

Little Girl 391

Chapter 391: Godlike Speed

Master Ji's face was full of anger.

Tonight, the business at Taoyao Pavilion was particularly good.

Outside, guests came in waves, and the kitchen was bustling like a raging fire.

Master Ji, busy until now, noticed the shortage of dishes and bowls only when he stepped out.

Little did he know that he would catch Wang Lei slacking off.

This was the last general worker in the kitchen; otherwise, Master Ji would have kicked him out long ago.

As for Xin Lin, Master Ji never really considered her a person.

"Master Ji, please don't be angry, it's not my fault. It's the new general worker outside who volunteered to wash the dishes. He even said he didn't need my help, so since I was busy until noon yesterday, I took a nap."

Wang Lei hurriedly explained.

The new kid, pretty bold with his words.

Master Ji stormed out to the courtyard in a huff.

"Kid, I told you, you can't handle it alone, and you still won't let me help..."

Wang Lei was secretly pleased, waiting for Xin Lin to be scolded harshly by Master Ji and kicked out immediately.

Ahead, Master Ji's body stiffened, and he didn't utter a word for a long time.

Wang Lei curiously moved forward to look.

He saw that by the well, more than a dozen basins of dishes and bowls had already been washed clean.

Not only that, but the particularly large water tank by the well had also been cleaned.

The new general worker was washing vegetables there.

Hearing the noise, Xin Lin looked up, saw Master Ji, and quickly stood up, her face showing respect.

"Master Ji, the dishes and bowls have all been washed clean, please have a look."

Master Ji approached and examined the dishes and bowls, each one washed to a snowy white sheen, spotless.

"Did you wash all these by yourself?"

Master Ji was no fool; he could see that Wang Lei was making it hard for the new general worker.

More than a dozen basins of greasy dishes and bowls, in two hours, two workers might not even finish.

He suspected that Xin Lin had covert help.

Master Ji values personal integrity in his employees.

It's alright not to complete the task, but deception is unacceptable.

"I did it myself."

Xin Lin said unhurriedly.

"You're lying! How could you possibly do it alone... You must have asked someone for help."

Wang Lei was also stunned.

Xin Lin remained non-committal.

Master Ji looked around, then at the petite Xin Lin and her sweat-covered face.

"Have you worked as a general worker before?"

"My family used to run a restaurant called Spiritual Food, and I helped out there for a while."

Xin Lin half-truthfully replied, she indeed wasn't a newbie.

"Master Ji, this kid is not trustworthy, you can't keep such a person in the kitchen."

Wang Lei, looking at the full water tank, was even more skeptical.

As he was speaking, the waitstaff brought in another two basins of dirty dishes.

"True or false, we'll know if we try. Wang Lei, you said I was deceiving, so let's wash them together."

Xin Lin didn't say more.

Wang Lei also refused to show weakness.

He rolled up his sleeves and started washing the dishes.

Wang Lei, the most senior general worker in Taoyao Pavilion, had been washing dishes for four to five years, his skill was top-notch.

Watching him pour water, place the dishes, and swiftly wipe, he quickly washed a dish.

Proud and arrogant in his heart, he glanced at Xin Lin, not believing that this little worker could be faster than him.

Wang Lei turned around and was stunned.

He saw that Xin Lin already had three to four dishes piled up.

How could this be possible!

Wang Lei thought he saw wrong, and looked again.

Watching Xin Lin's hands, her movements were incredibly fast, almost too fast to see the motions!

Chapter 392: Another Random Quest

Where is this merely washing dishes!

Not only was Wang Lei stunned, but even Master Ji was dumbfounded.

There are certainly people with fast hand speed in the Spirit Food World.

In fact, in most large Spiritual Food Restaurants, the cooks who chop and prepare ingredients are very quick with their hands.

And there are some Spiritual Cuisine Masters, who are also very fast when preparing Spiritual Food.

But such speed is not uncommon among skilled Spiritual Delicacy Masters and seasoned Spiritual Delicacy Masters; what's rare is seeing it in a young general worker.

What baffled Master Ji even more was that after washing more than a dozen basins of bowls and dishes, Xin Lin could still wash them so quickly without any sign of fatigue.

And to him, she appeared to be nothing more than a seven or eight-year-old child.

The outcome, it goes without saying.

Wang Lei clenched his teeth, accidentally smashed two more dishes, and still couldn't catch up to even half the speed of Xin Lin.

Wang Lei was utterly dispirited as he looked at the clean pile of bowls and dishes in front of him.

"How is this possible, you're just a new general worker, and I've been doing this for four or five years."

Wang Lei mumbled incessantly.

"I've been helping out in the Spiritual Food Restaurant for three or four years too."

Xin Lin shrugged.

"I knew it, she is talking nonsense. Master Ji, just look at her age; unless she started helping out when she was three or four years old. How is that possible?"

Wang Lei said discontentedly, reasoning that a family who could afford to run a Spiritual Food Restaurant wouldn't be too poorly off and certainly wouldn't let a three or four-year-old child help out.

"I'm fourteen years old now, I just had an illness when I was little and didn't grow much, that's all. Oiran can vouch for me."

Xin Lin spread her hands.

"Wang Lei, you're not as skilled and you're making a fuss for nothing. Keep causing a scene and you can get out too."

Master Ji glanced at Xin Lin, then at the nearby spiritual materials.

"Who told you to touch those spiritual materials?"

As soon as Wang Lei heard this, he immediately said.

"That's right, you've got some nerve! I didn't permit you to touch the spiritual materials, these materials are all very precious, if you damaged them, even selling you wouldn't cover the cost."

The spiritual materials outside were mostly of Mortal rank and sometimes of Lower Jade Rank, usually general workers aren't allowed to touch them recklessly.

It hadn't occurred to Xin Lin this aspect, she just felt unoccupied and spontaneously decided to help out and wash them.

After Master Ji carefully inspected and saw no damage to the spiritual materials, he continued with a stern face.

"Today is your first day here, yet you overstepped your duties, I'm docking a day's wages."

Wang Lei was overjoyed on the side; that'll teach the kid to show off.

Xin Lin did not utter a sound.

"However, you're quite deft and clever; stay in the kitchen and learn well. You might still have a chance in the future."

Having said that, Master Ji turned and walked away with his hands behind his back.

His face was still stern, but his steps were cheerful.

Finally, he'd found a seedling worthy of cultivation, but there was plenty of time. He had to observe this little fellow well; if in addition to having quick hands and feet, he's also a Xuanwu Practitioner, then there would be potential for cultivation.

"Congratulations, life master, you have successfully obtained the job, general worker. Heaven-defying Value +10."

The monotonous voice of the Heaven-defying Book echoed again in Xin Lin's mind.

Xin Lin felt joy in her heart, but in the next moment, another voice came into her mind.

"Random mission: Within ten days, advance from a general worker to an Assistant Chef. Mission failure, Heaven-defying Value deducted by 20; mission success, reward of one roll of the Opportunity Dice."

Xin Lin's eyebrows raised.

From general worker to Assistant Chef would normally take at least three to five years. Ten days, was this some kind of joke?

But she couldn't refuse a random mission!

Chapter 393: The Feeling of Home

"In ten days, becoming an Assistant Chef, this sounds like sheer fantasy.

This night, Xin Lin was busy until late at night inside Taoyao Pavilion.

Boss Liu was very satisfied with her performance on the first day and formally hired her as a general worker for Taoyao Pavilion, providing one evening meal and a monthly salary of ten silver taels.

This price sounds generous, but for a general worker, it's already a high wage, second only to that of places like the Great Spirit Restaurant in De Yue Building.

Around midnight, Xin Lin returned to Chu Mansion.

"Little Boss, the boss and that egg have gone out and said they won't be back tonight."

Ma Jingtian had almost lost himself in thought in Taoyao Pavilion; had it not been for Gui Hu dragging him back, he might have drunk himself into not even being able to tell the directions apart.

Xin Lin nodded; Gui Hu most likely went to cultivate with the Overlord Egg again.

"How did the tasks I assigned to the gang members go?"

As soon as Xin Lin entered Chu Mansion, she started looking around.

After two days of cleanup, the once old and disorderly "Haunted House" had been transformed.

The rampant weeds had been cleared, and the paths in the mansion revealed their original look, flanked by pines and cypresses, with some unnamed flowers blooming exuberantly, emitting a tranquil fragrance in the dark night.

Most of the wing rooms had been tidied and repaired, and bright lanterns hung under the eaves.

The walls had been repainted, and the tiles on the roof neatly align.

From afar, the lanterns bear the "Chu" character, finally looking a bit like a residential place.

In Xin Lin's previous life, although she was the Female Soldier King and had mansions around the world, none of them felt like "home."

Chu Mansion, Silly Chu, and a group of trustworthy gang members created a warm current in Xin Lin's heart.

For the sake of maintaining Chu Mansion, the trivial matters at Taoyao Pavilion became insignificant.

"Everything is tidy. The brothers found some seeds in the firewood shed, which seem to be left by people who used to live here. They're asking Little Boss, there's an empty space in the backyard, whether we should plant something?"

There's a back courtyard in Chu Mansion, with several acres of barren land previously overgrown with weeds. After Ma Jingtian had it cleaned up, he pondered about planting some flowers and plants, as that's what most young ladies like, right?

In name, Silly Chu was the head of Chu Mansion, but in reality, the true decision-maker was Little Boss.

Unfortunately, Xin Lin was far from a conventional young lady.

"What flowers and grasses, plant some vegetables and fruits, isn't that more practical. Bring me those seeds to look at."

After inspecting the vegetable seeds, which she couldn't recognize, Xin Lin randomly picked one.

"Alright, I'll have the brothers plant them tomorrow."

Ma Jingtian said promptly.

"Hold on, I'll give you the seeds tomorrow."

After obtaining the seeds, Xin Lin returned to her room to examine them. Gritting her teeth, she poured the seeds into the Jade Purification Tank and added some clean water, soaking the seeds in it.

The water from the Jade Pure Spring in the Jade Purification Tank had several benefits to the body, able to rapidly restore vitality. However, it wasn't an endless resource.

Within one day, only three bottles could be drunk, any more than that would be of no benefit.

Moreover, Xin Lin had also tried it; it seems to only work for Xuanwu Practitioners, not having any effect on her silly father.

This also crushed Xin Lin's initial plan of selling the Jade Pure Spring to make money.

With the limited use in restoring vitality, the value of the Jade Pure Spring was greatly diminished.

As Xin Lin considered, a sudden thought struck her—how would it be if she used the Jade Pure Spring for cultivation?"

Chapter 394: First Steps in Gathering Spirit

Using Jade Pure Spring directly for farming was clearly not suitable.

Besides, the Jade Purification Tank could only spare a daily ration of three bottles at most, and there was no more available, ignoring the daily consumption and the occasional indulgence with an Overlord Egg; there was also a significant amount that needed to be accounted for.

Xin Lin thought it over and decided to try using a small bottle of Jade Pure Spring for an experiment.

The seeds found in the firewood shed of Chu Mansion were due to their age, though still usable, most were shriveled and dull in color.

After soaking the seeds in the Jade Purifying Bottle, Xin Lin felt not a hint of sleepiness.

A bottle of Jade Pure Spring down, and she wasn't the slightest bit tired.

With some time still before dawn, Xin Lin contemplated for a moment, considering that even an Overlord Egg could spew out a lotus blossom, as its owner, she surely couldn't be outdone by an egg.

Xin Lin decided to close her eyes to conserve energy and began to gather Spiritual Energy.

She had transformed the Royal Cultivation Skill into the Spirit Taming Technique, but up till now, had never actually practiced it.

It wasn't that Xin Lin was lazy, but mastering the Spirit Taming Technique was not easy.

It was created by Emperor Taizhong and due to his connection, it had never been disclosed to the world, nor had anyone ever practiced it.

It was, in essence, a brand new Cultivation Technique.

To control the spirit, one must first gather Spiritual Energy.

Gathering Spiritual Energy required the Five Meridians, just as gathering True Qi also needed the Five Meridians.

Xin Lin only had one Ghost Vein within her body, so naturally, her ability to gather spirit would be somewhat inferior to others.

This was also why Xin Lin's progress in the cultivation of Spiritual Practitioner was always slower compared to Little Xinzhuo.

If it hadn't been for "Little Worm's" cheating tactics during the last Imperial Examination, Xin Lin would surely not have been recognized as an Advanced Spirit Master, possessing Superior Talent.

However, effort is certainly more decisive, and the more you evade, the more you need to confront.

Xin Lin opened the Spirit Taming Technique which is divided into three stages: Gathering Spirit, Controlling Spirit, and Spirit Control.

In the dead of night, when day turns to night, is the time when Spiritual Energy is most abundant within the day, which is why Gui Hu chooses to cultivate with the Overlord Egg around dawn near Qin Mountain.

The Spiritual Energy in the mountains is richer than inside Purple Cloud City, and it's also easier to condense.

Most of the Spiritual Energy inside Purple Cloud City is absorbed by cultivators, so not much remains.

And the transition from day to night is when new Spiritual Energy emerges.

Xin Lin closed her eyes.

The amount of Spiritual Energy needed to be sensed through the Spirit Vein.

She closed her eyes for a quarter of an hour, and her Ghost Vein did not react at all.

"One vein is indeed not enough."

Xin Lin sighed.

Without the ability to sense Spiritual Energy, there was no way to gather it.

As dawn gradually broke, Xin Lin still couldn't sense a trace of Spiritual Energy.

"Let's try one last time."

Xin Lin silently recited.

Suddenly, an idea struck her.

If the Spirit Vein within her body couldn't sense Spiritual Energy, why not try sensing it with Fu Xi's Energy?

Xin Lin had an idea.

She quickly mustered a breath of Fu Xi's Energy, condensed it in her eyes, then slowly opened them, searching for Spiritual Energy in the dim early morning light.

Gradually, the scenery before Xin Lin's eyes changed.

The simple furnishings in the room vanished.

Before her appeared a series of hazy mists, each a different color.

The room, it seemed, was painted with various colored pigments.

The mists of different colors, lingering around her.

This was spirit!

Xin Lin was overjoyed; Spirit Fog existed between Heaven and Earth, subtle and omnipresent, only by condensing it could it be transformed into Spiritual Energy and be drawn into the body.

While Xin Lin was practicing the Spirit Taming Technique, the vegetable seeds casually placed on the table, after a night of soaking, also quietly underwent a transformation.

Chapter 395: A Certain Tsundere's Endless Worries

Upon seeing the fog-like Spiritual Energy, Xin Lin did not immediately start the Gathering Spirit process.

First-time Gatherers often make a mistake, which is to blindly induce an excessive amount of spirit into their bodies.

But in fact, unless one has an extraordinarily powerful Spirit Vein, the amount of spirit that a cultivator's body can absorb is limited.

Blindly taking in too much spirit can easily backlash against the practitioner's body, and even cause damage to organs and meridians.

This is also the reason why, after the Longteng Stele incident, Xin Lin nearly met with a disastrous fate due to absorbing too much True Qi into her body.

After Gui Hu saved her, he fiercely scolded her and even declared that if there were a next time, he would not lend a hand.

Xin Lin certainly did not want to be scolded by the Pride Corpse again, so she focused her attention on the patches of multi-colored Spirit Fog.

The first time Gathering Spirit, it is best to condense one type of spirit.

Generally speaking, the spirit that one senses the strongest is the most suitable for Gathering Spirit.

The Spirit Fog that Xin Lin saw was multi-colored, each different from the others.

There was red, as well as blue, and also green, brown, gold; the five colors symbolizing the different Gold, Wood, Water, Fire, Earth spirits.

These are the most basic Five Spirits that a Spirit Warrior can initially see. In the future, with increased cultivation or other encounters, one may see other types of spirit.

Of course, those spirits are things one can encounter but not seek.

After observing for a while, Xin Lin discovered that among these Five Spirits, the red Spirit Fog she could see was the thickest and largest in both color and volume.

This meant that Xin Lin's sensitivity to the Fire Spirit was stronger than that of others.

"It's you."

Xin Lin took slow breaths, inhaling and exhaling, while silently reciting the Spirit Taming Technique.

The red fog, following Xin Lin's breathing, was drawn into her body.

The moment the Fire Spirit entered her body, it started with her skin, then muscles, bones, before reaching the blood, and finally the organs, as if enveloped by a warm and melting sensation.

That single Ghost Vein within her stirred slightly.

The red fog was quickly compressed, consolidated together, forming strands of Fire Spirit Spiritual Energy, accumulating within Xin Lin's body.

For a short induction of spirit into the body, Xin Lin had spent nearly two hours.

When she opened her eyes again, the sky had already started to brighten.

Upon opening her eyes, Xin Lin saw a pair of blue eyes contemplatively gazing at her.

"Pride Corpse!"

Xin Lin was almost startled.

This guy, when did he come back? And he did not even make a sound.

"Fire Spirit, huh."

Gui Hu glanced at Xin Lin and was somewhat surprised. He did not expect her to successfully induce the spirit into her body at a place like Purple Cloud City where Spiritual Energy is so scarce, and that the Spiritual Energy she gathered was quite pure.

"Not bad, right? Once I gather more Fire Spirits, I can use Spirit Art. How come it's only you here? Where is the Overlord Egg?"

Xin Lin looked around.

Xin Lin noted that Gui Hu appeared somewhat weary.

"That fool is truly bothersome!"

Gui Hu's face turned ashen with irritation, and his handsome face was full of impatience as he rubbed his temples.

Although the Overlord Egg had comprehended the Lianhua Technique, its capability in Controlling Spirit was extremely unstable, varying in strength, and if not careful, could trigger dangerous incidents like the one caused by the Water Wraith Gang.

Gui Hu thought about not letting this creature cause trouble again, so he took it back to Qin Mountain, wanting it to train properly and learn how to control the Fire Spirit.

But that egg was just a born blockhead. Just to prevent it from leveling the top of Qin Mountain, Gui Hu had to expend a great amount of Ghost Power. As the sky gradually lightened, he then returned first, back into the Sealing Spirit Talisman to rest.

Chapter 396: Miserable Dandan

Gui Hu had no patience, so he simply threw the Overlord Egg into the Heaven and Earth Devouring Spirit Array, endowed a Prohibition, and commanded it to repeatedly practice the Lianhua Technique until it could control it freely before letting it out.

(Mommy, there's no one better than Mommy in the world, I don't want Daddy ahhh)

In Xin Lin's mind, a scene appeared where the Overlord Egg looked utterly distraught.

"I left it two bottles of Jade Pure Spring."

Gui Hu, with a annoyed look on his face, disappeared in the next moment.

Xin Lin was stunned; Jade Pure Spring, wasn't that hers?

She searched and indeed found that two of her concealed bottles of Jade Pure Spring were missing.

Xin Lin gritted her teeth and cursed for a while, then thought about it.

It seemed that the Pride Corpse also had a bit of compassion, was he afraid that the Overlord Egg would starve to death?

The corners of Xin Lin's mouth couldn't help but lift up.

With the Overlord Egg gone, there were fewer thieves snatching food and drink, which turned out to be a blessing in disguise.

Thinking of her successful Gathering Spirit, her mood suddenly improved a lot.

She hummed a tune, glancing at the Jade Purification Tank on the table.

The seeds in the Jade Purification Tank should have improved overnight.

Xin Lin looked over and was slightly stunned.

The Jade Pure Spring in the Jade Purification Tank had completely disappeared.

In the teacup-size tank, there was a bowl of vegetable seeds.

However, unlike the dark and flat seeds she had soaked last night, after several hours of soaking, the seeds not only became very plump but also shed their black skins, revealing a green color.

Each seed shone with a jade-like luster, looking crystal clear.

"Is this because they absorbed the Jade Pure Spring?"

Xin Lin was overjoyed.

She did not know what kind of fruits and vegetables would grow from these seeds.

Xin Lin immediately handed the seeds over to Ma Jingtian to have someone plant them.

That day, Xin Lin took Silly Chu to another store to browse.

The Medical Hall was established by Chu Beiqing in his early years and had been around for some time. Before Chu Beiqing became Silly Chu, he often visited the Medical Hall for consultations, attracting many clients.

But since Chu Beiqing became Silly Chu, the Medical Hall had been in decline.

Now, the Medical Hall only had an old doctor and a few attendants, mainly doing neighborhood business, barely managing to maintain a profit of a few hundred silver each month.

Right now, Xin Lin was busy reorganizing the Spiritual Food Restaurant and could not spare the effort to reform the Medical Hall.

She pondered that once the Spiritual Food Restaurant was set right, she would then deal with the Medical Hall.

At night, Xin Lin went to Taoyao Pavilion.

After last night's lesson, Wang Lei dared not underestimate Xin Lin anymore.

Wary that Xin Lin might steal his job, he busied himself to and fro, which ironically left Xin Lin with more free time.

Not wanting to expose his scheming, Xin Lin simply kept an eye on the varieties and prices of the Spiritual Food at Taoyao Pavilion.

Towards early morning, Master Ji came out.

"Wang Lei, tidy up the pots and pans outside."

Despite half a day of calling, there was no response; Master Ji looked over and saw Wang Lei fast asleep among a pile of sweet potatoes.

It really wasn't Wang Lei's fault, as he had done the work of three or four people alone tonight; it would be strange if he weren't exhausted.

Only someone like Xin Lin, who secretly drinks Jade Pure Spring, could survive this.

"Master Ji, let me help."

Master Ji frowned, about to scold, but then he heard a clear and pleasant voice coming through, as the little baby quickly emerged and skillfully cleaned up everything outside.

Chapter 397: Appreciation

Master Ji gazed at Wang Lei, still unconscious, and then at Xin Lin who showed no sign of fatigue, feeling a deep sense of emotion in his heart.

Time spares no one. When he was a servant at the tender age of thirteen or fourteen, he seemed not as nimble as this youngster.

"Kid, your name is Xin Lin, right? Once you're done cleaning up, head back to rest. At your age, you are still growing. Here's half a portion of White Ginseng Lotus Root Soup left, you can take it home to eat."

Master Ji had a slightly improved impression of Xin Lin and handed over an extra portion of Spiritual Food to her.

This little one is not growing tall, probably due to weakness. Doing general work like this, one cannot be so frail.

Xin Lin was not shy to accept it, thanked Master Ji, and prepared to take the Spiritual Food back home.

Suddenly, she paused in her steps.

"Master Ji, the Huainan Vine in the courtyard needs to be put away. There will be dew at night, and Huainan Vine, used in Spiritual Food, must not come in contact with water, otherwise, it will easily spoil. It should be preserved by drying in the shade."

The special characteristics of the Huainan Vine are clearly recorded in the Mystical Medicine Book, but most Spiritual Delicacy Masters do not know this.

A favor for a favor; seeing that Master Ji had warmed up to her, Xin Lin offered a word of reminder.

The management of spiritual materials was the responsibility of those inside. Xin Lin had already reminded Wang Lei before, but he mocked her for being a meddling dog trying to catch mice.

Master Ji was startled, asking subconsciously.

"You know about medicinal materials too?"

None of his Assistant Chefs, who are Spiritual Delicacy Masters, understood pharmacology.

However, most of the medicinal materials used in making Spiritual Food are spiritual materials.

Due to poor management, Taoyao Pavilion wasted quite a lot of spiritual materials every month, which gave Master Ji quite a headache.

"I've studied some; my father is a Doctor."

Silly Chu was the former Divine Doctor, Xin Lin added silently in her heart.

Master Ji's eyes lit up, and as he looked again at the spiritual materials drying in the outer courtyard, a thought quickly sprouted in his mind.

"Tomorrow... no, today at noon, come to the dining hall early, and follow me for the stock purchase."

Master Ji was in need of a clever apprentice to identify some medicinal materials.

Since Xin Lin understood, it wouldn't hurt to bring her along to give it a try.

"Alright."

Xin Lin smiled and agreed cheerfully.

"A random task: advance from general worker to Assistant Chef within ten days. Failure of the task results in a deduction of 20 Heaven-defying Value, success awards one Treasure Box. Countdown starts, day ten."

Just as Xin Lin was in high spirits, the dry voice of the Heaven-defying Book came again.

Gee.

Xin Lin broke into a sweat.

Life Book, that's too much!

Becoming an Assistant Chef isn't so easy; Xin Lin had already inquired, and even the quickest under Master Ji had spent a year and a half.

However, being able to accompany Master Ji on a procurement trip was a form of progress.

Xin Lin walked with a spring in her step, leaving Taoyao Pavilion.

Poor Wang Lei, if he knew that by taking a nap, he had missed an opportunity for promotion, he would surely be green with regret.

Xin Lin returned to the Chu Mansion, and just as she reached the gate, she saw a person sitting there.

"Daughter..."

Silly Chu looked up, saw Xin Lin, and immediately his eyes smiled with joy.

For two consecutive days without seeing his daughter for meals, he grew anxious, refused to eat, and insisted on waiting for Xin Lin at the gate of Chu Mansion.

"Daddy, I've brought something tasty, let's eat together."

Xin Lin smiled, her small face full of happiness. This feeling of having a loved one waiting was truly wonderful.

The father and daughter had just entered the door when they heard an exclamation, coming from behind them no less.

Chapter 398: Spiritual Vegetable

Ma Jingtian, did he run into Ah Piao again?

It doesn't make sense, I had already asked those ghost soldiers to hide.

Xin Lin rolled her eyes after hearing Ma Jingtian's ghostly screams.

"Daddy, you go drink the soup first, I'll come later."

Seeing the look on Silly Chu's face, Xin Lin knew that he hadn't eaten yet; half coaxing and half persuading, she tricked Silly Chu away.

She walked toward the backyard.

"Ma Jingtian, in the middle of the night, do you want to scare people to death?"

As soon as Xin Lin entered the backyard, she saw Ma Jingtian holding a lantern, with vacant eyes, pointing at the vegetable garden ahead, trembling all over like he had epilepsy.

"Little Boss, your seeds... seeds."

Ma Jingtian pointed at the newly cultivated vegetable garden.

Those wealthy families like to pretend to be cultured by planting flowers and grass, but our Little Boss is an anomaly, insisting on planting vegetables.

Ma Jingtian received those seeds in the morning, and dutifully had someone plant them one by one.

Around midnight, Ma Jingtian hurried to relieve himself in the outhouse, which happened to be in the corner of the backyard.

After doing his business, Ma Jingtian held the lantern and took a casual glance at the vegetable garden, only to be shocked by what he saw.

The seeds that were just planted during the day, in just one day, had sprouted little shoots.

The tender green leaves, and the plump heads of the Purple Cloud Cabbage, were enough to make one salivate just by looking.

"So, it's the grand Purple Cloud Cabbages."

Xin Lin remained unfazed after hearing this.

What's so strange about this? These seeds have "drank" an entire "tank" of my Jade Pure Spring.

Xin Lin was just waiting for them to grow and see if there's anything special.

It seems that the Jade Pure Spring can promote the growth of plants.

Overnight, it sprouted and grew Purple Cloud Cabbage seedlings, with such speed, it might be possible to harvest them tomorrow.

Xin Lin had Ma Jingtian plant the Purple Cloud Cabbage seeds during the day, covering about half an acre.

"Little Boss, your reaction is too calm. Which family's Purple Cloud Cabbage can grow like this in one day? This couldn't possibly be a Purple Cloud Cabbage spirit!"

Ma Jingtian felt a chilling sensation all over.

Of course, Xin Lin couldn't tell Ma Jingtian that this was all due to the Jade Purification Tank.

"I forgot to tell you, I had a feng shui master look at it before, Chu Mansion originally had excellent feng shui, which is why it was overtaken by Yin Sha. After the Yin Sha was transcended, Chu Mansion's feng shui improved. This backyard happens to be a feng shui spot, able to absorb the essence of the sun and the moon. Things planted here grow much faster than other places. You must not tell anyone this secret, and from now on, you will take care of the backyard vegetables."

Xin Lin rattled off effortlessly.

Ma Jingtian was also startled.

"So that's the case, Little Boss rest assured, I will not let you down."

Ma Jingtian suddenly felt a heavy burden on his shoulders.

After tricking Ma Jingtian, Xin Lin returned to her room.

Only to see her silly dad waiting in her room, holding onto the Spiritual Food Soup, his eyelids almost falling, rubbing his eyes, struggling to stay awake for Xin Lin to return.

"I told you to eat first, why are you still starving? Next time don't do this, otherwise, I will be angry."

Xin Lin said sternly, a warmth in her heart.

Silly Chu hung his head in grievance.

"Eat... together... Beibei... wants to eat together..."

He was afraid the soup would get cold, so he kept it close to his chest, enduring his growling stomach, waiting for his beloved daughter to return and have the soup together.

Chapter 399: Two-star Spiritual Food Soup

Seeing Silly Chu's slightly aggrieved demeanor, Xin Lin couldn't help but laugh without a sound.

Silly Chu, truly like a big child.

"Alright, let's drink together."

Xin Lin ruffled Silly Chu's big head, and Silly Chu chuckled happily.

Father and daughter divided the soup into two portions.

Xin Lin took a small sip.

Upon tasting it, Xin Lin felt a rich, sweet and mellow flavor filling her entire mouth.

Atractylodes is a kind of herbal medicine that usually has a medicinal taste, but it seems that after Master Ji's preparation, the bitterness of the medicine had dissipated, and some bones of the Black Gold Pig had been added to the soup, simmered for over an hour without a hint of greasiness.

Though no meat was visible, it was as if the mouth was filled with the aroma of meat; after a few sips, Xin Lin was already drenched in sweat, as if she had taken a bath, her face flushed red.

Not only that, but this half portion of Spiritual Food Soup also gave a strong sense of fullness.

"This is Two-star Spirit Food, the taste and effect are roughly similar to Wind Breath Braised Pork Belly, but this is personally simmered by Master Ji. Without the Dan Wood Furnace, I'm afraid I couldn't simmer such high-quality Spiritual Food Soup at all."

Xin Lin quickly finished the soup in just a few gulps.

Turning to look at Silly Chu, he too had let out a satisfied burp, a contented expression on his face.

Truly a Three-star Spirit Cuisine Master.

Just this bowl of soup alone made Xin Lin marvel.

The thought of learning from Master Ji and striving to reopen Chu's Restaurant soon became stronger and stronger in Xin Lin's mind.

That night, because of the Spiritual Food Soup, Xin Lin slept soundly.

Before dawn, just like the day before, Xin Lin again drew Fire Spirit into her body, slightly increasing the Fire Spirit inside her.

Before noon, Master Ji arrived at Taoyao Pavilion.

Xin Lin had already been waiting there.

"Today we will go and select some medicinal ingredients that can be included in meals. Taoyao Pavilion operates daily around dusk, and all the materials, including spiritual materials for the day, must be prepared on the same day. As a Spiritual Delicacy Master, no matter what your skills are, the first thing to ensure is the freshness of the spiritual materials. Sometimes, in order to find some rare spiritual materials, one must personally go into the mountains to gather them, which might be life-threatening. You're still young, and if there's an opportunity, you should also strengthen your Martial Arts cultivation."

On the way out to purchase supplies, Master Ji imparted some common knowledge of being a Spiritual Delicacy Master to Xin Lin.

Xin Lin listened and memorized them all.

Master Ji was able to become a Three-star Spirit Cuisine Master largely due to his meticulous attitude.

Although Master Ji was not a man of many words, his attitude towards Xin Lin was fairly friendly.

Xin Lin, influenced subtly, also maintained the strictest attitude in her later Spirit Cuisine cultivation.

Unknowingly, the two arrived outside Purple Cloud Alchemy Hall.

"The price of the medicinal ingredients in Purple Cloud Alchemy Hall is ten percent higher than outside, but the quality here is guaranteed, so this ten percent is justified."

Seeing Xin Lin looking around, Master Ji, thinking it was her first visit to Purple Cloud Alchemy Hall, said with a smile.

However, Xin Lin was actually looking for Jiang Qing.

To Xin Lin's disappointment, it seemed that Brother Jiang was not at the Alchemy Hall.

Xin Lin did not know that Jiang Qing was the Hall Master here; normally, he would only greet VIPs and some big clients.

Xin Lin had seen Jiang Qing every time she came before because Jiang Qing and the Alchemy Hall's staff had been informed to notify him whenever Xin visited.

Today, dressed as a boy and accompanied by Master Ji, naturally, the people of Alchemy Hall did not recognize her.

Chapter 400: Rival

Master Ji entered the Pingan Refining Hall, and a young apprentice hurried forward to greet him.

"Apprentice, here is a procurement list. Get me one portion of each of the ingredients listed, all of the best quality."

Master Ji and the Alchemy Hall had a long-standing partnership; the apprentice naturally recognized him.

The procurement list mostly included common ingredients, about twelve or thirteen types, with only one or two rare ones that Master Ji specifically prepared for a significant guest's Spiritual Banquet tonight, also exclusive to the Purple Cloud Alchemy Hall.

The apprentice returned quickly.

"Master Ji, we have ten types of ingredients from the list, but two types have been sold out. Restocking them would take about three days."

The apprentice indicated the Dust Extinguishing Flower and the Fire Toad Ginseng on the list.

These two were the primary spiritual materials needed by Master Ji for tonight's Spiritual Banquet.

"Three days later? That won't do. A few days ago, I personally ordered from you and was assured that you would have them today. Young man, please check again, there might be some mistake. I need them for tonight. The guest has already paid the deposit. If I fail to deliver the Spiritual Cuisine, or if I have to switch ingredients, it could ruin the reputation of Taoyao Pavilion."

Master Ji showed a troubled expression.

The significant guest had booked ten tables, and his background was noteworthy. If the Spiritual Banquet were to fail, Taoyao Pavilion could face more than just compensations.

"Master Ji, I'm really sorry. There were some stocks of Dust Extinguishing Flower and Fire Toad Ginseng, but just half an hour ago, Master Chen from De Yue Building bought all the remaining stock. Vice Hall Master Zhao did not know about your reservation, so he sold it. We can only refund your deposit; we ask for your understanding."

The apprentice looked troubled.

"Oh, isn't this Brother Ji? Your expression looks quite troubled; have you been unwell recently?"

Not far away, a middle-aged man in a yellow robe approached. The man had a pale, beardless face, a rotund figure, and his face, crowded with nose and mouth, was crammed with features. His chubby fingers were adorned with uniform Gold gem rings, clearly a nouveau riche.

Xin Lin saw from afar and felt a greasy sensation approaching.

This man was indeed Master Chen from De Yue Building, also a Three-star Spirit Chef.

De Yue Building and Taoyao Pavilion were both Spiritual Food Restaurants, but De Yue Building never engaged in festive trades and always looked down on places like Taoyao Pavilion that thrived in such an environment.

"Zhao Chen, I had reserved the Dust Extinguishing Grass and the Fire Toad Ginseng; tell me how much you paid for them, I'll offer twenty percent more to buy them back."

Upon seeing the other party, Master Ji's tone was not pleasant at all.

Xin Lin, observing the aura between the two men, knew they were archenemies who did not get along.

"Just because you say it's yours, it's yours? What a joke. I paid money for them. You can buy them too, but twenty percent extra won't cut it, make it ten times the price."

Master Chen sneered coldly, his words full of malice.

The major client at Taoyao Pavilion had originally made a booking for spiritual cuisine at De Yue Building, but somehow, the Oiran of Taoyao Pavilion employed some method and lured the person away.

Having lost the deal and already not seeing eye to eye with Master Ji on regular days, upon hearing Master Ji had made a reservation here, Master Chen acted swiftly and bought the ingredients instead.

"Zhao Chen, this is too much. Those ingredients were originally mine."

Master Ji, enraged, his white beard trembling, glared fiercely.