

Genius 155

Chapter 155 Recruiting Apprentice_1

"Fourth Brother, you're really something..."

As they walked on the road, Xiao Nan and the others exploded with excitement. They had thought the evening would bring a difficult fight, and both Fang Dacheng and Shen Yang had been ready to throw punches. However, the situation had unfolded completely opposite to what they had anticipated.

First, Mouse Qiang appeared and dragged away Zhu Pangzi with his bodyguards. Then, it was said that the current Underworld Boss, Brother Dong, appeared, retrieved the half-dead Zhu Pangzi, and forced him to apologize to Qin Fang.

Afterwards, even the CEO of the unrelated security company, who had merely suffered from being in the crossfire, rushed over to apologize, offering a bottle of something expensive, and promised to set a table at Ningcui Residence tomorrow night as compensation.

These brothers had been with Qin Fang for more than a month and only knew that his family was not well-off. They watched him progress from a noodle stall to the current noodle house, and develop the business with Xiao Nan, but they had never realized Qin Fang had such clout in the Underworld.

Not only were Xiao Nan and his friends amazed, but the girls were also very curious, immediately pulling Tang Feifei and Xiao Muxue aside to ask questions.

Tang Feifei knew a little about the situation, so she mumbled and refused to make it explicit, as it would damage Qin Fang's great image.

Xiao Muxue was completely unaware. When she first met Qin Fang, it was at a critical moment when she was about to be humiliated by several hoodlums. Qin Fang appeared suddenly to rescue her, even suffering a stab from Mouse Qiang in the process.

But the events of today made her doubt whether Qin Fang had planned the rescue in advance. However, thinking back to the explanations Tang Feifei had given her, along with Qin Fang's previous living conditions and what Sister Pan shared with her about Qin Fang's situation, she still believed he was not what others imagined.

"Cut the crap, I'm just an ordinary guy! As for the dinner tomorrow night, if you guys want to go, then go; if not, then just forget it..."

Qin Fang said helplessly. He really didn't want to get too entangled with the people from the Underworld; he was just using the connections to fend off unnecessary troubles.

...

"Deng Zhongwen's security company might be useful..."

Qin Fang touched the business card of Deng Zhongwen in his pocket. Although he had initially refused it, he later accepted, and now he pondered over it.

It was not just his card, but also the one from the martial arts school given by Ning Yumo. Qin Fang kept both cards, knowing they might come in handy later.

Qin Fang now wanted to improve the Proficiency of his Fist Technique, and his main method so far was daily morning training, along with sparring with Fang Dacheng. Other than that, there were no other options.

However, over the past month, the Proficiency of his Fist Technique had not even reached ten percent, which was frustratingly slow. So, when Ning Yumo introduced him to the martial arts school, he was somewhat tempted.

The reason was simple: The martial arts school offered the opportunity to learn more fist techniques and fighting skills, and also provided a variety of opponents for sparring. Being able to spar with different strengths and styles, and possibly encountering strong masters, was beneficial. Even if he couldn't win, getting beaten up was good too, as it could improve his Combo Points for the Strong Body Technique.

Speaking of the Strong Body Technique, that was another reason Qin Fang held onto Deng Zhongwen's business card.

The security company's bodyguards generally had decent abilities. If they came to blows, they would be stronger than the average thugs, and they were also trained regularly in things like combat, protection, Reconnaissance, to better ensure their employers' safety.

Although Deng Zhongwen's company was currently in a decline, it had a decent scale before, and both the facilities and training level were acceptable. Li Dong mentioned this briefly while escorting Qin Fang

and others out, intending to have Qin Fang decide whether to attend tomorrow's banquet. He did not expect it would give Qin Fang such an idea.

The Strong Body Technique required Combo Points to exchange for Proficiency, and these points had to be earned through getting hit. Simply taking a few strikes from Fang Dacheng everyday was far from enough, and Qin Fang certainly couldn't just grab someone on the street to start a fight. If he trained at the security company, it would be a form of training where he could improve himself and continuously gain Combo Points, a fairly good idea indeed.

Of course, if he really did this, Qin Fang wouldn't tell anyone the real reason.

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"Fangfang, it's not a solution for you to be busy on both fronts!"

After the two-day break was over, Qin Fang returned to class. After class, Tang Feifei wanted to hang out with him, but unfortunately, Qin Fang mentioned he had to make sauces at Fang Feixue, which made Tang Feifei grumble in annoyance.

"There's nothing I can do about this, Fang Feixue is the culmination of our three people's hard work. I can't possibly watch it close down. And this sauce, there's only one person who can make it, and even if I wanted to find a replacement, there's none available!"

Qin Fang said with a wry smile on his face as well. He did want to take it easy for a bit, but the problem was that no one could replace him. The recipe for this sauce was known only to him and Mouse Qiang, and with Mouse Qiang now solely involved in the underworld, he would likely quickly forget it. On the

other hand, Qin Fang had an Intermediate Cooking Skill, so the sauce he made was exceptionally delicious, which was why Fang Feixue's business was doing so well.

"But this isn't a solution either! Of course, we can't let Fang Feixue close down, but it can't take up so much of your time. Besides, if your battery project can take off, you'll be even busier and definitely won't be able to take care of it..."

They didn't want Fang Feixue to close down because it was their painstaking effort, even more so, it could be said to be the shared effort and emotional investment of both Qin Fang and Tang Feifei.

Tang Feifei also thought of such concerns. Compared to Fang Feixue, the prospects of the battery project were naturally countless times better. She naturally did not hope that Fang Feixue would cause any delays to Qin Fang's career.

"This... I'll think of a way!"

Qin Fang had also been troubled by this issue for a long time, but there never seemed to be a good solution.

...

"Recruit an apprentice?"

When Uncle Fang heard this, he was also slightly stunned, "Xiao Qin, is this necessary? Nowadays, these kids have no patience at all, fishing for three days and drying the nets for two, probably running off after a few days... Not like when we were apprentices, the first three years were spent doing chores for the master and then slowly learning the skill, taking another three years to become proficient..."

Although Uncle Fang rambled a bit, it was to be expected at his age, and Qin Fang could understand. Besides, what Uncle Fang said was true; young people nowadays rarely have the patience to be apprentices.

Most of his contemporaries were in school, and even those who were working were looking to learn crafts that didn't involve much hard labor. As for becoming a chef, very few apprentices could endure such menial labor.

"Should we go directly to those culinary schools instead?"

Finding an apprentice was definitely a problem, but now there were some specialized culinary schools with widespread advertising. Although the true quality of the skills taught was unknown, students should still manage to learn something. Qin Fang's requirement wasn't too high; he just needed someone who could learn his sauce-making skill adequately.

Asking the chefs in the restaurant to do it?

Qin Fang had considered and even tried it, but once a chef becomes proficient after a few years, their skills tend to become set, even their addition of condiments like oil, soy sauce, and vinegar has a fixed measure. That's why the skills of many chefs can be identified just by the taste.

In reality, a chef should not produce the same flavor for the same dish on two different occasions.

The sauce was the same: it contained a great variety of ingredients. Although Qin Fang had a detailed recipe, he had tried it, and the three chefs in the store produced sauces with three different tastes, none of which met his requirements.

In desperation, he decided to look for an apprentice because an apprentice's skills weren't yet completely set and could still be molded...

"I see... I'll have to think about it!"

Qin Fang hesitated. Students from culinary schools would be considered quasi-chefs, definitely skilled to a degree, but still not as good as the three chefs in the store. Now the store just lacked someone to make the sauce, and such students might lack the patience for such monotonous work.

"Uncle Fang, let's find an apprentice. You get someone to put up a sign at the door and give it a try. If we really can't find anyone, then we'll do what you suggested. What do you think?"

In the end, Qin Fang had no choice but to adopt this compromise. After all, he didn't want to spend too much time on this issue, but he couldn't let Fang Feixue simply collapse.

The idea of recruiting an apprentice was originally suggested to Qin Fang by Xiao Nan, but at the time, Qin Fang didn't pay much attention to it. With one thing leading to another, he temporarily set it aside. However, now that the crisis seemed temporarily averted, and with Tang Feifei's worries on the side, Qin Fang pondered it seriously and thought of the idea again.

After long consideration, he felt that this might be a good approach, so he came to discuss it with Uncle Fang.

Uncle Fang's concerns were not unfounded, and Qin Fang himself was worried about the sauce recipe leaking out. This was why he considered finding an apprentice rather than a fully-trained chef, as this would greatly reduce the risk of a leak. As long as Qin Fang handled it correctly, he could keep the secret recipe exclusively.

For the same reason, Qin Fang rarely took action himself now. Fang Feixue's booming business relied on this secret sauce recipe. If a knowledgeable chef were to learn it, a leak would not only make Qin Fang busy again but could also lead to competitors, which would truly be disastrous.

Moreover, this went against Qin Fang's original purpose of finding someone to make the sauce for him...