

## Little Girl 411

Chapter 411: The Loyal Little General Worker

Gurgle, gurgle—

Once the Fire Toad Ginseng entered the copper furnace, the inside of the furnace roiled vigorously, turning the soup within as red and fiery as molten lava.

Master Ji's aged face suddenly underwent a drastic change in expression.

He could hardly believe his eyes as he looked towards the copper furnace.

The dozen or so Fire Toad Ginsengs contained an incredibly powerful spiritual energy!

This type of medicinal herb, belonging to the middle-stage Jade class, was not new to Master Ji. However, he had never before encountered such a violent reaction when these spiritual materials were incorporated into a dish.

There was something wrong with those Fire Toad Ginsengs!

Master Ji immediately realized this.

Almost at the same time, Xin Lin was also deeply shocked.

Fire Spirit!

Such a powerful Fire Spirit!

Xin Lin's eyes narrowed, and she quickly focused Fu Xi's Energy in them, peering at the furnace.

"Everyone get out immediately!"

Master Ji's face was stern.

He had realized that someone had tampered with this batch of Fire Toad Ginsengs.

Normally, spiritual materials should be inspected before use.

But since the spirit materials came from the Purple Cloud Alchemy Hall and time was of essence today, Master Ji had neglected the inspection, unaware that the Fire Toad Ginsengs would be problematic.

As the copper furnace behaved erratically, upon hearing Master Ji's words, others scrambled and ran away in fright.

The production of Spiritual Food was not absolutely safe.

There have been precedents of failure by Spiritual Cuisine Masters before.

The individuals inside managed to flee from the inner room.

Master Ji was at a loss whether to retreat or advance.

With the furnace having reached this point, it was completely out of control.

If he left as well, this Four-star Spiritual Cuisine would be ruined.

The banquet tonight hinged on the Fire Emperor Auspicious being the main dish; without it, the entire feast would be considered a flop.

Taoyao Pavilion couldn't afford to tarnish its reputation, nor could Master Ji afford to lose face.

If he failed, he would no longer have a place in the Spirit Food World.

Just as Master Ji hesitated, a small figure darted beside him.

"Master Ji, inside, there's a Fire Toad inside."

Master Ji was stunned, looking down to see a little child next to him.

Xin Lin, her face covered in dust, looked up with certitude and pointed at the furnace.

"Why haven't you left yet?"

Master Ji didn't have time to digest Xin Lin's words, looking at her in shock.

Hadn't he ordered everyone to leave?

Was this child not afraid of dying?

"I can't leave you here alone," Xin Lin declared resolutely.

"You child!"

Master Ji was both angered and touched.

"Wait, you just said, what can you see? There's a live toad inside?"

Master Ji's eyes sharpened, his expression growing exceedingly cautious.

Xin Lin nodded; she had seen it clearly.

Just now, when Xin Lin gazed intently, she saw the silhouette of a toad under the ceaselessly bubbling soup in the copper furnace.

It was a toad the size of a fist, and the reason why the copper furnace was acting so strangely was precisely because of that Fire Toad...

"Master Liu, good news, I have just gone to the dining area to inquire, and the place is in complete chaos now," said Master Chen of the De Yue Building, his face brimming with joy.

It seems that the Fire Toad has hatched.

Old Man Ji, you wanted to compete with me, so compete you shall. This time, let's see how you recover from this.

Jiang Qing stepped in, forcing De Yue Building to cough up this batch of Fire Toad Ginseng.

But Master Chen was no easy adversary. Upon receiving that batch of Fire Toad Ginseng, he accidentally discovered a Fire Toad Egg hiding within one of the old Ginsengs.

Chapter 412: Fire Toad

Fire Toad Ginseng, this type of Spiritual Medicine, contains a rich essence of the Fire Spirit, most suitable for warming and supplementing, strengthening muscles and body.

Among the Dark Beasts, it is the Fire Toad that most enjoys Fire Toad Ginseng.

Sometimes, in order to wait for the Fire Toad Ginseng to mature, they lay their eggs in it, allowing the Fire Toad eggs to continuously absorb the Fire Spirit until they finally hatch.

Once a Fire Toad hatches, it becomes a Third-level Spiritual Beast.

If it were to consume Four-star Spiritual Cuisine, then...

At that thought, a look of delight could not help but spread across Master Chen's face.

"What's going on, why isn't the main dish served yet?"

Master Chen deliberately grumbled loudly.

His fellow Spiritual Delicacy Master also took the opportunity to join in the commotion.

"Urge the kitchen, hurry up with the main dish, the guests are getting anxious."

The host stood up and urged several times.

Seeing this, the owner of Taoyao Pavilion also hurriedly sent a message to inquire with the kitchen.

Outside the kitchen, all the Assistant Chefs and general workers were anxious.

"What should we do, Master Ji hasn't come out yet. They're hurrying us from the front, how can we serve this dish?"

All the Assistant Chefs were busily moving around, but nobody dared to enter the kitchen.

Just now, the rumbling from the copper furnace and Master Ji's abnormal reaction were all witnessed by everyone.

Who would dare go in? That would be courting death.

"That little general worker has also disappeared!"

Wang Lei noticed something.

Xin Lin had yet to come out as well.

"What time is it now, who cares about the life or death of that child, hurry up and think of a way to respond."

Master Ji glanced at the kitchen, his mood fluctuating greatly. On one hand, he worried about being unable to explain himself.

On the other hand, there was a wicked voice in his heart that wished something would truly go wrong inside.

Soldiers who don't want to be Generals aren't good soldiers.

He had been an Assistant Chef for quite some time now.

That old fellow, Master Ji, was robust and seemed unlikely to retire in a decade or eight years.

How much longer would he have to be a disgraceful Assistant Chef?

Inside the kitchen, Master Ji looked at the copper furnace and then at Xin Lin, his face indecisive.

"How did you see it?"

Master Ji knew there was something wrong with the Fire Toad Ginseng, but he didn't know exactly what the problem was.

Yet this little child said she saw it.

"I felt the Fire Spirit, the shape of the Fire Spirit, it's like a toad."

Xin Lin pondered carefully and cautiously spoke.

She was a Spirit Master; it was only a matter of time before she got exposed.

Might as well mix truth with lies.

She saw the Fire Toad hatching from the egg, and at the same time, the Fire Toad was still absorbing the medicinal effects of the Four-star Spiritual Cuisine.

Its body kept growing larger, if not taken care of soon, it would become even more troublesome.

"You are a Spirit Warrior!"

Master Ji gasped.

He had stumbled upon a treasure!

One in a hundred Martial Artists would be exceptional, and one in a thousand Spiritual Practitioners would stand out.

This little kid turned out to be a Spiritual Practitioner.

Xin Lin nodded.

"Inside there must be a Fire Toad, this time, I've fallen into De Yue Building's trap. You should escape while that Fire Toad hasn't come out yet."

Master Ji shook his head.

The old ginger is the spiciest, although he was momentarily careless, Master Ji quickly figured out the whole situation.

A single Fire Toad was already difficult to deal with, let alone one that had absorbed half the medicinal power of a Four-star Spiritual Cuisine.

The Fire Toad in the copper furnace should now have the cultivation of a Three-star Perfect, this would be comparable to the early stages of the Xuan Transformation Realm among Martial Artists, but Master Ji was merely a Xuanwu Practitioner at the Ninth Layer, still a thread away from the Xuan Transformation Realm.

"So you're saying, if I can kill a Xuan Transformation Realm Fire Toad, can this Spiritual Delicacy still succeed?"

No sooner had Master Ji finished speaking, than a glint of eagerness appeared on Xin Lin's young face.

Chapter 413: Small but Fearless!

To kill... to kill a Fire Toad in the Xuan Transformation Realm.

Is this little one out of her mind?

Master Ji nearly choked to death on Xin Lin's words.

She, a Little Spirit Warrior, actually wants to kill a Fire Toad!

Where did she get the courage!

"Master Ji, there's no time to lose. Open the Copper Furnace; I'll risk it all. Once the Fire Toad is injured, you must strike it down immediately."

Master Ji was about to object, but Xin Lin suddenly looked up, her little face smudged with ash and very serious.

A firm light shone through the bottom of her eyes.

"You?"

Master Ji was shocked to his core.

In such chaotic circumstances, this child had managed to react swiftly.

But children are, after all, children. She probably didn't realize how terrifying the attack power of a Fire Toad comparable to the perfect state of Xuan Transformation Realm could be.

Who would have thought she flipped her palm and a small, black sword appeared in her hand.

The small sword was pure jet-black, radiating a cold luster.

With just one look, Master Ji sensed something unusual about this sword.

Could it be... she's going to use this small sword?

Master Ji suddenly changed his mind.

He glanced at the copper furnace, then at the argumentative noises coming from outside.

The time for the main course had already been badly delayed. The guests must be getting very impatient.

To stake everything on one throw, or to give up altogether.

In an instant, Master Ji had made his decision.

"Little one, if it doesn't work after the Fire Toad is released, just run. I will hold it off. This time, I've gotten you into this mess."

Master Ji said with a wry smile.

He gathered a breath of True Qi.

The lid of the copper furnace flew off with a whoosh.

A red figure leapt out from the copper furnace.

The fire shadow was the Fire Toad Xin Lin had seen earlier.

After consuming the Spiritual Energy from the Four-star Spiritual Cuisine, it had grown from the size of toad eggs to over half a person tall, with fierce light shining in its bulging eyes, lumps all over its skin, and powerful limbs. Just looking at the size, it was even taller and bulkier than Xin Lin's small frame.

It was enjoying its meal when it was suddenly interrupted, clearly irritated.

It immediately spotted Xin Lin and Master Ji nearby.

The tough, wrinkled old meat wasn't appealing, but that young one, pale and tender, looked a bit dirty but should be quite tasty.

The Fire Toad was a Fierce Beast. With a leap of its hind legs, it pounced towards Xin Lin.

"Good timing."

Yet, Xin Lin's eyes deepened as she muttered to herself.

Her hand gripped the Ghost Soldier Small Sword tightly, and a surge of Fu Xi's Energy poured into the sword.

The small sword, which was originally pitch-black and looked no different from a child's play wooden sword, trembled slightly.

But aside from that, the small sword showed no miraculous power.

Xin Lin's heart raced with urgency.

No way!

At the crucial moment, you let me down!

Pride Corpse, if this broken sword doesn't work, I'm not forgiving you!

A fiery shadow pounced in front of her.

Xin Lin suddenly felt the air get several degrees hotter.

She even smelled the stench of burning hair; the horrible Fire Spirit emanating from the Fire Toad instantly charred Xin Lin's hair.

"Xiao Xin! Run!"

Master Ji bellowed as he saw the Fire Toad's plump body almost crash down on Xin Lin.

Atop Qin Mountain, within the Heaven and Earth Devouring Spirit Array, Gui Hu was pulling a long face, lecturing the Overlord Egg.

Just then, his eyebrows twitched slightly, and as he flipped his palm, eight Ghost Soldier Small Swords appeared in front of him.

The eight small swords seemed to resonate, trembling at the same time.

Little hen!

Gui Hu's eyelids twitched.

Chapter 414: What a Huge Egg

Could she have provoked an opponent from the Xuan Transformation Realm again?

We had agreed on a shake.

Is she crazy, thinking about fighting alone against a Xuan Transformation Realm opponent!

What reckless behavior!

Gui Hu's forehead vein throbbed, and his figure flashed in an instant.

(Ying ying ying, Mommy, I want Mommy, I want meat)

Inside the Heaven and Earth Devouring Spirit Array, there was only a whimpering egg left.

The Overlord Egg cried miserably.

It had been locked up in this terrifying place for three days and two nights.

With no food and just a little to drink, its waist had slimmed down by an inch.

The most terrifying thing was that the terrible creature, Daddy, was not planning to let it go!

It would certainly die.

If Mommy found out, she would be devastated and overwhelmed with grief.

"???"

Xin Lin, using a small account, exclaimed, where did that mysterious confidence come from?

The Overlord Egg cried for a while but suddenly felt something was off.

The Daddy, more annoying than a monk chanting, had no reaction; normally, every time it cried, it would get kicked three times and stepped on five times.

The Overlord Egg's eyes were tear-blurred as it looked around.

Inside the Heaven and Earth Devouring Spirit Array, everything was grey and misty, but there was no sign of Gui Hu.

He's gone!

The Overlord Egg almost cried tears of joy.

Not right.

Even if the Overlord Egg was simple-minded, it felt something was off.

The sky wasn't even bright yet; how could the evil Daddy have disappeared?

(I don't care, I don't care, Daddy is gone now. I'll take this chance to rebel and escape!)

The Overlord Egg stopped crying and looked around.

The Heaven and Earth Devouring Spirit Array continued to emit Spiritual Power.

Driven by hunger, the Overlord Egg hopped around, but it was blocked back by the Heaven and Earth Devouring Spirit Array and even bumped its shell in pain.

However, now the hard training recently had shown its results.

It did not get discouraged, humming, and took another look at the Heaven and Earth Devouring Spirit Array.

It continuously gathered Qi and soon spit out a spark from its mouth.

Lianhua Technique!

This time, the spark, compared to the last time it blew up the Water Wraith Gang, was significantly larger.

The moment the spark exploded, its power was extraordinary.

Atop Qin Mountain, a huge boom resounded, startling all the Xuan Beast Spirit Beasts in the mountain.

The intense power of the Fire Spirit finally broke a hole in the Heaven and Earth Devouring Spirit Array.

As for the Overlord Egg...

At the moment when the Heaven and Earth Devouring Spirit Array exploded, the Overlord Egg was also shaken by the fierce Fire Spirit, turning and rolling towards the mountain mid-slope along a small path.

With a thud, the Overlord Egg hit a large rock.

It saw stars, felt dizzy and woozy, and soon passed out.

Using Spirit Art and ending up stunning itself too; probably only this Overlord Egg in the entire world.

At the mid-slope, however, footsteps were heard.

"What's that noise on the mountain?"

A person looking like Xuanwu Practitioner quickly approached.

This was a group of Xuanwu Practitioners employed by the De Yue Building.

As the largest Spiritual Food Restaurant in the city, De Yue Building consumed a huge amount of Xuan Beast Spirit Beast meat every day, so even on regular days, they would hire specialized Xuanwu Practitioners to hunt in the vicinity of Qin Mountain.

Earlier, the noise made by the Overlord Egg breaking the Heaven and Earth Devouring Spirit Array was so loud that it alarmed these Xuanwu Practitioners.

"What a huge... Ostrich Egg!"

Upon seeing the Overlord Egg, those Xuanwu Practitioners were stunned. They exchanged glances.

Eventually, they unanimously decided to sell this egg to De Yue Building to be made into Spiritual Food!

Chapter 415: The Wonderful Uses of the Qi Stone

Holy smokes!

Just as the Fire Toad's massive body was about to crush her,

Xin Lin felt an overwhelming urge to cry.

Wasn't this the thing that could instantly defeat a master of the Xuan Transformation Realm?

Is it still possible to use the Ghost Escape Technique now?!

Just when Xin Lin was preparing to dodge the Fire Toad, suddenly, she felt something in her arms move.

She paused momentarily and instinctively reached inside her clothes.

The Fire Toad opened its flat mouth, its spiked tongue was about to swiftly wrap around Xin Lin's tender neck.

All of a sudden, the idle Little Black sword leapt into action.

In a flash, a streak of cold light passed by, piercing the Fire Toad's belly.

The fat body of the Fire Toad flew out.

"Great opportunity!"

Master Ji, who had thought the situation was nearly fatal, couldn't help but rejoice when he saw the prowess of the small sword.

He mustered all his True Qi and struck the Fire Toad with his palm.

The Fire Toad croaked twice before its body exploded.

Just when the two of them were elated, believing they had killed the Fire Toad,

the creature suddenly burst out with a terrifying Fire Spirit.

It should be known that the Fire Toad had absorbed a tremendous amount of Spiritual Power from the Four-star Spiritual Cuisine and transformed it into its own Spiritual Power.

Its body contained an excess of Fire Spirit, and when the explosion occurred, its power was no less than the earlier Lianhua Technique triggered by the Overlord Egg.

Xin Lin was the closest to the Fire Toad when it exploded.

Her eyelids twitched rapidly, and instead of fleeing, she took a few steps forward, rushing towards the Fire Toad.

"Are you trying to get yourself killed?!"

Gui Hu appeared with a darkened face, and without the slightest hesitation, protected Xin Lin in his arms.

The Fire Spirit within the Fire Toad erupted in its entirety.

However, the explosion of the Fire Spirit didn't destroy everything around as expected, but instead...

"Pride Corpse, let go of me quick, I won't die from the blast, but I'll be smothered alive by you."

Xin Lin was hugged tightly by Gui Hu, her pert nose hitting his firm chest, nearly bringing her to tears.

Gui Hu was taken aback for a moment and released the little one in his arms.

"Fire Spirit?"

"The Fire Spirit is right here. What do you think I was rushing over there for, if not to embrace death?"

Xin Lin rubbed her reddened nose, her face beaming with smiles.

She jumped in front of Gui Hu like she was presenting a treasure and slowly opened her palm.

In her soft and small palm, there lay a stone resembling an egg-shaped rock.

Qi Stone.

This stone was acquired by Xin Lin earlier while using the Opportunity Dice.

She did not yet know its specific effects.

Fortunately, the stone was small, and Xin Lin had always carried it in her bosom.

Earlier, in the crucial moment, Xin Lin had not expected the Fire Toad to release such terrifying Fire Spirit.

As she was planning to flee, she suddenly felt that the small stone in her bosom was not right.

That Qi Stone was absorbing the Fire Spirit on its own.

In the instant the Fire Toad exploded, the Fire Spirit within the toad's body was completely absorbed by the stone.

After absorbing a massive amount of Fire Spirit, the Qi Stone turned red, indicating that it contained a large and rich store of Fire Spirit.

Xin Lin had been absorbing Fire Spirit into her body for days now, but had seen no results, largely due to the inadequacy of Fire Spirit in Purple Cloud City.

However, this Qi Stone automatically filtered out impurities and absorbed pure Fire Spirit.

Consequently, as long as Xin Lin wished to cultivate or use Fire Spirit, she could draw Fire Spirit from it, making the study of the Spirit Taming Technique much more efficient.

Chapter 416: Four-star Spiritual Food, Achieved

Seeing Xin Lin holding a broken stone and chortling away.

Gui Hu was just about to scold her, but for some reason, seeing the dirty little face of Xin Lin show a radiant smile, wearing an expression of "praise me" "quickly praise me," he found himself unable to utter a single word of rebuke.

"Right, Master Ji?!"

After Xin Lin had her fun, she turned around and saw Master Ji lying on the ground.

Master Ji was not as lucky as Xin Lin, without Gui Hu's "heroic rescue" and the aid of a Qi Stone.

The fierce Fire Spirit knocked him unconscious, and some of his hair and beard were singed, but fortunately, he was otherwise unharmed.

But with Master Ji unconscious, trouble followed.

"Ah, this Spiritual Food."

Xin Lin looked at the Fire Emperor Auspicious Soup in the copper furnace. Due to the disruption caused by the Fire Toad and it absorbing some of the medicinal properties, even if Fire Toad Ginseng were to be added now, it would be too late.

Not to mention that the Fire Toad Ginseng had already been used up.

"Master Ji, what on earth are you doing inside? The guests are getting impatient."

The owner of Taoyao Pavilion had been waiting eagerly outside.

Hearing this, Xin Lin frowned deeply.

"A desperate situation calls for a desperate solution, Pride Corpse, help me out."

Xin Lin thought for a moment, looking towards Pride Corpse...

Half a quarter of an hour passed, and still, there was no movement from within the inner room.

The owner of Taoyao Pavilion could no longer contain himself.

"This won't do, I have to go in and see."

The feast was nearly over, yet the main dish hadn't been served; what was this supposed to mean?

Master Ji, standing nearby with eyes gleaming, was just waiting for the owner to throw a fit.

"The Fire Emperor Auspicious Soup is ready."

However, the person who came out wasn't Master Ji.

"Boss, sorry to keep you waiting, Four-star Spiritual Cuisine, Fire Emperor Auspicious."

Xin Lin held a serving platter, on which a large bowl of soup was placed.

"How come it's you? Where's Master Ji?"

The boss was completely astonished; he remembered this youngster was just the one he had forcibly pushed into the kitchen a few days ago.

"Just now, there was a little hiccup while preparing the soup, but luckily Master Ji has taken care of it, and the soup is successfully completed. However, Master Ji is too tired and is resting inside. He asked me to serve the soup, and there are nine more bowls."

Xin Lin responded smoothly.

"Nonsense, my uncle always serves the Spiritual Food himself, especially the main dish, directly to the guests. It's not your turn to serve the soup. There must be something wrong with it."

Master Ji snapped impatiently, rushing forward and opening the Fire Emperor Auspicious.

Inside Taoyao Pavilion, the banquet was drawing to a close, but the main dish was still not served.

The host of the banquet was clearly displeased.

Master Chen from De Yue Building, however, seemed to take pleasure in the misfortune.

Just as the host was about to erupt, the owner of Taoyao Pavilion hurried over.

"Fire Emperor Auspicious; thank you for waiting."

With that, the owner opened the bowl.

Could they actually still serve the dish?

Could it be that Old Man Ji had resolved the crisis?

But even if he had, what did it matter? Most of the medicinal effect of the Fire Toad Ginseng had been devoured by the Fire Toad; even if the Spiritual Food was complete, the quality would surely be compromised.

At that moment, he would expose them, and both Taoyao Pavilion and Master Ji would still lose face!

Master Chen was secretly surprised but kept a calm exterior.

As the soup was uncovered, no fragrance spread out.

Four-star Spiritual Cuisine, lacking in color, fragrance, and flavor – how could it still claim to be Four-star Spiritual Cuisine?

Master Chen sneered in his heart, but the host raised an eyebrow, on the verge of making a scene.

Chapter 417: A Huge Loss!

Just then, a sudden red light appeared.

The red light turned into a red mist, which dissipated and everyone sharply inhaled.

After drinking for over a month, everyone was a bit tipsy, but the scent made them all feel instantly revitalized.

The fragrance not only spread throughout the Taoyao Pavilion, it even wafted down the nearby streets.

Within the fragrance, there was a hint of sourness and saltiness, as well as the fresh aroma of vegetation and the appealing smell of meat.

Most miraculous of all, in the soup, a toad the size of a fist was lying on top, opening its mouth and continuously puffing clouds and mist, as if it were still alive. The red mist created a "Auspicious" character in mid-air.

The guests present, all wealthy and noble, had tasted Fire Emperor Auspicious Soup before, but had never seen it served in such a manner.

"Fire Emperor Auspicious, truly lives up to its reputation."

The guests sincerely expressed their admiration.

Seeing this, the very displeased host's anger subsided.

"Is this what you call Fire Emperor Auspicious, just tricks and illusions?"

Upon seeing this, Master Chen of De Yue Building snorted through his nose, knowing as a Spiritual Cuisine Master that the quality of Spiritual Food should not be judged solely by its appearance but also its taste and medicinal effects.

With a problem in the Fire Toad Ginseng, no matter how powerful Master Ji's divine skills were, the medicinal effect of the soup was bound to be greatly reduced.

Little did Master Chen know, at his exclamation, his expression changed again.

How could this be?

Master Chen's eyes nearly popped out of his sockets.

Other guests also received a bowl each and began to sip it.

With a taste, the previously noisy Taoyao Pavilion suddenly quieted down.

The guests felt a warm sensation integrating into every limb and bone, the alcohol effect dispersed, and they immediately felt clear-headed and bright-eyed.

"Hey, my True Qi seems to have increased a bit."

"My rheumatism in my arms and legs seems to have lessened as well."

The medicinal effect of the ingredients was quickly absorbed, and all the guests present praised each other.

It should be noted that although this was Four-star Spiritual Cuisine, it was shared among many people, so the effects were divided.

But even so, this feast at Taoyao Pavilion was considered very Perfect, and its status in the Spirit Food World suddenly rose significantly.

Before the cock crowed three times, Xin Lin dragged her tired little body out of Taoyao Pavilion.

Seeing that the feast tonight had passed safely, and even achieved a whole hall of applause, Xin Lin should have been happy, but she just couldn't muster a smile.

Because that extraordinary display of Four-star Spiritual Cuisine just now had cost her fifty thousand taels!

Indeed, fifty thousand taels.

At the critical moment just now, Xin Lin could only ask Gui Hu to fetch the Dan Wood Furnace.

Dan Wood Tripod could refine Spiritual Food, and Fire Emperor Auspicious Soup just needed the last step, naturally, the Dan Wood Furnace could help complete it.

But to use the Dan Wood Furnace, Heaven-defying Value was necessary.

"Life Book prompts, to complete Four-star Spiritual Cuisine, deduct 50 points of Heaven-defying Value."

When Life Book reminded Xin Lin, she almost exploded.

The explanation given by Life Book was also reasonable.

Although it was only the last step, it's still Four-star Spiritual Cuisine, not just a piece of Braised Pork Belly, deducting only 50 points of Heaven-defying Value was already a fair price.

The problem was, Xin Lin didn't have that many Heaven-defying Values.

Recently, she hadn't earned any Heaven-defying Values, and after asking two questions earlier, she now had only 14 Heaven-defying Values left.

Chapter 418: The Mysterious Guest

When the Heaven-defying Value was depleted, Xin Lin had no choice but to solve the problem with money.

After all, any issue that money can solve is no issue, it just hurts to spend it.

Heaven-defying Value, that's fifty thousand taels of silver.

A large portion of the money that Xin Lin pawned off was thus swindled by the Heaven-defying Book.

Xin Lin, with a despondent look, dragged her incredibly heavy footsteps, preparing to leave Taoyao Pavilion.

"Congratulations life master, you have successfully crafted a semi-finished Four-star Spiritual Cuisine, Heaven-defying Value +10.

Congratulations life master, you have received a 'satisfactory' rating from a customer, Heaven-defying Value +2."

Just when Xin Lin thought she had lost both the Madam and the troops, the mechanized voice of the Heaven-defying Book echoed in her mind.

Now, Xin Lin's Heaven-defying Value had changed to 26.

Heaven-defying Value?

Xin Lin's eyes lit up; setting aside the reward for creating Four-star Spiritual Cuisine, it was the first time she had ever received additional Heaven-defying Value from a customer's rating.

And the Heaven-defying Value gained from customer satisfaction was no less than from fighting?

Could it be that there are other ratings that carry 2 Heaven-defying Value?

Xin Lin was puzzled.

But, of course, she was not foolish enough to ask such a question of the Heaven-defying Book.

After all, there was plenty of time ahead; she had all the opportunities to figure it out.

"It seems that if I want to keep getting Heaven-defying Value, I must find ways to sell, sell, sell! But without a Spiritual Food Restaurant, how can I sell anything?"

Xin Lin's little face contorted in frustration.

The Wind Breath Roast Pork is too expensive to sell, and she doesn't have the qualifications of a Spiritual Delicacy Master yet.

Besides Braised Pork Belly, what else could she sell?

This opportunity to create Spiritual Food was rare and hard to come by.

If it hadn't been for Master Ji's fainting and injury, having almost completed the Four-star Spiritual Cuisine, it wouldn't be her turn at all.

She wasn't even an Assistant Chef now, let alone in a position to sell Spiritual Food.

Xin Lin scratched her head and slowly made her way to the Chu Mansion.

Meanwhile, back at Taoyao Pavilion, Master Ji awoke after the third watch.

He sat up with a start as he came to.

"Disaster!"

Tonight's banquet was a mess!

"Master Ji, Boss Mu wants to see you."

When Master Ji heard this, his face turned ugly.

Boss Mu was the major client of tonight's banquet, and he was not from Longteng Country. It was said that he was a wealthy patron from Qianqing Kingdom, who had lavishly spent several hundred thousand on tonight's event.

The summons must undoubtedly be about the Fire Emperor Auspicious Soup.

Master Ji sighed, dragging his weary body to the dining hall.

The banquet had long since ended, and the staff of Taoyao Pavilion were still busy.

The owner of Taoyao Pavilion, all smiles, was waiting on the side.

A man, his back to Master Ji, appeared to be a tall and thin figure.

"Boss Mu."

Master Ji wiped the cold sweat from his forehead.

"Master Ji, Boss Mu is very satisfied with the Spiritual Food you made tonight."

The owner of Taoyao Pavilion was smiling so much his eyes were not visible.

"Boss, it's all my fault, I won't take my salary this month, you can find a better..."

Master Ji lowered his head to apologize, but before he could finish, he was startled.

Very satisfied!

"Master Ji's culinary skills are outstanding; it seems you have begun to perceive the path of a Spiritual Delicacy Master. I wonder if Master Ji completed tonight's Spiritual Food alone?"

Boss Mu then turned around, revealing a young man with a handsome and noble appearance.

He looked to be in his early twenties, with handsome and spirited eyebrows, a pair of sharp eyes, and a face as chiseled as if shaped by a knife. He surveyed Master Ji with a probing look in his eyes.

Chapter 419: Ghost Soldiers, Exposed Crisis

This customer, who booked the entire Taoyao Pavilion and spent a fortune, is surprisingly young.

Master Ji was secretly shocked.

But he quickly regained his composure.

Was Boss Mu asking if the Spiritual Food was prepared by one person alone?

Of course, dozens of tables of Spiritual Food wouldn't be completed by a single person. Boss Mu's question was obviously concerning the other kitchen assistants.

The boss also mentioned that he was very satisfied with tonight's Spiritual Food.

However, the last dish, the Fire Emperor Auspicious Soup, was clearly not yet completed.

"I am the head chef, and there are several assistant chefs helping me; it's a great honor that Boss Mu is satisfied," Master Ji responded, forcing a smile and laughing it off.

Boss Mu did not pursue further.

Master Ji returned to the dining area.

"Wait, is there any Fire Emperor Auspicious Soup left?"

Master Ji stopped several servers who had just finished clearing up.

"Most of the Spiritual Food has been eaten, but yes, there is one table that still has a small bowl of Fire Emperor Soup left."

With a frown and a troubled expression, a server brought out a bowl of Fire Emperor Soup.

In the Spiritual Food Restaurant, leftover Spiritual Food is usually kept in the dining area. At banquets, the servers often discreetly share it among themselves—this has become an unspoken rule at the Spiritual Food Restaurant. What is going on with Master Ji today?

The Fire Emperor Soup had been the most popular soup of the evening and was not supposed to have any leftovers.

This one bowl was left over in a fit of rage by Master Chen from De Yue Building.

Master Ji did not mind; he took a sip of the Fire Emperor Soup, and just one sip changed his expression. He stood still, staring intently at the soup in the bowl.

Inside the private room of Taoyao Pavilion reserved by Boss Mu.

Boss Mu held a small black dagger in his hand.

This little dagger was something that Boss Mu found in the Fire Emperor Auspicious Soup.

Xin Lin, while preparing the Four-star Spiritual Cuisine, used some of the meat and blood of a Fire Toad to compensate for the loss of Fire Toad Ginseng, unknowingly allowing a ghost soldier's blade to end up in the Fire Emperor Soup.

By a twist of fate, it ended up in the hands of Boss Mu.

"A ghost soldier's blade, it seems I've really found it. Now, let's see where he can hide."

A calculating expression, belying his young age, appeared on Boss Mu's face.

Between his fingers, a wisp of dark essence swirled, and the black dagger disappeared.

Dawn was breaking.

After being startled last night, Xin Lin returned to the Chu Mansion, drank a bottle of Jade Pure Spring, and immediately went to sleep.

In her dreams, in a daze, she thought she heard the crying of the Overlord Egg.

Thinking of the Overlord Egg, Xin Lin remembered that she hadn't seen the creature for several days.

She turned over and smelled a fragrance.

Last night, upset about the Fire Emperor Soup, Xin Lin had been too upset to eat. Early in the morning, smelling the fragrance, her nose twitched, and she quickly got up.

As soon as she opened her eyes, she saw her silly father sitting happily by her bed.

He was shrinking back, cradling a greasy paper package, patiently waiting on the side.

The fragrance was coming from the greasy paper package in her silly father's hands.

"Daughter... my dear... eat...eat"

As soon as the silly father saw Xin Lin awake, he grinned and pushed the greasy paper package towards her.

"Oh my goodness, I wondered where my meat buns had gone, it turns out you, silly, took them."

Suddenly, the door was pushed open from behind.

As Ma Jingtian entered, he saw Xin Lin opening the greasy paper package.

Inside the package, neatly arranged, were five large pork-stuffed cabbage buns made with fine white flour, exuding a meaty aroma and oozing juices, garnished with scallions, each the size of a fist—immediately stimulating one's appetite.

Chapter 420: The Coveted Meat Buns

These five cabbage pork buns, without a doubt, were stealthily bought by Ma Jingtian for a meaty treat.

Just after he bought them, he heard his brothers say that the Purple Cloud Cabbage in the backyard was about to be harvested, delighted, he went to check on the cabbages, only to turn around and find the big meat buns had vanished.

Following the scent, Ma Jingtian found Xin Lin biting off half of a large meat bun.

The juice flowing in her mouth, Xin Lin was famished. After chewing a few times, she found the buns quite tasty; she devoured two in one go, and seeing her silly dad eyeing the meat buns, she handed him two as well.

Silly Chu burst into happy laughter and stuffed one into his mouth.

Ma Jingtian swallowed his saliva on the side.

"Little Boss, these were meat buns I bought, having queued for over two hours, costing ten silver taels. Please have mercy and at least leave one for me."

Xin Lin was about to finish off the last meat bun when she heard this, nearly choking.

"Two silver taels for one bun! You wastrel! Do you think we're that rich right now!"

With a whoosh, Xin Lin flung the large meat bun at Ma Jingtian.

The meat bun was good, but that was only in comparison to ordinary meat buns.

After all, as a world-class modern Female Soldier King, Xin Lin had tasted many top-tier buns, such as crab roe xiao long bao, Tianjin Goubuli, and so on, all of which were better than this big meat bun.

Two silver taels each showed that the shop too, was quite the rip-off.

Ma Jingtian hurriedly caught it.

"Little Boss, this is no ordinary bun. This is a Spiritual Delicacy Bun from De Yue Building, made by a Three-star Spiritual Delicacy Master. Two silver taels each, only one thousand sold per day - available for those who are quick, gone for those who are slow. I heard even the Empress from the Imperial Palace summons the pastry chef from De Yue Building to make them from time to time."

Ma Jingtian eagerly bit into the bun, wolfing it down rapidly.

A product of De Yue Building?

An image of Master Chen, with his annoying face, suddenly appeared in Xin Lin's mind.

Reflecting on the taste of the meat bun she just ate, Xin Lin leaped up.

She looked at her silly dad.

"Daddy, are you full?"

Silly Chu shook his head with a grievance.

Two large meat buns were hardly enough for a strong man like Chu Bei, he held back his hunger merely to let his beloved daughter eat more.

If it had been someone else, like Ma Jingtian, daring to compete with him for the buns, he'd immediately turn hostile and pummel them into a bun.

Xin Lin waved her hand and pulled her silly dad as she rushed out.

"Little Boss, another hundred Purple Cloud Cabbages have been harvested; won't you take a look?"

"No need, I'm off to De Yue Building to buy buns."

Xin Lin left those words behind and vanished in a puff of smoke.

"What, still buying? Didn't you say I'm wasting money?"

Ma Jingtian stood there dumbfounded.

Xin Lin and her silly dad hurriedly made their way to De Yue Building.

Buns, two silver taels for a cabbage pork bun, wasn't this precisely the opportunity Xin Lin had been looking for to earn a Heaven-defying Value?

If she couldn't sell Spiritual Food, she could sell buns!

Father and daughter arrived at De Yue Building in one breath.

The largest Spiritual Food Restaurant in Purple Cloud City, De Yue Building, indeed the biggest and most prestigious in all of Longteng Country.

Occupying a solitary courtyard, it took up a vast, bustling area.

The restaurant itself was constructed with glittering gold and shining jade, with a broad entrance, exuding immense grandeur.

Every morning, the front of De Yue Building was swarming with people.

And the reason was nothing else but to vie for De Yue Building's buns!