo Mansion forming like a snake, while there wasn't a single person at the "Affordable Jan" at the end of the corridor.

The contrast was really stark.

Gu Shiyin laughed, "This is to show you what kind of gourmet food is worth people queuing up for a whole day and night to taste. Even though there's a restaurant next door without a line, they won't spare it a glance."

"Oh, I look forward to it!" The French old man whistled childishly.

Just as Gu Shiyin and Alexander were laughing and walking back to the second floor.

At the end of the line, Gu Pinting was holding her phone, stunned: "Wasn't Aunt saying she was going to board the plane and there was a bad signal? But the one talking to the French was Aunt, right?"

Because of the lost bracelet, her body had been fluctuating in weight, and she fainted in the rental apartment, almost dying.

She remembered that night she ordered a red wine foie gras delivery, and strange symptoms appeared after eating it, so she came to verify if there was something wrong with the restaurant's food.

Who knew the line would be this long!

If Aunt was inside, why would she need to stand in line?

Gu Pinting shouted a few more times for Aunt, but no one paid her any attention.

She then tugged at the manager, demanding to be let in alone, but the manager was helpless and used the upstairs socialite event as an excuse.

Upon hearing it, Gu Pinting said, "A socialite event? I am a socialite!"

She swiped her phone again, searching in a WeChat group... but after searching for a long time, she couldn't find the socialite group at all.

Damn, who kicked her out of the group?

Aunt said she wouldn't give up on her and that they would support each other forever, right? Aunt, Aunt where are you?!

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Bao Gucheng was holding Xi Zuzi's hand just as they stepped out of the elevator.

The bustling queue blocked them.

He protected her as they navigated through the crowd, passing by Gu Pinting, who was arguing with the restaurant manager to let her in, without a moment's hesitation.

Following behind, Xi Rubao curled his lips, "Really? Going crazy over some trendy restaurant, don't other restaurants smell good? Isn't Chinese food good enough, must they rush to eat French?"

Xi Zuzi turned back and smiled, "Ah, I get it. Some kids, from ancient times to now, aren't that smart, and even like to worship foreign gods, almost forgetting their Ancestors."

Bao Gucheng said blandly, "The herd mentality is a flaw in some of our compatriots."

Xi Rubao straightened his back, "I just don't believe that the moon in foreign lands is rounder! Sister, back then your Snow Phoenix Zither showed me that Western instruments aren't as melodious as our Empire's traditional instruments!"

"Mm hmm."

"Huh? Sister, what's that green, round thing rolling on the ground?"

Chapter 693: Jade Bracelet Recognizes a New Master; French Baked Snails

Green, round thing?

Zuzi glanced down at the ground, her red lips curling slightly, "Ah, this little thing, it's gotten a bit dirty..."

A jade bracelet rolled around on the floor, and as it was about to reach Zuzi's feet, it suddenly shuddered and swiftly veered away.

"The bracelet avoids paths? Amazing!" Xi Rubao was even more astonished and stared at it.

To her surprise, just as the bracelet saw her, it suddenly changed direction again, rushing directly towards her foot, scaring Xi Rubao into jumping: "No, no, don't come over!"

Zuzi cast a purification spell, and a faint light washed away the bloodstains on the bracelet.

Xi Rubao calmed down a bit, eyes wide open as she scrutinized the bracelet carefully.

Even though jade bracelets all look almost alike, Xi Rubao still felt that this bracelet seemed somewhat familiar.

"Now it's a bit cleaner. What's the matter, Little Fish, do you like it?"

"Cough, cough, cough, Sis, why do I feel like it's bowing and talking to me?"

"Hmm, it seems to have taken a liking to you, Little Fish, how interesting."

"Ah—sis, help! Why does this bracelet have legs and is climbing onto me, I, I haven't even decided whether to pick it up and take it to the lost and found at the police station..."

"You're popular as a live streamer, and it's currently lonely and friendless, so it wants to acknowledge you as its owner. As long as you hold true to your heart, there will be no problem."

"But sis, it's forcing a sale!"

Xi Rubao watched in disbelief as a jade bracelet, without her even bending down to pick it up, actually climbed onto her wrist and slid on with a plop.

She even faintly heard a tiny voice in her ear:

"Master, I'm very obedient. Just give me a bite to eat, and I can make you the most beautiful in the world!"

Xi Rubao: "No thanks, I don't rely on my looks to make a living!"

Oh my god, she actually seriously conversed with a bracelet, she must be crazy.

Needing to hurry to Shihuijian Restaurant, she couldn't just throw the bracelet in the garbage bin, so she had to wear it for now.

The size was even just right!

Truly. A fantasy scene had entered reality.

The three of them passed by Gu Pintin, who was causing a scene outside the Famo Mansion, and headed straight to Shihuijian.

"Sure enough, not a single customer, really quite desolate..." Xi Rubao looked around.

Zhou Yingjun, who was supposed to greet guests for his father Zhou Youjian at the entrance, nearly fell asleep out of boredom but suddenly jumped up: "Teacher Cao Yu, Teacher Cao Yu, am I dreaming? You really came!"

"What did you call me?"

"Teacher Cao Yu! My live stream ID is [190-Pound Art Exam Student]!"

"Oh, I remember, the name suits you well!"

"Teacher Cao Yu, I'm so excited to see you in person..."

"Don't get excited; today we're promoting delicious food. Tomorrow, I'll do a live stream on how to lose weight and see if we can change your nickname within a month."

"Teacher Cao Yu, are you hungry? I'll have my dad personally cook something delicious for you. He's great at traditional Cantonese cuisine, and it's really tasty..."

"Hold on, I've brought a beauty chef myself, she'll be here soon. Hey, Miss Bai, over here, over here..."

Just then, Bai He arrived.

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Famo Mansion, second floor.

Fang Yumei served the first dish.

It was French baked snails.

Though this dish seemed simple, it was actually quite difficult to make!

Gu Shiyin smiled warmly and invited, "Ladies and Ambassador, let's taste and see if this dish is authentic enough?"

Before anyone could respond.

Suddenly, Miss Huangfu, through a floor-to-ceiling window, sharply caught sight of Bai He's back:

"Ah, no wonder Miss Bai refused to hang out with us today, turns out she had another date. Huh, why choose such a low-class, deserted restaurant?"

Chapter 694: What's the Point of Looking at Men When Miss Xi Is So Alluring?

The socialites looked down from the second floor, and through the floor-to-ceiling windows, they saw Bai He happily heading straight for the nearly deserted "Shi Hui Jian" restaurant opposite.

Then, they saw Bai He run towards the white-clad girl who turned and smiled at the entrance.

The simple yet graceful white dress was so striking that it seemed to pierce the soul with a shiver.

"It's Miss Xi!"

"Ah, it's been a long time since we saw Miss Xi. How did Bai He become so familiar with her that they went on a date alone? And didn't bring us along!"

"Haven't you guys forgotten? Bai He was set up with Mr. Bo, and Miss Xi is Mr. Bo's student. Isn't Mr. Bo here too? Oh, Mr. Bo looks so cold!"

"Ahhhhh, with Miss Xi here, I didn't even notice Mr. Bo, my bad, my bad."

"Oh, looking at men isn't as appealing as looking at Miss Xi, is it? I really want to go over and have Miss Xi tell my romance fortune again. Do you remember how accurately she read Miss Zhou's fortunes? She even found a soul mate because of it."

Seeing that the socialites were about to collectively head towards Zuzi just because of her one glance back, Gu Shiyin suppressed her discomfort, and with a smile suggested:

"Ladies, let's try the dishes first. Later, we can have Bai He bring Zuzi over, so there's no need for you to go anywhere. A place like Shi Hui Jian looks a bit rustic; let's not get our dresses dirty."

The group suddenly remembered that Gu Shiyin was Zuzi's aunt, after all, a senior.

Indeed, a traditional place like Shi Hui Jian wasn't suitable for socialites like them to gather. Getting caught visiting there wouldn't be good for their reputation.

Moreover, the aroma of the French baked snails that Chef Fang served was simply irresistible. After enjoying the dish, inviting Miss Xi and Bai He to join them would be a splendid idea.

"Then Shiyin, could you invite them, please?"

"I'm digging in first!"

"Wow, these snails are so delicious, I've never tried anything like this. There isn't even a hint of fishiness, Chef Fang is so professional."

"Just one plate isn't enough, we need more, like ten plates!"

Fang Yumei observed as the socialites raved about her dishes, quickly falling in love with them, boosting her confidence significantly.

"I shall continue to present more delicacies for you all. I'll bring out my signature red wine foie gras in just a moment."

Even though thirty people had previously refused to eat her foie gras, which dealt her a major blow, if these socialites became her loyal fans today, it would open up a much larger market for her.

Because when these people place orders, they're often for their families or for events, and those are big orders with significant influence.

"Thanks for your hard work, Chef Fang."

"Thanks to Shiyin for helping us discover such great food!"

"Seems like there's a reason why popular restaurants become successful."

Listening to the constant stream of praise at her ear, Gu Shiyin felt quite satisfied. Today's gathering, which she organized, was a success. Fang Yumei's reputation was expanding further, and if she could garner fans in the elite socialite circle, a continuous flow of energy would be supplied to her.

She would be glowing, her skills doubled.

Amidst the chorus of compliments, she noticed Alexander hadn't given his verdict: "Mr. Ambassador, how do you find Chef Fang's dish? Being a true heir and connoisseur of French cuisine, your professional review is very important to Chef Fang."

Alexander chewed the snail, a somewhat strange expression fleeting across his eyes.

"What, is it not good?" Gu Shiyin wondered internally, it couldn't be bad, because as long as no one on site refused to eat Fang Yumei's food, the Gourmet Jade Chopsticks would ensure the dishes released an intoxicating aroma incessantly.

No matter if the diner is from the Empire or abroad, the effect is the same.

Sure enough, Alexander shook his head: "Delicious, indeed."

But...

He continued to say—

Chapter 695: The Lost 108 Banquet Dishes Recipes

"But I seem to smell a very pleasant vegetable aroma, what's going on?"

Alexander frowned in thought, this was a smell that didn't belong to the snails.

As a seasoned gourmet, his sense of smell was more acute than the average person, so he was the first to notice that fresh and refreshing aroma, different from the strong and savory scent that the snails gave off.

Shortly after, Miss Zhou put down her chopsticks: "Oh, indeed, there's a really nice vegetable aroma. Western restaurants usually only have salads, nothing special in terms of vegetables, where's this fragrance coming from? Is Chef Fang experimenting with new dishes?"

"No way, didn't Chef Fang say he was going to make red wine foie gras for us?"

"The essence of French cuisine is all about the meat, not the vegetables."

"But this vegetable aroma is so pleasant and sweet, I don't even feel like eating meat anymore..."

The socialites chatted animatedly, causing Gu Shiyin, who was just content moments ago, to frown now.

What is this strange aroma stealing the spotlight from the snails and foie gras?

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Shihuijian Restaurant.

Zuzi watched as Bai He carried bags upon bags into the kitchen, almost as if she were moving the entire Bai Family over: "Xiao He, you're celebrating your birthday, yet you're cooking so much, won't it be too tiring?"

Bai He patted her chest with a smile: "Ancestor Master, I'm not tired! Besides, my birthday lasts a whole month, today I'm here to make sure Ancestor Master eats happily, and for the remaining 29 days, others will serve me, right?"

"Birthday month?" It was the first time Zuzi had heard of such a concept.

Bai He stuck out her tongue, realizing she accidentally blurted out too much: "Ahem, Ancestor Master, a birthday month means celebrating one's birthday every day for a month, you can have grand celebrations every day, it's a whole month with an excuse to feast!"

In reality, she used this concept to schedule a dinner with Zuzi every day of the month, just so she could meet with Ancestor Master.

Zuzi: "... " Kids do have a way of playing around.

Bao Gucheng: "... " This idea is quite childish. But, well, it gives a reason to go on dates with the little woman for a whole month.

In his mind, he quickly thought of combining his own birthday month with Zuzi's, making it possible to have dates for two whole months, nice, Xiao Bailian proved to be somewhat useful.

After her explanation, Bai He began to cook with clattering sounds in the kitchen.

The chefs at Shihuijian were all curious about this woman dressed like a lady, not a bit like a chef.

What is she doing?

Why doesn't she blanch the vegetables before cooking?

Why does she keep adding vegetables to the soup, without any meat?

Was this lady here to be funny?

Until Zhou Yingjun reminded his father standing beside him: "Dad, aren't you going to have Teacher Cao Yu taste the dishes, if you don't start cooking soon, this lady will outdo you! If Teacher Cao Yu fills up on her strange soup, there'll be no appetite left to taste your dishes!"

His words woke his father up like a dreamer awoken from slumber.

Zhou Youjian sprang into action, instructing his chefs to each take up their responsibilities, collaborating to complete their best and most traditional — the "108-course banquet"!

However, due to the ages passing by, about thirty dishes of these 108 courses have been lost. Zhou Youjian's ancestors only managed to glean 74 dishes from ancient texts.

Even if there were only 74 dishes, Shihuijian was the only traditional restaurant in the capital that could prepare them all!

Unfortunately, this incomplete banquet had long been regarded by the young people of the Empire as outdated and unfashionable.

The French cuisine next door was what the youth of the Empire were chasing as the trend.

Chapter 696: The little ancestor gives you a pointer, even more effective than the ancestral teachings
Bai He's "Vegetable Soup" was the first to be completed.

Zuzi and Bao Gucheng sat at the square table in the store, first tasting this "Vegetable Soup."

"Ancestor Master, does it taste good?"

Zuzi took two small sips and put it down.

Bai He's eyes were almost red; did Ancestor Master not like this flavor?

Otherwise, why would she only drink two small sips?

Bao Gucheng glanced over but said nothing.

The little woman was already doing a big favor for Xiao Bailian, considering she usually only tries one small bite of everything.

But he didn't say anything, letting Xiao Bailian worry a little more, ha.

Bai He held back and finally asked, "Ancestor Master, doesn't it taste good?"

Zuzi: "Not at all, it's very good."

Bai He's little heart felt like it went on a roller coaster ride!

She excitedly introduced it, starting with pride: "This is the 'Immortal Jumping Wall' I've mentioned before, all vegetarian, with a recipe I developed myself."

Zhou Youjian heard this in the kitchen, took a deep breath, and thought the vegetable soup really was refreshingly unique, unlike the bland soups of ordinary restaurants. This young girl has some real talent.

However, his Shihui Jian's 108-course banquet would be even more stunning!

Amidst a flurry of activity, the banquet dishes were finally ready.

The chefs of Shihui Jian brought out the dishes one by one, gathering them on the restaurant's square table, setting them one by one... the 70th dish, the 71st dish, the 72nd dish...

The dazzling array of exotic foods left people dazzled!

"Squirrel Mandarin Fish, Young Pigeon, Wen Si Tofu, Boiled Cabbage, Tiger and Phoenix Battle, Lion's Head Meatball..."

The names of the dishes were simple, yet they whetted the appetite.

Zuzi, as usual, picked a few interesting ones and tried a small bite.

Xi Rubao, however, didn't skip any dish, sampling them all, and after trying more than 70 dishes, his belly was rounder than a basketball.

Zhou Youjian was particularly proud.

Teacher Cao Yu seemed to really like their dishes. Even if they closed down tomorrow, today they finally met someone who truly appreciated their creations.

Too full to live-stream, Xi Rubao recorded a short video and uploaded it to the "Qing Bo" app.

"Burp! Wait a sec, I just have one question, it seems like these dishes aren't the full 108 as claimed, something's missing..."

Zhou Youjian: "Ahem, Teacher Cao Yu, you're right, we... some have been lost..."

Xi Rubao felt a bit regretful: "If all 108 courses were complete, this video would definitely go viral, but now with more than 30 dishes missing, I'm afraid netizens will criticize it as incomplete and inauthentic, which might bring negative feedback."

Zhou Youjian sighed deeply: "Alas, the Ancestors didn't pass them down, we really are powerless."

It's like not being able to pay rent when a store's lease is due, or loyal customers being lured away to the neighboring French restaurant—situations he can't control or reverse.

Xi Rubao sighed along with him: "Netizens are very strict, especially foodies, they're very particular. What are we going to do with this incomplete menu? I'll think of something..."

Amidst the sighs, Zuzi's calm, lazy voice slowly came through: "In that case, Ancestor will give you some guidance to complete your incomplete menu, even more spiritual than your ancestral recipes."

An... Ancestor?

Zhou Youjian was startled.

But seeing Xi Rubao and Bai He both showed great respect for Zuzi, and even Bao Gucheng was doing nothing but sitting beside Zuzi, preparing her food, peeling shrimp, picking fish bones, choosing tender tips of vegetables...

Chapter 697: Unparalleled Recipes!

Bao Gucheng's attentive, top-level pampering act clearly just fell short of having a few big words written on Xi Zuzi's forehead: She's no ordinary person!

Zhou Youjian pursed his lips and cautiously chuckled, "Miss Xi, you're really joking, the 108-course flowing banquet has been lost for hundreds of years..."

No one could possibly complete it.

Moreover, this young girl is about the same age as Xi Rubao, how could she possibly know the secrets of the 108-course flowing banquet.

However.

Zuzi smiled serenely, extending her elegant wrist, "Bring me pen and ink."

Zhou Youjian was stunned.

Fortunately, his son Zhou Yingjun reacted quickly, though he was a 190-pound heavysset man, he moved swiftly, quickly fetching a set of his own art exam practice pen and ink from the compartment: "Here you go."

Being Teacher Cao Yu's sister, he had to treat her well too.

"Very good." Zuzi smiled and glanced at Zhou Yingjun.

Then she took up the pen and began writing line by line on the white paper—

"Peach Blossom Eggplant, Panlong Boneless Eel, Clear Soup Tiger Ball..."

Zhou Youjian took a few glances, thinking, the young girl must have practiced calligraphy, her writing was quite beautiful, even a bit more pleasing than the teacher his son hired.

As Zuzi wrote longer and longer, Zhou Youjian's eyes grew wider and wider, almost popping out of their sockets.

The beautiful handwriting was secondary; more importantly, these dish names and recipes, some he had only heard a few words of, like Eggplant, and some he had never heard, like Panlong Boneless Eel, only seeing blood eel in the ingredient list, who knew the full name was actually this.

But seeing Zuzi writing it down so fluidly, as if these were not secret treasures at all, just as ordinary as making a poached egg for breakfast in a common household!

Could this young girl really know what the 108 flowing banquet is?

"It's done. Try to see if you can cook it. As for the ingredients, they're not particularly rare, except the tiger balls are hard to find, you can substitute them with goose kidneys."

Zuzi put down her pen.

Zhou Youjian looked covetously at the long recipe, his heart surging with emotion.

Dish 106, Dish 107, Dish 108...!

Zuzi had really completed the 108 dishes for him, and they weren't just thrown together, they genuinely corresponded with the incomplete recipe, those names and methods left with sparse such words!

This recipe is so precious!

"This, is this really for me?"

"Mhm, yes."

"Thank you, little Ancestor!"

Zhou Youjian treated it like a treasure, the chefs beside him tried to sneak a look, but he held it protectively like a gem: "Hey, have you washed your hands? Don't mess around and stain the little Ancestor's masterpiece! Hurry up and get into the kitchen to prepare the eel and goose kidneys... Everyone, get moving, we're going to complete the 108-course flowing banquet!"

His own son reminded him, "Dad, your chef hat fell off."

Zhou Youjian directly grabbed the hat from a nearby chef and put it on: "Don't just stand there, read the recipe to me, wait, first frame the recipe, don't let it get stained by oil and smoke."

Everyone: "..."

He's really treating it like an offering to an Ancestor.

With guidance from Zuzi, Zhou Youjian went to the back kitchen to concoct new dishes.

Bai He instantly felt like she was going to be overshadowed, an intense sense of crisis came over her, fearing that the "Immortal Jumping Wall" she had might not be enough.

"Ancestor Master, what else do you like to eat, I'll make it for you first, right, you said the double-skin milk was delicious last time, shall I make a few more desserts for you?"

Zuzi squinted her eyes, "Hmm, delicious it is indeed, but today is Xiao He's birthday, dishes meaningful to Xiao He are more fitting for the occasion, how about..."

Bai He listened intently with her big eyes, never expecting the Ancestor Master to give her a surprise too!

Chapter 698: Grandfather Needs Zuzi's Comfort

"Am I included too?" Bai He's eyes were filled with surprise.

Xi Zuzi pondered slightly: "Why not have Ancestor give you a set of All Lotus Banquet recipes?"

"All Lotus Banquet?!" Bai He's heart skipped a beat; Ancestor Master was truly considerate, even having a connection to her name.

Only to see Xi Zuzi gracefully move her wrist and once again write: "Lotus Three Firsts, Drunken Lotus Root, Lotus Leaf Steamed Lotus Seeds..."

Bai He watched with excitement and amazement: "I never thought you could combine them like this, Ancestor Master, you're a culinary genius!"

Even though the ingredients were common, Xi Zuzi managed to arrange them in unexpected combinations, like who would think of using lotus leaves to steam lotus seeds.

But with Xi Zuzi's hint, imagining it a little, lotus steamed with lotus leaves would surely have an extra fresh aroma!

Bai He took the recipe as if she had received a treasure, bouncing around to cook.

Xi Rubao, busy taking food broadcast pictures for fans, also moved swiftly around the kitchen, sometimes checking on Zhou Youjian's 108-dish banquet; sometimes peeking at Bai He's All Lotus Banquet, joyfully busy.

Bao Gucheng, seeing the vicinity finally quiet, couldn't help but wrap an arm around Xi Zuzi's slender waist.

Just as he was about to invite her to "smell" him, suddenly, the once deserted "Affordable Jian" sprung into life.

At first, there were two or three small heads peeking in:

"Excuse me, are you open for business?"

Soon enough, more people squeezed in:

"Excuse me, is the vegetable soup aroma coming from your restaurant?"

"Wow, such a big restaurant, why are only you two sitting... waiting for dishes?"

"This place seems nice, quiet, and the food smells good. Why should we queue at Famo Mansion? Isn't it easier to just order here and eat directly?"

"Hey, there's more than just vegetable soup. What's on those square tables in the middle? Is it a buffet? It looks so appetizing."

"Can we come in and wait with you? The aroma is making my mouth water!"

Bao Gucheng was not pleased with these interferences: "No, you can't!"

Xi Zuzi chuckled softly: "Xiao Cheng, don't be fussy. These people are from next door, which means our dishes are attractive! Wouldn't it be helpful as extra guests for Xiao Caoyu's food broadcast?"

Okay.

Bao Gucheng was persuaded almost instantly.

Though when he spoke, his tone was still stubborn with a hint of hoarseness: "Let them in, Zuzi girl needs to comfort this lord."

"Ah? How should Xiao Cheng comfort you? Aren't all these delicious enough?"

"That's not what I want."

"Oh, I got it." Xi Zuzi suddenly realized, and the next second, she boldly planted a soft kiss on Bao Gucheng's cheek.

Bao Gucheng's back stiffened slightly, not expecting such a bold public display of affection from the little woman in front of everyone.

Did this mean she didn't mind showing their affection publicly, willing to give him a status?

Or did it mean she felt kissing was no big deal, like casually saying hello?

The man got caught in a century-old dilemma, unable to extricate himself from deep thoughts.

Yet, Xi Zuzi had already smiled at the crowd and said, "Come on in. Today's dish tasting allows you to eat first and pay later. Oh, and children, remember to be polite and don't grab."

The diners held their breath.

Even though they were called children, they didn't mind. All they wanted was to rush to the table and see what exactly was so enticing, even more fragrant than the foie gras snails next door!

Chapter 699: The Scent Comes from a Woman's Intuition

The diners had just settled in at the square table when more dishes began streaming out from the kitchen.

"Oh, I just noticed that the arrangement of these dishes seems to have some significance. Is this a series of dishes?"

"Let me count... 88, 89, 90... Wait a minute, could this be the legendary 108 banquet of traditional dishes from our Empire?"

"Hey, you're someone who eats Western food every day; how do you know these rare terms?"

"Ha, you know, I actually heard it from foreigners. My friends who study abroad always ask where they can try the 108 banquet. I told them this antique is practically extinct now; I haven't heard of any Chinese restaurants that would serve it."

"I never expected that just across from the Famo Mansion, in such a trendy place, there would be a hidden antique treasure shop where we could eat the legendary 108 banquet!"

"You all still have time to talk; I'm, I'm... umm... eating as fast as I can..."

The astonished guests snapped out of it and abandoned the full set of complicated Western dining etiquette, hurrying to the kitchen to grab bowls and chopsticks, as they helped themselves eagerly.

However, Zuzi's remark, "Be polite, don't grab," remained in their minds. Everyone ate with great enthusiasm, and yet everything was in perfect order.

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Famo Mansion.

Gu Shiyin was sitting on either side of the long table with the socialites, watching as Fang Yumei directed the waiters to serve several plates of freshly prepared snails.

The etiquette for Western dining was complex, so the waiters served each meal individually.

The socialites looked at the snails and discreetly licked their lips, waiting for everyone to be served before they began eating.

Gu Shiyin elegantly raised her glass: "So many unexpected things have happened lately, and some of my Ma Jia have caused trouble for everyone. Today's gathering is to reconnect with my sisters and also to make amends. In the future, I will organize more culinary events to strengthen our bonds..."

Before she could finish,

Miss Zhou suddenly stood up, and her exclamation inadvertently interrupted her: "Oh my goodness, that's truly fragrant, don't you think?"

Gu Shiyin coughed: "Yes, snails do smell delightful."

Miss Zhou shook her head: "No, I'm not talking about the snails. It's that aroma wafting up from downstairs, that freshly picked green vegetable from the farm, so naturally fresh it's mesmerizing!"

Gu Shiyin was extremely embarrassed and couldn't help but reply with hidden sarcasm: "Miss Zhou, growing up pampered in the city, how could you know what freshly picked farm vegetables smell like?"

"I just know, it's a woman's intuition!" Miss Zhou quipped unreservedly, "Sorry, you all enjoy the snails; I want to go eat the greens!"

She decisively left her seat and hurried downstairs.

"One guest has refused to eat your food."

A sharp warning bell rang in Fang Yumei's mind.

She couldn't help but shiver. Here it was again! Those damned picky chopsticks reminding her again.

Isn't it supposed to be three people refusing before she'd gain weight? Why rush it already?

Fang Yumei glanced down at her waist, which looked like it was wearing an inflatable ring.

As long as she could keep the other socialites' appetites hooked and attract the diners lining up in the hall downstairs, she wouldn't gain weight and would regain her charm, winning over the Fourth Master again.

She tightly gripped her chopsticks, forcing a smile, and encouraged them wholeheartedly: "The foie gras is also served, everyone can continue to enjoy."

In front of each person were two slices of foie gras and two baked snails.

Everyone picked up their knife and fork, and though they were facing the French foie gras and snails, for some reason, Chinese dishes inexplicably appeared in their minds, and Miss Zhou's words about "freshly picked, naturally fresh" echoed continuously in their ears.

Yes, they all smelled that aroma, and it really was incredibly enticing!

A woman's intuition wouldn't lie to them.

Chapter 700: The Rhythm that Empties the Western Restaurant!

The unique intuition of women made the socialites want to put down their knives and forks, lift the delicate napkin from their laps, and go downstairs to chase the fresh scent of vegetables they smelled!

However, out of respect for Gu Shiyin, the host, the gentlemen ambassadors present, and the Western etiquette they had been taught, everyone held back and did not rush out with the straightforward Miss Zhou.

But their hearts had already flown away.

For a moment, no one used their forks to pick up snails or foie gras!

This made Fang Yumei quite anxious. As a chef, she couldn't constantly encourage them to eat, so she desperately signaled Gu Shiyin with her eyes, hoping she would speak up.

Gu Shiyin nodded and said softly, "Ladies, earlier the ambassador praised this foie gras, saying it was fresh but not fishy, tender but not dissolving, rich but not greasy. He said there was no difference between it and the authentic French cuisine he tasted in the French Palace, or even that it was better. Why not taste the same dish as the ambassador..."

She was gently urging everyone to eat.

Suddenly, there was a commotion downstairs.

"What's going on? Is there a dispute because of too many people in line?" Someone looked down curiously and was surprised, "Oh my God, the people originally in line at our restaurant are rushing... to the restaurant across the street? The one Miss Zhou went to? What's going on?"

Everyone couldn't help but turn to look back. Through the floor-to-ceiling windows, they could see that the queue outside reaching the elevator entrance was now like a long snake tail, everyone scrambling to switch lines to the other restaurant.

Even those who had waited for hours and finally got a number were waving away their numbers with the receptionist, joining the crowd heading to the other restaurant.

The worst part was that guests who had already settled in on the first floor of Famo Mansion were restless, with many putting down their forks and, despite the tempting foie gras steaks on the table, joining the others to check out the new restaurant.

This was going to empty the Western restaurant!

"Why is the restaurant across the street so attractive? But I've never heard of its name, and it's not famous. 'Practical Jian' - these three words are too plain," a socialite sighed.

Someone immediately replied, "No need for fancy names, as long as the food is good. Wait, could 'Practical Jian' be the restaurant with the vegetable aroma?"

"That's the Chinese restaurant I just saw Miss Zhou enter!"

As they spoke, everyone couldn't help but swallow their saliva.

Ah, they really wanted to go.

They couldn't be bothered with Miss Gu's face anymore.

Soon, another group of three to five socialites left together.

Gu Shiyin's expression was a bit strained, trying hard to maintain her smile as she continued to entertain everyone. However, before she could utter her dish-persuasion lines, Ambassador Alexander stood up:

"Miss Gu, my friend just informed me that opposite there's the 108 Banquet I've been searching for many years — it's your Empire's very traditional banquet menu. I would like to witness it and beg your leave for a while. Thank you, thank you."

Gu Shiyin was almost suffocated: Why are you, a foreigner, stirring up excitement?!

As soon as Alexander spoke, the other socialites felt no burden, each eagerly following the ambassador downstairs, under the pretense of taking care of the ambassador and acting as Chinese cuisine translators for him.

In fact, this term "108 Banquet" was the first time any of them had ever heard it.

Many in upscale society consider Western dining to be elegant, proud of foreign lifestyles, and truly clueless about the Empire's traditional culture.

To be honest, at this moment, most of the socialites were acting on instinct, rushing off eagerly drawn by the vegetable aroma!