

Genius 40

Chapter 40: Qin Fang's First Barbecue _1

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While Qin Fang was busy, Afanti, who was leaning alongside him, was also hard at work. He had thumped his chest and assured his master, Li Feng, of his competence. How could he afford to drop the ball at such a critical moment?

It must be said, being a three-time BBQ competition winner was not something to be taken lightly. He prepared seven or eight ingredients simultaneously, grilling them over the fire, and each movement was executed with such fluidity. His adeptness was the result of many years of dedicated practice.

Qin Fang was methodically, meticulously and systematically going about his business. Afanti spared a glance in his direction and noticed Qin Fang's movements seemed clumsy, clearly still a novice. Afanti couldn't help but curl his lip disdainfully, thinking it was beneath him to compete against such an opponent.

But there was nothing to be done—not when carrying out his master's orders. If he failed, his well-paying job would be at stake, forcing him to return to running his little BBQ stall. After growing accustomed to this lifestyle, reverting to his old one was evidently something he found difficult to accept.

Afanti started grilling a bit later than Qin Fang, yet his speed was slightly quicker. Some vegetables, which tend to cook faster by nature, were done in no time. He meticulously arranged several of the freshly grilled items onto a clean plate and presented it to Li Feng.

"Young Master Feng, everything is ready. Please, have a taste!"

He respectfully presented the plate, its aroma mouthwatering and its colors appearing exceptionally appetizing—unlike the slightly charred offerings of less skilled grill masters.

"Wow, it smells so good..."

As soon as the plate was served, everyone in the vicinity was enticed by the delicious smell, and even the girls who were not fond of Li Feng—Li Yao among them—still gave the prepared food some genuinely fair praise.

"Hmm, let me try..."

Li Feng moved his lips, about to speak to Tang Feifei, but noticing that she was at that moment turning to watch Qin Fang still busily at work, he swallowed his words. He picked up a skewer of meat from the plate and began to taste it.

Li Feng came from a wealthy background and had eaten countless delicacies, but the aroma of the skewer had already captivated him before he even took a bite. With the first taste, he found the flavor quite exceptional. In terms of taste, it might even surpass dishes from star-rated hotel chefs.

"Mmm, not bad, not bad..."

A smile appeared on Li Feng's face as he nodded his head in approval. "Fellow classmates, don't be shy. Please enjoy... Feifei, these are your favorite chicken wings, and they really taste good. Give them a try!"

While he cordially invited the girls to partake, his main focus was naturally on courting Tang Feifei.

"No need, I'll wait for Qin Fang..."

Tang Feifei shook her head. Despite the tempting chicken wing offered by Li Feng, she knew his intentions and hadn't planned to give him any chance.

"Feifei, since Li Feng has been so courteous, just give it a try... Later on, try Qin Fang's BBQ for comparison. If Qin Fang's isn't tasty, you can tell him to improve his culinary skills when you get back..."

Fang Min and Zhang Ting had been convinced by their boyfriends, who only knew what they'd said, but even so, the two girls who had previously scorned Li Feng changed their tune, persuading Tang Feifei.

"Really, there's no need... Okay, I'll try a bit!"

Tang Feifei was about to refuse, but couldn't resist the persistent urging of her two best friends. Out of consideration for face, she had to comply, opting to take a skewer from the plate rather than accepting the one Li Feng held out, leaving him awkwardly holding his hand in the air.

However, Li Feng understood that he had already lost enough face for one day; a little more didn't matter. The fact that Tang Feifei had agreed to his request was a small victory for him, even though the matter didn't really concern him at all.

Li Feng waved his hand dismissively and took the chicken wing back, gnawing on it himself as he watched Tang Feifei eating a grilled wing on the other side. He couldn't help but fantasize that he and Tang Feifei were nibbling on the same piece...

Narcissists are always presumptuous, and the fact that Fang Min and Zhang Ting gave him face only to be ignored was utterly dismissed. Among all the men and women present, aside from Tang Feifei, none of them really mattered to him, even though these two girls had just helped him. Luckily, Tang Feifei was unaware of Li Feng's sleazy thoughts, or she might have actually slapped him across the face.

"A dog bites Lu Dongbin, not knowing the heart of a good person!"

They had been kind enough to help, but were ignored outright, leaving Fang Min and Zhang Ting looking quite displeased. They glared resentfully at their boyfriends and huffed in silence. Inside, though, they were both seething with jealousy towards Li Feng.

"Feifei, how does it taste? Is it to your liking? Want another one?"

A mid-joint wing didn't have much meat, and in no time at all, it had settled in Tang Feifei's stomach. Seeing Tang Feifei had finished, Li Feng naturally offered his services, asking about the taste while handing another wing over.

"No need, I've had enough!"

Just now, Tang Feifei was only giving face to her close friends Fang and Zhang. Now, well... she really didn't feel like giving Li Feng any face.

Seeing Tang Feifei decline, Li Feng was out of options and could only signal to Fang Min and Zhang Ting with a look of arrogant entitlement, as if he were really ordering around servants. The two women were already upset, and now he expected their help again? Not a chance...

"Feifei, I've grilled the wings! Want to try?"

Just when the atmosphere was getting awkward, Qin Fang's voice suddenly rang out, his hands already holding several freshly grilled chicken wings as he walked over.

"Feifei, you mustn't eat it. Look at these wings, the skin is all charred, and who knows if the insides are even cooked... Listen to me, grilling might seem simple, but to do it well takes years of practice. This Afanti master here is Ninghai's three-time food festival barbecue champion. His grilling..."

Upon seeing Qin Fang approaching with grilled wings, Li Feng did catch a whiff of the enticing aroma, but as far as appearance goes, they really couldn't compare to Afanti's. Plus, having noticed Qin Fang's somewhat clumsy technique earlier, he knew Qin Fang was a novice and wouldn't miss such a golden opportunity to denigrate him.

"Hmm, I'll have a taste..."

While Li Feng endlessly criticized Qin Fang's grilling as trash, Tang Feifei's expression shifted slightly, and her brows furrowed, clearly dissatisfied with Li Feng's comments about Qin Fang.

But upon seeing Qin Fang's confident smile and his disdain for Li Feng's attitude, Tang Feifei immediately beamed, her radiant smile taking a wing from Qin Fang's hand and starting to nibble on it.

"Feifei, please don't eat it..."

Seeing Tang Feifei ignore his advice and insist on eating the novice-grilled wings by Qin Fang, Li Feng even let out an affected cry of alarm.

But as shocked as he pretended to be, he shocked Tang Feifei even more. Everyone watched as the wing met her lips, her previously beaming face suddenly stiffening...

All eyes promptly focused on Tang Feifei's face, and upon seeing her expression, everyone wore a peculiar look while staring at Qin Fang, their eyes clearly conveying a very obvious message.

Especially Li Feng. He wasn't upset because Tang Feifei ate undercooked food; in fact, he was thrilled inside. This gave him even more reason to belittle Qin Fang and build up his own grand image.

"Feifei, if it's not cooked, just throw it away; getting a stomachache would be bad..."

Li Feng said proudly on the side, looking as if he couldn't wait to degrade Qin Fang to the basement.