

Culinary 76

Chapter 76: A Chance Encounter with a Stray Cat! Sales Surpass 50,000!

A cat pieced together from abstract shapes of pots, pans, and ladles was depicted. Below it were four bold and powerful characters: Lin Ji's Food.

The text and the cat constituted the entire LOGO, which was then applied to all tableware and items. This included noodle bowls, rice bowls, plates, saucers, chopsticks, water cups, vinegar pots, takeout meal boxes, tissue boxes, disposable drink cups, and takeout bags.

In addition to the LOGO, the takeout meal boxes and bags also featured the restaurant's name and address, serving as a form of advertisement.

Although the LOGO looked somewhat odd on its own, it appeared quite appealing when applied to these tableware items.

"Why is it a cat?" Lin Xu asked Geng Lele after looking it over.

"Because cats are cute... Oh no, I mean, because cats bring good fortune! I specifically incorporated a lucky cat into the LOGO to help you make a fortune. What do you think? Am I a genius or what?"

I think you just wanted to satisfy your own fantasy of petting an imaginary cat.

Lin Xu looked at it again, and the more he examined it, the better it seemed.

He sent these images to the Panda Bro's Find-a-Partner Group to ask for everyone's opinion.

Of course, the group name had since been changed to "Lin Ji's Food High-End VIP Customer Group," which sounded more like a client list for a foot massage parlor.

"Wow, such a cute LOGO!"

"Is this Lele's newest design? When can we start using it?"

"I feel like I could eat an extra bowl of food using these bowls and chopsticks!"

"The takeout box is beautiful too! Using that classic imperial red really showcases the Yanjing vibe."

"..."

Shen Jiayue, Chen Yan, Wu Kexin, and the others were immediately captivated by Geng Lele's design.

Seeing that everyone liked it, Lin Xu sent a message to Geng Lele.

"Could you package the vector images and send them to my email? I'm going to contact the manufacturer to start production. Also, what's the design fee? I can't have you help out for free."

Geng Lele sent an emoticon indicating refusal.

"No need for money! Just pack some Chicken Feet for me once the new packaging is ready. My grandpa wrote the words 'Lin Ji's Food.' I promised to bring him twenty Chicken Feet, and I can't go back on my word."

Your grandpa?

Lin Xu asked out of curiosity, "Is your grandfather a calligrapher? Shouldn't I offer him a commission?"

"What calligrapher? He's just a gluttonous old man. Anyway, I'm not talking anymore; I have to start playing games for my computer teacher now."

Lin Xu was speechless.

Why do I get the feeling this genius girl is becoming less and less focused on her proper work?

After receiving the files, he contacted the online store where he had previously purchased takeout meal boxes. He sent the images over and asked them to produce an initial run of twenty sets for him to inspect.

If the physical products looked good, he would then proceed with a mass order.

After contacting them, Lin Xu found another shop that customized tableware. He sent the images there as well, similarly requesting them to produce some samples for review.

After dealing with this, he remembered that the fish heads and bones his senior brother had helped set aside were still airing out in the kitchen. So, he took them to the residential complex behind the restaurant.

He planned to give this food to the stray cats in the complex and then go upstairs to his apartment to change.

Arriving at the complex, he walked to a spot near the trash bins, hidden among some wintergreen bushes, and carefully placed the takeout container there.

This spot was quite secluded, minimizing the risk of exposing the stray cats to danger and avoiding any disturbance to the residents.

As for the empty container and any food scraps, he figured he could just pick them up and toss them in the trash bins next time he passed by.

Just as he finished placing the container, a burly tomcat emerged from the depths of the wintergreen bushes.

It was covered in glossy, blue-gray fur, with a large head. The corners of its mouth were upturned, making it look almost as if it were smiling. Its bronze-colored eyes darted about, sizing up the takeout container beside the bushes.

Good heavens! What a beautiful British Shorthair blue!

Lin Xu stared at the cat in surprise, a flicker of curiosity in his mind. Was it abandoned by someone?

Just as he was about to take out his phone to snap a picture, the cat suddenly let out a low growl.

"MREOOOOW—"

Is it... trying to scare me off?

Lin Xu, somewhat taken aback, put away his phone, took out his keys, and went upstairs to change.

When he came downstairs again, the cat was gone without a trace. The Fish in the container had been eaten clean, leaving only a few small bones.

Lin Xu threw the empty container into a nearby trash can and headed back to the restaurant to continue working.

Today was crucial for hitting 50,000 in daily revenue; he couldn't afford to slack off.

Once revenue hit 50,000, the restaurant would unlock another three Perfect Level dishes, and there was even a chance a new main quest might appear.

This was a situation with multiple benefits. He had to give it his all!

「Five o'clock in the afternoon.」

The restaurant had just opened for business.

Yue Liyue, Panda, Wu Kexin, and several of Yue Liyue's roommates arrived at the restaurant together.

"Tiantian," Yue Liyue announced upon entering, his words carrying his distinct, sometimes bewildering accent, "we'll have two orders of the Mixed 'Full Throttle' Pork Ribs, two Mixed 'Full Throttle' Chicken Feet, one Mixed 'Ginger Engine' Lotus Root, two Mixed Crispy Meat, and..." He finished with a flourish worthy of a young tycoon, "Tonight's on me! Tiantian, bring us a few extra Sour Plum Soups! My treat!"

Song Tiantian looked surprised. "What's gotten into you? Did you win the lottery or something?"

"No way!" he declared, his accent prominent. "It's because I've just signed with Boss Chen's Joyful Media to become an official game streamer!"

His gaming livestream earlier that day had been very successful.

Yue Liyue's "eloquent" Mandarin, which often left his teammates utterly confused during coordinated play, had the livestream chat roaring with laughter from start to finish. Coupled with the fact that he was already one of the top three benefactors in Wu Kexin's livestream channel, he quickly attracted a large fanbase.

Wu Kexin's agent, Weiwei, had signed him on the spot.

This was actually Chen Yan's decision.

She figured that since Yue Liyue was, after all, a die-hard fan of her brother-in-law's restaurant and a generous spender, she might as well have Weiwei bring a streaming contract with no base salary when she came.

If he failed, there wouldn't be much of a loss—just a few sheets of contract paper wasted, at most.

But who would have thought that day's livestream would be such a hit?

It led Wu Kexin and Weiwei to exclaim that Boss Chen's decision had been brilliant.

Chen Yan, who had spent the afternoon showing off her fabulous figure at the swimming pool, had no idea that another one of her casual decisions was being lauded by her employees as genius.

Yue Liyue was ecstatic.

After sitting down, he started contacting Li Qiang, Geng Lele, Uncle Shen, and other regulars from the restaurant.

When you're treating, you've got to have everyone there!

Not long after Yue Liyue and his group arrived, the restaurant gradually filled with more customers.

"Wow, I actually got to taste Crispy Meat fried by the executive chef from the Fishing Platform! The flavor is amazing!"

"Chef Xie even took a photo with me! He seems so approachable."

"Everyone should come get their foodie pics here! Chef Xie goes back to his regular job after tomorrow, so he won't be at this restaurant anymore. If you want to try his cooking, come quickly!"

"This restaurant is called Lin Ji's Food, it's in the middle of Yingchun Street. Don't go to the wrong place, everyone!"

The new customers had initially come to the restaurant because of Xie Baomin, hoping to "check in" and see the famous chef. However, once inside, they were gradually captivated by the food itself. Many, after a satisfying meal, would even order takeout, like the Chicken Feet, to share with family and friends.

As for the regular customers, it went without saying. They'd buy Chicken Feet almost always starting at fifty pieces.

After all, if they couldn't finish them, they could just steam them later. They could even ask the restaurant for some of the braising liquid from the Braised Chicken Feet to take home. Re-braising the leftovers in it would make them even tastier!

「Seven-thirty in the evening.」

Lin Xu was busy, his left hand expertly rolling out dough.

Suddenly, a system notification chimed in his mind:

"The restaurant's daily revenue has officially surpassed 50,000. Main Quest [Daily Haul of Gold] completed. Reward: Three Perfect Level prize draw chances. Use draws now?"