

Little Girl 441

Chapter 441: She Is Number One

You can run from a monk, but not from the temple!

Master Chen didn't believe it, they couldn't find the egg after capturing Xin Lin!

That hateful egg, if he found it, he would definitely steam, braise, and deep-fry it!

"Store Manager also saw it, this young girl repeatedly claimed that the egg was hers!"

Master Chen said with a sneer.

"Xin Lin, do you have anything to say? It would be best for you to hand over the egg, otherwise, the county government prison awaits you."

The government officers pressed her.

Master Chen from De Yue Building and their County Magistrate had old ties.

Master Ji, who was standing nearby, was also anxiously pacing back and forth.

Xin Lin, this girl, what a big mess she has created.

"Hold on, esteemed officials, allow me to ask a few more questions before you arrest me."

After hearing them speak, Xin Lin said calmly.

"I want to see what else you have to say."

Master Chen grunted.

"You are the Shopkeeper of De Yue Building, I ask you, when I went to De Yue Building that day, did I bring the egg?"

Xin Lin first asked the Store Manager.

The Shopkeeper paused, then subconsciously said.

"It was several Xuanwu Practitioners who brought it."

Master Chen coughed twice.

The Shopkeeper quickly revised his statement.

"But, you also said that the egg was yours."

"If I remember correctly, Master Chen had replied, 'Just because you say it's yours, it is yours? This egg was picked up from Qin Mountain, it's an unclaimed item, am I wrong?'"

Xin Lin countered.

The Shopkeeper hesitated, then glanced at Master Chen.

"At that time, I also didn't know that the egg was so ferocious. Now thinking about it, all of this was calculated by you!"

Master Chen hummed.

"Master Chen, let's not discuss who the egg belongs to for now. If I really wanted to harm De Yue Building, why would I go through elaborate tricks and excessive talking?"

"Well said! Chen Heixin, I think you are just jealous that I have a skilled Assistant Chef, which is why you are causing a scene. An egg causing a big commotion in De Yue Building, do you think we are all fools?"

Master Ji interjected from the side.

"Why talk so much, whether it's true or false, arrest her first, torture her to extract a confession, and we will definitely find out where the egg is. Esteemed officials, what are you waiting for, seize this little thief!"

Rendered speechless by Xin Lin's questioning, Master Chen simply tore off the mask.

The government officers were about to move in.

Little did they know, Xin Lin just sneered.

"Who dares to touch me!"

"You little one, what big words you have, this is Purple Cloud City, beneath the feet of the Emperor, the government is carrying out its duty, who dares to interfere."

The government officers sneered, ready to seize her.

"What a 'beneath the feet of the Emperor', since you all also understand that you are under the Emperor's feet, then you should realize, not to mention Master Chen framing me, even if something really happened, your County Magistrate couldn't handle me."

With that, Xin Lin raised her hand, revealing an additional item in it.

The government officers took a closer look and saw that in Xin Lin's hand was an Imperial List.

Xin Lin spread out the Imperial List.

Everyone's gaze fell on the Imperial List.

"Young girl, don't use the Imperial List for your argument, don't think I don't know the origin of this Imperial List. This is just from a few days ago, when the results of the Zixiao Palace Exam were released, what does the Imperial List have to do with you!"

Master Chen glanced at the Imperial List a few times, ready to mock, but the next moment, he saw the name at the top of the Imperial List.

"First place in the Zixiao Palace Exam, Xin Lin."

First place in the Zixiao Palace Exam, that means she's a prospective student of Qingtian Academy, and the Academy starts in just a few days!

Chapter 442: Emperor's Disciple

She is the first place in the Zixiao Palace Exam!

Look at the Imperial List, then back at Xin Lin.

Everyone was stunned.

"Qingtian Academy, that is a name personally inscribed by the ancestral Emperor, established in the name of the Royal family as a Spirit Martial Academy. Once admitted into Qingtian Academy, one becomes an Emperor's disciple, a disciple of Emperor Longteng. If you, County Magistrate, wish to arrest me for questioning, you must first ask the current Emperor for consent."

Xin Lin bowed respectfully towards the direction of the Longteng Palace, her face full of reverence.

"Master Chen, you said she was just a general worker, how could she be the first place in the Zixiao Palace Exam? You're making this difficult for us."

Several government officers were quite frightened.

The students who come out of Qingtian Academy are all either rich or noble.

This person is also the first place in the Zixiao Palace Exam; her potential is immeasurable.

If she were to pursue this matter, even our County Magistrate couldn't handle the consequences.

The officers did not dare to say more. After muttering a few perfunctory words, they left.

"Xin Lin, don't be so smug, this matter is not over yet!"

Master Chen had not expected Xin Lin to be the first place in the Zixiao Palace Exam.

Who could have imagined that the first place winner of the Zixiao Palace Exam would end up working as a menial laborer at a place like Taoyao Pavilion?

Master Chen sneered twice and left in a furious huff.

"Good heavens, my dear ancestor, what brought someone of your stature to this modest place? I'm begging you, madam, please leave quickly, Taoyao Pavilion can't afford to host such a grand figure."

The owner of Taoyao Pavilion was also taken aback.

Xin Lin still wanted to argue for herself; she had just begun to grasp the knack of culinary arts.

"Let it be, you shouldn't trouble the owner anymore."

Master Ji kindly advised, pulling Xin Lin aside.

"Xiao Xin, it's said that a gentleman should stay away from the kitchen. Us Spirit Delicacy Masters may look respectable, but in truth, limited by our talents and for the sake of a career and livelihood, we had no choice but to become Spirit Delicacy Masters. With a future as bright as yours, why bother staying in a mixed place like Taoyao Pavilion? You're here to learn how to cook, and though you might leave, if you ever have culinary questions, feel free to consult me. Just don't look down on me for being a useless Spirit Delicacy Master."

Master Ji genuinely liked this child, Xin Lin.

He too once came to Purple Cloud City to take part in the Imperial Examination, yet he did not even make it into the top one hundred.

To survive in Purple Cloud City, he switched to becoming a Spirit Delicacy Master.

After several decades, he finally became a Three-star Spirit Chef, but in terms of Martial Arts, he was essentially a wastrel.

He didn't want to see such a promising young talent like Xin Lin also go wasted.

Although he couldn't understand why the first place winner of the Imperial Examination would come to such a place.

Could it be that she planned to abandon Martial Arts for culinary pursuits?

"Master Ji, you are the most impressive Spirit Delicacy Master I've ever seen. That Master Chen, he isn't even qualified to carry your shoes. I won't trouble you any further. I was going to start school in a few days and wanted to bid you farewell. Here are some cabbages, home-grown by me, to show my appreciation for your care over these days."

Xin Lin said sentimentally, taking out several Purple Cloud Cabbages. Just before leaving, Master Ji secretly handed Xin Lin a small bottle.

"Child, this contains the blood of a Fire Toad. It's no use to me. This thing is said to be valuable; take it and see for yourself."

Master Ji sent Xin Lin out of Taoyao Pavilion. As Xin Lin walked away, she could still turn back to see Master Ji waving at her under the colorful lights of Taoyao Pavilion.

"Life Book alerts, issuing a random mission..."

Not here.

Chapter 443: Another Random Mission Is Here Again

Just as Xin Lin was lamenting that her journey as a novice Spiritual Delicacy Master had ended before it even started, the voice of the Life Book came into her mind again.

"Life Book notification, issuing a random task: Rebuild 'Chu's Restaurant', gain 20 regular customers. Completion will reward one Dan Wood sign, failure will deduct 100 Heaven-defying Value, task duration is three days."

Xin Lin paused in her steps, nearly stumbling and falling.

Life Book, you're being mischievous again.

Thanks to the Ultimate Lingxiu Buns, her Heaven-defying Value had soared recently. She was truly planning to either use the Dan Wood Furnace to indulge herself with Spiritual Food or roll the Opportunity Dice to bring out some new tricks. Who knew another random task would come up.

And the Heaven-defying Value deducted for task failure was higher each time.

Xin Lin's eyes were skeptical, guessing that the Heaven-defying Book calculated the cost of failure based on the Heaven-defying Value she possessed.

In any case, she couldn't afford to lose; otherwise, she might be erased by the Human Path.

"Life Book, can the issuance of random tasks be less frequent?"

Xin Lin asked politely.

"Life Book notification, the issuance of random tasks is completely random, frequency cannot be determined."

Xin Lin rolled her eyes; it was like speaking to no avail.

regular customers, where would she find them?

Right now, she didn't even have a single regular customer!

Xin Lin sighed and returned to Chu Mansion.

"Little Boss, the Purple Cloud Cabbage in the backyard has yielded abundantly again. We have over two hundred, almost three hundred cabbages in our cellar. If we keep them any longer, they'll rot."

As soon as she entered, Ma Jingtian ran over, holding two big cabbages in his arms.

Who wouldn't want such good cabbages?

"Change it up tomorrow, send twenty to Shi Guiren. Also, tomorrow morning, take a few brothers with you to clean up Chu's Restaurant."

Xin Lin waved her hand.

"Clean up that corner? Why?"

Ma Jingtian was confused; there wasn't even a Spiritual Delicacy Master there.

"We're reopening, um, we won't sell Spiritual Delicacies, just the Delicious Spiritual Food Buns."

Xin Lin dropped the statement and went back to rest.

The next morning at De Yue Building, several runners were carrying trays of hot Spiritual Delicacy Buns as usual.

Due to the Overlord Egg incident yesterday, De Yue Building's buns had sold out, and the Shopkeeper had been lightly complained at by regular customers.

It was just dawn, and long queues would normally have formed outside De Yue Building.

The runners and the assistant chefs in the dining space were all waiting for the buns to sell out quickly.

Indeed, some customers were waiting outside.

The Shopkeeper looked a few times and felt something was off.

How come it feels like there are fewer people?

On normal days, several hundred pork buns in more than a dozen trays would sell out in a quarter of an hour, but today took one and a half quarters?

At the same hour, roughly when De Yue Building was selling buns, a small figure with a basket of steaming buns was weaving through the market crowd.

"Hey, kid, you're here. Give me five buns."

As soon as Xin Lin arrived at the market, the merchant uncle from yesterday came over with a smile, buying five in one go.

"Kid, give me two as well. Your family's cabbage pork buns taste really good. The flour is elastic, the meat juice is plentiful, and the cabbage is especially crisp and sweet. My old lady ate one and has been thinking about it since."

The market was bustling with merchants who specifically waited for Xin Lin today, forgoing De Yue Building's buns. Half the price, better taste, only a fool wouldn't buy.

Chapter 444: The Birth of Regular Customers

"Congratulations, life master, for receiving a satisfied review from an old customer, Heaven-defying Value +1."

"Congratulations, life master, for receiving a satisfied review from a customer, Heaven-defying Value +2."

Old customers' satisfaction only earns 1 Heaven-defying Value point, whereas new customers earn 2 points. However, most of Xin Lin's visitors today were repeat customers from yesterday.

Fifty meat buns earned her 42 Heaven-defying Value points, and her total Heaven-defying Value suddenly reached 130 points.

However, Xin Lin's focus today was not on the Heaven-defying Value.

Her objective for the three-day period was to secure 20 regular customers.

Most of today's buyers of her Ultimate Lingxiu Buns were traveling merchants, who are wealthier than ordinary civilians but can't stay in Purple Cloud City for more than a few days, making it impossible for them to become regular patrons of Chu's Restaurant.

The Ultimate Lingxiu Buns were all sold out, and Xin Lin hadn't found a single regular customer yet.

"Sold out? Why don't you prepare more of your meat buns? I heard from Old Wang the coachman that your buns are delicious. I came especially to buy buns for my mistress. My mistress has been eating Spiritual Delicacy Buns from De Yue Building for years. If I don't get any, she's going to kill me."

A young maid of about fifteen or sixteen nearly burst into tears upon hearing this.

Upon hearing this, Xin Lin chuckled and said.

"Miss, don't worry, I meant that the meat buns I brought are sold out, but we still have more at home. My home is just a short distance ahead at Chu's Restaurant. If you buy buns there today, it's buy one get one free, and you get a bowl of cabbage soup as well. How about you come with me?"

Upon hearing Xin Lin's words, several customers who had been hesitant to spend one silver earlier were now tempted.

A quarter of an hour later, Xin Lin led four or five people to Chu's Restaurant.

When the customers saw a few coffins placed next to Chu's Restaurant, they felt somewhat apprehensive.

Xin Lin shouted inside.

"Guests are here."

Then a few robust men came out carrying steaming baskets, their faces displaying an unnatural, stiff smile.

The customers felt an urge to flee.

"Buy two buns, and the cabbage soup."

The maid, frightened, grabbed a couple of buns and the cabbage soup and ran, even forgetting to take the two free buns.

"Little Boss, we only made a hundred buns. Selling them this way, half-giving them away, feels like such a waste, doesn't it?"

Ma Jingtian watched the steaming cabbage pork buns and swallowed saliva.

Since he ate one of the buns, he was astonished to divinity.

They only make a hundred buns a day, and they said giving them to them would be a waste.

He and his brothers, drooling, also tried making cabbage pork buns using the same flour and filling, but they couldn't match the deliciousness of the boss's buns. Little did they know that it was because Xin Lin added some water from Jade Pure Spring into her hundred buns.

"You don't understand; this is called casting a long line to catch a big fish. I don't have much time left."

Xin Lin muttered about her 20 regular customers.

"Congratulations, life master, for receiving a satisfied customer review, Heaven-defying Value +2."

"Congratulations, life master, for receiving a satisfied review from an old customer, Heaven-defying Value +2."

"Congratulations, life master, for receiving a satisfied customer review, Heaven-defying Value +2. Regular customer +1."

Xin Lin was surprised.

Anxiously, another announcement.

"Congratulations, life master, for receiving a satisfied review from an old customer, Heaven-defying Value +1. Regular customer +2."

During the fixed time for selling the last 50 buns, Xin Lin managed to secure two precious regular customers.

Chapter 445: Wealthy Patron

Two days left until she reaches 18 regular customers.

Xin Lin calculated that it was also just two days until her enrollment at Qingtian Academy.

It looked like her 100 Heaven-defying Value was going to be deducted for sure.

Ordinary people in this situation would surely be disheartened, but Xin Lin was different; she wouldn't give up until the very last moment.

Meanwhile, the little maid frightened into fleeing quickly by the Water Wraith Gang's gang members hurriedly returned to an imposing mansion.

Inside the mansion, there was a small training ground.

On the ground, a spirited young girl executed a sweeping leg, shattering a hundred-pound Vajra Stone in front of her into pieces.

"Hey, Little Huan, what's the matter? I asked you to buy some meat buns, and it took you half an hour to not even come back with them."

The girl steadied herself, wiped the wet hair from her forehead, and glared at her pale-faced maid.

"Miss, I was terrified. You can't blame me; wasn't it you who said you were tired of De Yue Building's Spiritual Delicacy Buns and wanted a change of taste? I heard from the coachman that there's a particularly delicious bun shop early in the market, so I went there. Who knew I missed the right hour, went to their shop, and there were several waiters and shopkeepers who looked like thugs. They scared me to death."

Little Huan clutched her chest in fear.

"You useless thing, you are a servant of the General Mansion after all; what are you afraid of local ruffians for? But you dared to buy from a bun shop run by local ruffians; I hope it's not human meat buns."

The girl said, displeased.

She glanced at the two buns and a bowl of cabbage soup handed to her by the maid.

They looked pretty ordinary. Could they really compare to De Yue Building's Spiritual Delicacy Buns?

The girl had her deep doubts.

The De Yue Building's meat buns tasted alright, just a bit too greasy.

The girl hesitantly took a bite.

The bite went down, and the surging hot steam burnt her and left her sticking her tongue out. After chewing a few times, the refreshing taste of cabbage mixed with the sweet juice of the meat, dancing together on her taste buds.

Due to martial practice earlier, she had consumed a lot of her True Qi; however, after one bite of the meat bun, a warm comforting feeling filled her stomach and her eyes lit up immediately.

She then took a sip of the cabbage soup Little Huan held.

After that sip, the girl was speechless, and quickly finished the entire bowl of cabbage soup in just a few gulps.

"Miss, how is the taste of human meat buns?"

Little Huan watched eagerly on the side, worried she might have accidentally poisoned her mistress.

"What do you mean how? Why did you only buy two? You forgot that your miss here is already a Sixth Realm Xuanwu Practitioner, needing to consume ten buns per meal, honestly, two isn't even enough to fill the gaps between my teeth. First thing tomorrow morning, take me to that place called Chu's Restaurant."

The girl was clearly not satisfied.

She indeed wanted to see what kind of small restaurant could make meat buns tastier than those made by Qingtian Academy's Spiritual Food Masters!

The next day, the girl headed to Chu's Restaurant, all excited.

Upon seeing the look of Chu's Restaurant and the coffins next door, the girl couldn't help but frown, but as soon as she smelled the aroma of the buns, her beautiful eyebrows danced joyfully.

"Shopkeeper, give me ten cabbage pork buns and five bowls of cabbage soup. Also, call your chef over."

The girl waved her hand as she stepped forward.

Then, a shopkeeper who looked like a local ruffian ran over.

"Miss, we only have two buns left, and cabbage soup is limited to one bowl per person. Moreover, our chef is not in."

Chapter 446: The Mysterious Master Xin

Upon hearing this, the young lady slammed her hand on the table with a bang.

"How could you run a business like this, not having anything I ask for? Believe it or not, I can say just one word and make it impossible for you to get by in Purple Cloud City. Do you know who I am?"

Ma Jingtian was not pleased either.

"Miss, even if you are the current Emperor, Chu's Restaurant can still only provide two buns and a bowl of cabbage soup per day. Not a single item more. If you're not satisfied, feel free to turn left as you leave the door. No need to see you out."

These were the words directly from Little Boss himself.

"But don't be hasty, esteemed guest. While the Ultimate Lingxiu Buns are out of stock, our restaurant's new White Jade Vegetable Buns are still available. We've got a few left. How about you try them? The filling is the same as the cabbage soup, and the price remains one silver per bun."

Ma Jingtian chuckled with a he-he sound.

That morning, when Little Boss made buns, he asked them to prepare some extra cabbage filling. They made fifty cabbage buns. The boss took thirty himself, and the rest were left at Chu's Restaurant, with strict instructions not to eat them, but only to sell to customers.

The new flavor of Xin Lin's buns was made after a reminder from Shi Guiren.

When Shi Guiren brought Little Xinzhuo during the daytime to see Xin Lin, she even praised how tasty Xin Lin's cabbage was.

She mentioned that in the Imperial Palace, where they have delicacies from mountains and seas every day, just the thought of eating meat until nausea has made her long for the vegetarian buns from a bun shop in Ping'an County.

It's always been a challenge for Xin Lin to satisfy everyone's taste. Some folks love pork and cabbage filling, but who's to say there won't be those who prefer vegetarian filling?

Her Delicious Spiritual Food buns were even tastier than those of De Yue Building. If she could create flavors that De Yue Building didn't have, wouldn't that be adding flowers to the brocade?

After being turned away initially, the girl was raging hot with anger, but upon hearing about the vegetable buns, her fury vanished in no time, and she ordered five cabbage buns on the spot.

After gobbling up a White Jade Vegetable Bun, the young lady's face beamed with a glow, her mouth full of the fresh taste of vegetables. The cabbage tasted as satisfying as meat, without a hint of greasiness, and to her surprise, it was even more delicious than the previous pork and cabbage buns.

This Chu's Restaurant was truly remarkable!

In terms of the skill of making buns, she feared there was nowhere in the entirety of Purple Cloud City that could rival their taste.

The young lady decided that from this day on, she was going to be a loyal supporter of Chu's Restaurant's Delicious Spiritual Food buns.

"So tasty, truly delicious. This is Chu's Restaurant, right? Where did you hire your chef from? What rank is your Spiritual Delicacy Master?"

The young lady devoured five cabbage buns in just a few bites, while her little maid chewed and swallowed her bun slowly beside her.

"Our bun chef is none other than our own Little Boss. As for what rank of Spiritual Delicacy Master she is... hehe, let's just call her Master Xin."

Ma Jingtian had a look of profound mystery on his face.

Having been around the jianghu, he knew how to bluff and give people the impression that Little Boss's abilities were unfathomably deep.

Upon hearing that, the young lady pounded the table.

"Little Huan, get the paper and brush ready."

Her little maid, reluctantly finishing her last bite of the bun, hurriedly took out a set of writing utensils.

The girl swiftly brandished her brush, filling a full page with her writing.

Ma Jingtian took a closer look, only to see words like "Divine Purple Cloud First Bun"... But before he could make out what exactly the girl wrote, she sprang to her feet.

"When will Master Xin be back?"

"Hehe, esteemed guest, Master Xin comes and goes like a ghost, and she will be traveling far soon. I'm afraid you won't be able to wait for her. Please take care on your way out."

Ma Jingtian wore a smile as he saw the young lady out.

The words of Ma Jingtian were indeed the honest truth since tomorrow, Little Boss would be enrolling in Qingtian Academy.

Chapter 447: The Hungry Monk Jun

"This Chu's Restaurant is quite interesting. The shopkeeper seems all jests and smiles, but he's actually a high-level expert nearing the Xuan Transformation Realm, and even the wait staff are Xuanwu Practitioners. That Master Xin must be even more unfathomable. I didn't expect that just half a year after I left for my trials, such an incredible person would appear in Purple Cloud City."

The girl clicked her tongue in amazement, regretting that she didn't get to meet the said Master Xin this time.

With a sigh of regret, the girl left.

Little did Xin Lin know that she had inexplicably become known as Master Xin.

At the moment, Xin Lin leapt over the back wall of Taichang Temple with a quick stride and jumped into Wanshi Mountain.

Today was not the open day of Taichang Temple. The temple was quiet and serene.

At this hour, the monks of Taichang Temple were busy with their morning chants.

Of course, Xin Lin was not here for the morning chant.

She tiptoed and sneaked into Wanshi Mountain.

Having had the experience from the last time, Xin Lin was now familiar with coming and going from Wanshi Mountain.

Inside the modest meditation room, on an incense burner where the gold paint had peeled off, there were three sticks of plain incense burning.

The aroma wafted through the air, and Monk Jun, wearing an extremely simple monk's robe, was holding a string of colored Buddha Beads, with an open Buddhist Scripture on the table before him.

He was motionless, as if he had no breath at all.

Knock, knock, knock—

There was a series of knocking sounds, some heavy, some light.

Monk Jun didn't even move an eyelid.

"Monk Jun, it's me."

A clear and pleasant voice was heard.

Monk Jun opened his eyes.

"Little benefactor, you..."

The door opened, and Monk Jun saw Xin Lin smiling broadly.

He wanted to say, little benefactor, Taichang Temple is not open today, and we do not welcome female visitors.

Before the monk could say more, Xin Lin ducked and slipped into the room.

Well, it was too late for that.

She looked around and saw that on Monk Jun's desk, there was only a bowl of clean water, which made her pout.

"Monk, isn't the food here at Taichang Temple a bit too poor? You've earned so much incense money for the temple, and they won't even feed you a morning meal?"

Monk Jun opened his mouth, meaning to say that he was fasting.

"Oh! I get it, it must be Monk Qingyu getting back at you!"

Xin Lin slammed the table, her face full of indignation.

Monk Jun opened his mouth, wanting to say that there was no longer such a person in the temple.

Hmm, too late again.

Xin Lin took out a few buns from her bosom and stuffed them into Monk Jun's hands.

"I climbed over several walls, especially to bring these for you to eat. Thank you for helping me transcend those Yin Sha."

Fasting... he was fasting.

Monk Jun silently recited, holding the steaming buns in his hands.

Looking at the buns and then at Xin Lin's sweaty little face, he said,

"Eat them while they're warm. They're stuffed with cabbage."

Xin Lin grabbed one and pushed it into Monk Jun's mouth.

A fresh aroma instantly filled his mouth. The monk was stunned and looked at the bun.

Very delicious.

"They taste good, right? I made them," said Xin Lin with a smile.

"Little benefactor has skilled hands," Monk Jun said, somewhat surprised, as he looked at Xin Lin.

He was someone who had little desire for the taste of food; what he ate did not matter much to him.

But he had to admit, Xin Lin's vegetarian buns were truly delicious, refreshing and pleasant to eat, especially in the morning, making one feel clear-headed and invigorated.

Monk Jun smiled, but obviously, it wasn't the reaction Xin Lin was hoping for.

"Monk Jun, there is a saying in Buddhism, 'Joy shared is joy doubled.' You also said that my vegetarian buns are delicious. Why not help bring them to the monks in the temple for a taste test and improve the meals at Taichang Temple? My buns are not expensive, only one silver each!"

Xin Lin eagerly said.

Chapter 448: Monk Fengxi

Monk Jun fell silent.

Xin Lin cleared her throat twice, seeing that Monk Jun did not utter a word, she thought he was having trouble.

"Ah, right, I forgot you're just a little monk who guards the yard, without the power to do more. Never mind then, as if I didn't say anything. These dozen-plus steamed buns are all for you, you can use them to smooth things over with the other monks, so you won't keep being bullied."

Xin Lin didn't come to Taichang Temple early in the morning just to deliver steamed buns.

She wanted to do business with Taichang Temple.

With steamed buns costing one silver each, the number of people in Purple Cloud City who could afford to eat them was after all limited; aiming to secure 20 regular customers in a short period of time, the Heaven-defying Book really offered quite an abnormal challenge this time.

According to the statistics in the Heaven-defying Book, up until just now, Xin Lin had only managed to secure 5 regular customers.

Tossing and turning all of last night, Xin Lin finally thought of a method.

That was the group of monks at Taichang Temple.

These monks, chanting scriptures and eating vegetarian food daily, were all so wealthy they were practically overflowing with riches; one silver for a White Jade Vegetable Bun was absolutely nothing for them.

The only difficulty was how to get the White Jade Steamed Buns into Taichang Temple.

To Xin Lin's knowledge, Taichang Temple had strict monastic discipline; all the vegetarian meals they ate came from the temple's own kitchen and never had food from any external Spiritual Food Restaurant entered Taichang Temple, even De Yue Building was no exception.

Had it been an ordinary person, they likely would have lost hope already.

But Xin Lin didn't see it that way.

Where there's a will, there's a way; as long as there's a glimmer of possibility, she would give it a try.

Xin Lin thought it over, the only person she knew at Taichang Temple was Monk Jun.

Hoping to try her luck, she went to Taichang Temple to see if Lord Taichang had returned.

If he had returned, perhaps she could get Monk Jun to lend a helping hand, unfortunately, Lord Taichang was still not back.

"Regardless, many thanks to the little benefactor for your good intentions."

Monk Jun escorted Xin Lin out of the guest room.

Just as Xin Lin was about to leave, Monk Jun suddenly spoke.

"Little benefactor, my name is Feng Xi."

Xin Lin was startled, then came to her senses.

"Look at my memory, I've been unaware of your name all this time. Monk Fengxi, should we meet again by destiny, if you find the steamed buns tasty, remember to come and buy some from Chu's Restaurant next to the coffin shop in South City; mention my name, and you'll get a free bowl of cabbage soup."

With that, Xin Lin quickly slipped away into Wanshi Mountain.

Monk Fengxi couldn't help but shake his head.

That Wanshi Mountain, which seemed so terrifying in the eyes of countless bandits and laypeople, appeared in Xin Lin's view as if it was a place where no one dwelled.

However, this was also precisely the reason why Monk Fengxi was able to accept Xin Lin.

Wanshi Mountain holds all the faces of the world, and those haunted by Heart Demons entering it will surely succumb to their inner demons.

Xin Lin entering and leaving without hindrance proved her clarity of heart.

Back when she was first met in Ping'an County, Monk Fengxi had detected a strand of Ghost Energy on her.

Now it seemed, he had worried over nothing.

Behind him, the deaf and mute monk stood respectfully; he was quite surprised to see the steamed buns on Monk Fengxi's desk.

Lord Taichang is not fasting?

"Uncle Long, those steamed buns taste pretty good; you haven't had breakfast yet, take a few..."

The deaf and mute monk's face showed even greater shock.

Lord Taichang actually said those worldly foods taste good?

"Take the remaining few to some of the elders for them to try. If they find it to their taste, have them place an order for steamed buns at Chu's Restaurant in South City."

Monk Fengxi recalled Xin Lin's words, his lips revealing a barely perceptible smile.

Chapter 449: Jealous Over Baozi

Evening, within Chu Mansion.

"Little Boss, we sold a total of 130 buns today, 30 White Jade Steamed Buns and 100 Ultimate Lingxiu Buns, adding up to a revenue of 130 silver taels. Additionally, we sold 100 bowls of cabbage soup for 50 silver taels. So, the total takings for Chu's Restaurant today amount to 180 silver taels."

Ma Jingtian, clutching an abacus, began to click it rapidly in front of Xin Lin.

The expression on his face was even happier than when he had led the Water Wraith Gang in a big fight back in the day.

However, Xin Lin's little face showed not the slightest hint of joy.

She was still 15 regular customers short, with only one day left—tomorrow is the deadline, and she still needs 15 more regular customers.

It seems that those 100 Heaven-defying Value points will definitely be deducted.

Fortunately, she had earned nearly 100 Heaven-defying Value points over the past day.

She now has 262 Heaven-defying Value points.

Such a pity for that sandalwood signboard.

Xin Lin sighed and grabbed the Spiritual Delicacy Bun with cabbage and pork in front of her, biting fiercely into it.

Next to her, with loud munches, Overlord Egg was eating even faster than Xin Lin, gobbling up twenty White Jade Vegetable Buns and thirty cabbage pork buns in no time.

"Little Boss, you've got to do something about that creature. With the way it's eating, even mountains of gold and silver would be devoured!"

Ma Jingtian and the gang members of the Water Wraith Gang were all stunned.

They hadn't even started eating yet, and all the buns in front of them had been polished off by Overlord Egg.

These buns weren't even made by Little Boss, but they were freshly wrapped with their own hard work.

What was most infuriating was that this egg didn't snatch from Little Boss or Silly Chu, but just from them.

(Aw, aw, these aren't good at all, much worse than the ones Mommy makes)

Overlord Egg continued stuffing itself with buns while showing disgust on its face.

Feeling disgruntled, Xin Lin ate a few buns and then picked up Overlord Egg to retreat to her side room for cultivation, remembering that the day after tomorrow was Qingtian Academy's admission day.

According to the usual practice, the new students entering Qingtian Academy would need to undergo an entrance assessment. Only after passing the entrance examination and being assigned to classes would they truly be considered enrolled.

As soon as she returned to her room, Gui Hu that guy appeared.

He looked at Xin Lin, and Xin Lin looked at him.

"Five servings."

Gui Hu spoke in a deep voice.

Xin Lin calculated the date, oh no, today is the day to provide the Wind Breath Braised Pork.

She had previously agreed with Gui Hu to provide five servings of Wind Breath Braised Pork each month.

A ghost, wanting to eat braised pork?

Xin Lin begrudgingly got out the Dan Wood Furnace and honestly prepared five servings of Wind Breath Braised Pork for Gui Hu.

Now Overlord Egg was not satisfied either.

It rolled around next to Xin Lin, clamoring to eat Wind Breath Braised Pork, and Xin Lin had to make an additional three servings.

With eight servings of Wind Breath Braised Pork consumed, her Heaven-defying Value directly dropped to 182 points.

Thinking about the 100 Heaven-defying Value points that were about to be deducted, Xin Lin felt as if her heart was bleeding.

Who knew that after receiving the Wind Breath Braised Pork, Gui Hu still did not leave.

"Why haven't you left yet? This lady here is going to cultivate. If you stay here staring, what if I get scared and deviate from my cultivation? Remember to take that eyesore of an egg with you."

Xin Lin said in displeasure.

"No more delivery for him, send steamed buns."

Gui Hu's thin lips moved slightly, spitting out a sentence.

He really disliked that Monk, extremely so.

"Why not? I'm trying to make a living here."

Xin Lin's eyes widened.

"No means no."

Gui Hu said coldly.

The two of them glared at each other.

Suddenly, from outside, Ma Jingtian's voice loudly called out.

"Little Boss, come quick, Chu... Silly Chu is in trouble!"

Chapter 450: The Poison Strikes

Hearing Ma Jingtian's loud shout,

Xin Lin's heart tightened.

She hurried out immediately.

(Crunch crunch, Daddy, Mommy, what's happened?)

Beside her, the Overlord Egg, thoroughly enjoying its meal and smeared with oil, was picked up by Gui Hu and quickly followed her out.

The sound came from the dining area.

The moment Xin Lin entered, she saw Ma Jingtian with a face full of panic.

After the meal, Xin Lin returned to her room to practice her cultivation.

Ma Jingtian and a group of Water Wraith Gang members, thinking about selling buns early the next morning, decided to prepare some fillings in the dining area in advance.

Silly Chu also clamored to help.

Ma Jingtian thought he was strong and asked him to help fetch water, but who knew, halfway there, he suddenly fell to the ground. His brothers rushed over to help and as a result...

"When I arrived, it was already like this, your father's whole body was covered in frost, looking very frightening. The brothers who tried to help earlier all suffered serious frostbite. Little Boss, what on earth is going on?"

Before Ma Jingtian finished speaking, Xin Lin stepped forward swiftly.

She saw Chu Beiqing lying on a stretcher.

His skin was a purple-blue color, even his lips were purplish-blue, the whole person was unconscious, barely breathing.

"Daddy?"

Xin Lin was about to take his pulse, but Gui Hu and Ma Jingtian both pulled her back at the same time.

"Don't touch him, just a touch can cause frostbite. My goodness, in my life, I've never seen anyone frozen like this, even dead people are..."

Ma Jingtian shrank his neck, daring not to continue speaking.

"The Three Corpse Poison has worsened, the poison has surfaced, causing his body temperature to become dangerously abnormal, touching him could likely result in frostbite."

Chu Beiqing had been poisoned by someone, and this poison had been lurking in his body.

"Weren't you saying there were three months left?"

Xin Lin demanded.

Earlier, Gui Hu had clearly stated that there were about three months left for Chu Beiqing's poison.

"It has worsened, something must have happened inside him, this poison is inherently very unstable."

Gui Hu was just as surprised.

"Little Boss, why don't we ask for the Chu Mansion's help, perhaps they have some methods."

Ma Jingtian suggested.

"The people from Chu Mansion would rather see him dead, how could they possibly help."

Xin Lin was extremely anxious.

She looked at Silly Chu, the simple man who called her 'daughter', now looking so weak and fragile, as if he could leave her at any moment, her nose slightly sour.

She knew the prescription, yet she couldn't save Chu Beiqing, this feeling of powerlessness almost drove her insane.

It wasn't easy for her, to finally have her own family, this time, she would not just watch her family member leave her.

She took a deep breath and walked out.

"Where are you going?"

"Purple Cloud Alchemy Hall."

Xin Lin left a word behind, without turning back, and hurried to Purple Cloud Alchemy Hall.

In the dead of night, the Purple Cloud Alchemy Hall.

Jiang Qing was woken up by the suddenly arriving Xin Lin.

"Xin, it's not that I don't want to help you, but this time, I really can't. The Golden Crow Egg Shell, the Alchemy Hall doesn't have any. If you really are in a hurry, I can go to the Imperial Palace and Imperial Hospital to inquire for you first thing in the morning."

After listening to Xin Lin's reasons, Jiang Qing also furrowed his brows.

"It's too late, my father's condition has worsened, I'm afraid he won't last through the night."

Xin Lin shook her head.

"Xin, I can't help with the Golden Crow Egg Shell right now, but about the Three Corpse Worm Poison, I know a thing or two, maybe I could offer some assistance."

Jiang Qing spoke thoughtfully after a moment of silence.

Upon hearing this, Xin Lin's eyes suddenly lit up, and she turned to look at Jiang Qing.