

Genius 63

Chapter 63: A Boss and Two Matrons_1

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Just as Tang Feifei had said, with Ning Yumo's help, it took only three days to rent a storefront and handle all sorts of procedures.

The newly rented storefront, the future site of the noodle shop, was located on Lanyuan Pedestrian Street. Although it wasn't in the most bustling area of Lanyuan, it was still not too far away.

Over those three days, Tang Feifei and Xiao Muxue were incredibly busy. Despite both being young women, they were far more adept at business than Qin Fang, a grown man.

Especially when it came to bargaining, Qin Fang couldn't even come close to their skills. The radiantly charming smiles of the two beauties, paired with a few cunning tactics, thoroughly confused the landlord. Not only was the rent 20% less than what the previous tenant had paid, but the traditional six-month rental payment was also reduced to a monthly one.

It was only long after the dazed landlord had signed the rental agreement that he slowly came to his senses. When he looked at the contract again, he felt an overwhelming urge to cry.

But to go back on his word and renegotiate would have cost him his face. Luckily, the two beauties were considerate enough to offer a deal: any visit from him or his family and friends to the noodle shop would be treated to a 20% discount. That left him content and satisfied.

Now that they had secured the storefront, all that was left to do was renovate it. Thankfully, the previous occupant had also been in the food service industry, but, similar to Xiao Muxue's Uncle Chen Pangzi, had not been skilled enough to keep the business afloat and had to shut down. Qin Fang and his team simply needed to do some minor renovations.

Of course, the two beauties took full responsibility for the task, overseeing everything from material selection and pricing to haggling and supervision. Meanwhile, Qin Fang used the last few days of his vacation to learn how to make baozi from Uncle Fang, who was known for his secret recipe soup buns, ensuring he also matched up and successfully mixed the ingredients for the secret sauce from Mouse Qiang.

"Secret Sauce (Grade 2), Deliciousness +2."

These were the attributes of the secret sauce that Qin Fang had made, rather simple, with just a bonus of Deliciousness +2.

But to Qin Fang, this attribute was incredibly powerful. It meant that even if the taste of the noodles in his shop was slightly off, adding this secret sauce would still make them taste great. After experimenting, Qin Fang found that while the Deliciousness +2 attribute wasn't fully transferred to the ramen, the sauce still seemed to enhance the noodles with at least a Deliciousness of +1.

As for the secret recipe soup buns, with Intermediate Cooking skills, even Uncle Fang, the direct descendant, could only give Qin Fang a thumbs-up and admit defeat, acknowledging his culinary prowess with a respectful nod. And after Qin Fang's earnest invitation, Uncle Fang officially became a business partner of Qin Fang's noodle shop, agreeing to supply all the soup buns—a deal that was mutually beneficial and also somewhat of a compensation from Qin Fang to Uncle Fang.

However, Qin Fang had his own reasons for doing this. Although he knew how to make the soup buns, it was a hassle and took up too much time, which he didn't have. He needed a large stock of these buns, which for him were like elixirs and miraculous medicines to recover health, and it was essential to store them in abundance.

Ordinary baozi have a shelf life, but Qin Fang surprisingly discovered that his Props Box could not only retrieve items but also accept them from the outside. In particular, the secret recipe soup buns turned into something akin to health potions from online games as soon as they were placed inside, and they could even stack automatically. However, there was a limit of 99 buns per slot in the Props Box, and these buns became bound to him, rendering them unusable by anyone else.

What Qin Fang found most regrettable was that the Props Box only had three slots. Now a Brick occupied one and 99 Baozi another, leaving only one slot remaining.

"Sigh, I wonder if this Props Box can be expanded..."

As a semi-gaming expert, Qin Fang knew that many pay-to-play games liked to pull the trick of charging money to expand inventory space, which inevitably led him to entertain such a thought.

However, for him at that moment, it was just a thought—let alone not having the option, even if it did exist, he didn't have the money for it...

Time flew rapidly, and every day Qin Fang felt as antsy as if he were sitting on pins and needles. The renovation of the shop was drawing to a close, and Tang Feifei and Xiao Muxue had even set the opening day—it would be three days before Ninghai University's semester began. The three of them discussed making a splash before the semester started so when the student traffic increased upon opening, business would naturally follow.

As for the name of the shop, it had also been decided, giving Qin Fang a massive headache.

When Qin Fang first heard such a femininely charged name for the shop, he almost blew his top on the spot; yet he surrendered helplessly before the vote was cast as he was outnumbered—one to two. Was there even a need for a show of hands?

On the day of the noodle shop's grand opening, there weren't the anticipated celebratory firecrackers, the sound of gongs and drums, nor a sea of people. It was just Qin Fang and the others officially opening the doors for business, and Ning Yumo sending over a pair of flower baskets signified the official start.

Perhaps because semester had not begun yet, Lanyuan wasn't very lively, and their shop's location wasn't the best, which meant hardly any business. The situation was similar for other restaurants in the vicinity, nothing too surprising there.

Although Tang Feifei and Xiao Muxue, the two beauties, had fostered alright relationships with a few other business owners in the area during the shop's renovation days, the attitudes shifted once they discovered the beauties were opening a restaurant, not a boutique. Despite their eagerness to lay their eyes on these women a bit longer, they ultimately conformed to the adage, "Business rivals are natural enemies," not even bothering to offer good-luck wishes.

More than that, there were a few who were irritated by Qin Fang monopolizing the attention of the two beauties. They even went so far as to steer customers away from the noodle shop right in front of Qin Fang, angering the beauties so much that they wanted to charge at them for a face-to-face showdown.

Initially, such matters infuriated the two women and they wanted to take out their anger on Qin Fang, but soon an incident occurred that left Qin Fang feeling quite smug, even though the outcome was a series of bruises on his arms, sides, and thighs inflicted by pinches that very evening.

It happened when a young chap, probably newly arrived from out of town and toting a large, worn backpack, walked in and immediately saw Xiao Muxue fanning herself with a small fan. He blurted out "Boss Lady," leaving Xiao Muxue dumbfounded.

At that moment, Qin Fang, dressed in a white chef uniform, happened to step out from the kitchen. The young man gave a cheerful greeting of "Boss," which nearly made Xiao Muxue dive under the table from embarrassment.

And it didn't stop there. Xiao Muxue, too shy to continue serving him, hid in the back, while the customer ordered ramen, which Qin Fang naturally went to prepare. The ramen was served by Tang Feifei herself, and without noticing the shift in person, the young man mistook her for Xiao Muxue, courteously thanked the "Boss Lady" as he reached for the bowl.

Thus the legend of one boss and two "Boss Ladies" of Fang Feixue Noodle Shop began to spread from this young man's lips, slowly becoming a local legend throughout Lanyuan and eventually the entire university town...