

Little Girl 821

Chapter 821: Combat Lobster

Xin Lin gave a wry smile.

Jiang Qing's warning came too late.

In fact, Yang Su had already targeted Chu's Restaurant.

Although Xin Lin didn't know why Yang Su would set his sights on such an unknown little Spirit Food Restaurant like Chu's, there are indeed many famous Spirit Food Restaurants in Purple Cloud City.

To say the least, even De Yue Building is much more famous than Chu's Restaurant.

Yang Su's reason for targeting Xin Lin was, quite coincidentally, by chance.

With Yang Su's character, he initially looked down on little spirit chefs like Xin Lin. Before coming to Purple Cloud City, he only had two targets.

One was Master Ji from Taoyao Pavilion, and the other was Master Chen from De Yue Building.

Unfortunately, Master Ji died suddenly.

And Master Chen, because of prior reorganizational matters, was also apprehensive, cautious in speech and action.

So Yang Su changed his mind and, after planning to take over Taoyao Pavilion, set his sights on the Emperor Longteng's birthday banquet. He hoped to use the occasion to establish his foothold in Longteng and seize control of the Spirit Food World.

Who would have thought, the head chef position he eyed was snatched away by Xin Lin, who appeared out of nowhere.

If Xin Lin had used some superb spiritual delicacy to take the position, he might have let it go, but Xin Lin used small buns to secure it. How could Yang Su not be annoyed?

Since Xin Lin was good at making buns, Yang Su decided to create Spiritual Longevity Peach Buns, directly snatching away all of Xin Lin's bun business.

The intricacies of this affair, Xin Lin only learned later.

"Thank you for the advice, Brother Jiang. I will be careful and keep an eye on Yang Su. However, there is one more thing. Lately, Taoyao Pavilion has been giving away Spiritual Longevity Peach Buns. Brother Jiang, remember, you and your men must not eat those buns."

Xin Lin intended to warn Jiang Qing that there was something fishy about the Spiritual Longevity Peach Buns.

But before figuring out the problem with Aphron, she couldn't casually accuse the other side and could only offer a kind reminder.

"Don't worry. Apart from the buns you make, I won't eat anyone else's."

Jiang Qing simply laughed.

Xin Lin was surprised when she heard this, sensing there was more to Jiang Qing's words than met the eye.

She glanced at Jiang Qing, only to see his handsome face wearing a gentle, harmless smile. His black eyes, however, were fixed on Xin Lin, flickering with a hesitant gaze as if wanting to say something but not speaking.

"Hey hey, Xiao Xin, the lobsters in the pond are something else. I spent ages catching just one."

Master Mo's loud voice from outside broke their brief silence.

"I almost forgot. I promised Master Mo to make lobster tonight. Brother Jiang, since you're here, why not stay and join us..."

Xin Lin was about to invite Jiang Qing to dinner.

Suddenly, a cold snort sounded in her ear.

Join for dinner?

Uh, uh, uh—

Xin Lin came to her senses, realizing she had forgotten about the very, very displeased Pride Corpse next to her, who didn't take kindly to Jiang Qing.

Fortunately, Jiang Qing had other matters to attend to, so he thanked Xin Lin for the invitation and left.

Xin Lin sighed, thinking to herself that Pride Corpse was really overly petty. It's just an extra set of cutlery; was it really necessary to be so stingy?

As she walked out of the Medical Hall, she realized that, unbeknownst to her, the golden light spread everywhere.

The sunset's afterglow gilded the pond's water with a dazzling golden hue.

A vast expanse of lush green lotus leaves swayed back and forth in the evening breeze.

The pond's water, once clear, was now stirred into a murky chaos, echoing with splashes.

Chu Beiqing, Master Mo, and the temporary unpaid worker Lu Yuan collaborated, trying to catch Combat Lobsters in the pond.

Chapter 822: The Pitiful Corpse King

In the Medical Hall's pond, under Master Mo's efforts, besides lotuses, there are also blackfish and crayfish being raised.

The pond isn't big, but the fish and crayfish in it are growing splendidly.

Especially since Xin Lin upgraded the Jade Purification Tank once, the spiritual energy of the Jade Pure Spring poured into the pond is even more abundant.

The lotuses are fine, with a longer growing period, producing crisper and sweeter lotus roots, and softer, glutinous lotus seeds.

The size of the blackfish is also twice as large as ordinary blackfish, with tasty meat, whether used in soup or braised, it's exceptionally delicious.

The biggest change, however, belongs to the crayfish that Chu Beiqing and the Overlord Egg casually caught and threw into the pond.

The crayfish originally grew in a ditch, only about half the size of a child's palm, with a dark bluish shell and small pincers and arms.

But ever since they migrated into the pond, as Master Mo would say, the crayfish have been growing defyingly fast as if on steroids.

Their size increased four to five times, the dark blue shell turned to a black rock color, small pincers grew into big pincers, and along their backs, there were strange stripes similar to dragon patterns. Their prominent antennae remained highly alert, standing tall.

With such an imposing and majestic appearance, they looked just like great generals on a battlefield, which is why Lu Yuan would quietly call them "Combat Lobsters" behind their backs.

Imagine, a crayfish that could directly injure a Martial Soul, what else could they be but Combat Lobsters?

Perhaps it was known how formidable these crayfish were, Governor Huang, having suffered, even specifically ordered a sign outside the School Clinic saying, "Beware of evil crayfish ahead, strangers keep away."

Thanks to the fearsome reputation of the Combat Lobsters, these dozen or so Combat Lobsters grew rapidly in the pond, living worry-free.

However, crayfish are still crayfish, and Master Mo, who'd been eyeing them for days, finally made his move with malicious intent.

Whenever someone approached, the Combat Lobsters would all rise up.

They waved their pincers fiercely at anyone who came near.

Moreover, these crayfish had a strong fighting spirit.

They understood team combat. Even someone like Lu Yuan, an Eighth to Ninth Rank Xuanwu Practitioner, was forced to jump around.

Master Mo soaked in the pond for half a day and didn't manage to catch a single crayfish, almost fainting with anger.

"These crayfish are yours, you find a way."

Exhausted, Master Mo and Lu Yuan unwillingly climbed out of the pond.

Only Chu Beiqing remained in the pond, having a deep friendship with the Combat Lobsters. Those crayfish did not attack him.

Having been at Longteng for a long time, Xin Lin also started to miss the taste of seafood. Though Spiritual Food tasted good, it was ultimately not as satisfying as seafood.

However, as for the tough job of catching crayfish...

Xin Lin blinked, and taking advantage of Master Mo and others being unprepared, pulled out Sealing Spirit Talisman No.1.

"Pride Corpse, have you ever eaten seafood?"

Xin Lin glanced at Gui Hu beside her, who wore a stern expression.

You could guess even with your toes that Gui Hu was quietly fuming over her earlier invitation to Jiang Qing for a meal.

Gui Hu let out a cold snort.

"So you've never eaten? Crabs, lobsters, sea fish?"

Xin Lin asked, counting on her fingers.

Gui Hu snorted again.

As for seafood, the only thing he might have had with the word "sea" in it was... hmm, seaweed.

"Since you haven't had any, I'll treat you to crayfish tonight. These crayfish here have grown larger than Boston lobsters. Help me catch a few, let's make three crayfish dishes."

Xin Lin's little face was full of longing.

Gui Hu glanced at Xin Lin, seeing her glowing little face, and grunted again.

(Certain Proudful Corpse: What's wrong, isn't seaweed considered seafood?)

Certain Little Evil Ghost: How pitiful, let's see if we can get everyone to give more monthly tickets and recommendation tickets to the Seaweed Corpse King so the author can give him a treat.

Certain Da Fu: Give him a treat~ meh~

Chapter 823: An Expert Takes Action

Night had fallen, and Master Mo's stomach was grumbling desperately with hunger.

She looked at the Combat Lobsters in the pond, unable to eat them, her waxy yellow face full of sorrow.

"Xiao Xin, do you have any solution? It's driving me crazy with worry."

"Master Mo, catching lobsters isn't that troublesome, just wait, I'll catch them for you."

Seeing that Gui Hu didn't refuse, Xin Lin knew that he had agreed.

She called over her Silly Dad.

"Baby... don't eat..."

Silly Chu looked at the Combat Lobsters in the water, saying reluctantly.

(Don't eat, lobsters, mommy, we don't eat.)

Overlord Egg also looked reluctant.

These lobsters were caught by it and Beibei, they were all its babies.

Xin Lin was noncommittal. She didn't plan to eat all the Combat Lobsters either. At the moment, these Combat Lobsters were all Spiritual Beasts; Xin Lin intended to keep some and raise them for a while to see if there were any changes.

Gui Hu strolled to the edge of the pond but didn't go into the water.

Other than Xin Lin and Overlord Egg, no one else could see him.

A black aura enveloped his whole body, silently merging into the pond.

The Combat Lobsters sensed something amiss and immediately waved their large claws.

But as soon as they touched that black aura, they shivered all over, as if plunged into an icy cellar, their bodies stiffening.

Plop, plop.

In the pond, one Combat Lobster after another lay flat on their backs, fainting.

"Huh? Why are they all belly up? Are they dead?"

Master Mo was stunned at the sight.

She picked up a Combat Lobster, heavy, weighing three or four pounds, which was just lively a moment ago, but now flipped it over in the blink of an eye.

Were they scared unconscious?

Xin Lin coughed lightly a few times.

It seemed that the Corpse King's aura of the Pride Corpse was quite terrifying.

With Gui Hu's intimidation, Xin Lin and the others finally had their dinner settled.

She selected five medium-sized, firm-fleshed Combat Lobsters.

She peeled off their shells, removed the shrimp guts, and then found some fresh water reeds. After lighting a fire and tinkering around, a strange aroma wafted out from the School Clinic.

Master Mo and the others waited eagerly into the night before seeing Xin Lin come out from the stove with several big plates.

In Longteng, these small lobsters from the ditches were usually braised.

Now that Xin Lin was a Three-star Spirit Chef, everyone naturally had high expectations for the Combat Lobsters she made.

"What kind of dish is this?"

Master Mo glanced at the plates.

The plate was large, holding a massive lobster head and tail.

The lobster meat and large claws had been handled, with the hard shells removed, revealing the enticing shrimp meat.

The shrimp meat was drizzled with sesame oil and scallions, and was laid on a bed of fine white vermicelli.

"Steamed."

Xin Lin smiled.

Master Mo pursed her lips, thinking Xiao Xin was being lazy.

Steaming was the least labor-intensive method, just putting the shrimp into the pot.

Though she seemed to disdain it with her words, Master Mo's hands weren't idle. She picked up a piece of shelled lobster, sucked it up with a slurp, and the elastic, white shrimp meat entered her mouth.

With that bite, Master Mo felt a thrill all over.

So fresh.

The three or four pounds heavy Combat Lobsters had meat that wasn't tough at all. Instead, due to staying in a combat-ready state for a long time, the meat was firm and chewy.

Xin Lin used freshly picked water reeds, their spicy and sweet taste removed the lobster's fishiness completely.

She also added a considerable amount of medicinal herbs, which balanced the coldness of the Combat Lobsters. After eating, one's stomach felt warmly cozy.

Chapter 824: Signature Spiritual Food

Master Mo's eyes lit up, and Lu Yuan was eating with such gusto, he was just about to reach for more.

Only to have his hand slapped away by Chu Beiqing with a smack.

Chu Beiqing pushed a big plate of lobster in front of Xin Lin, muttering under his breath.

"Baby eat... not allowed to eat..."

This fool, still guarding the food eh?

Lu Yuan was stunned.

"Xin Lin, could it be that your dad is pretending to be stupid?"

"You're the stupid one, how is Beibei stupid, have you ever seen such a handsome fool?"

Master Mo rolled his eyes at Lu Yuan.

"Daddy, there's more in the pot, you guys eat first, later there will be spicy lobster and lobster porridge."

Xin Lin rubbed her silly daddy's head.

Her biggest wish is to cure her silly daddy's illness.

The remaining spicy lobster and lobster porridge also received unanimous praise.

While no one was paying attention, Xin Lin secretly gave a portion of the Three Eats Lobster to Gui Hu.

Although it was his first time eating seafood, Gui Hu still appreciated Xin Lin's skills, except for the spicy lobster, the other two portions were gone in a blink of an eye.

"Is it good?"

Xin Lin's face was full of anticipation.

This guy Gui Hu, apart from criticizing her, was always so laconic.

No matter how many times she fed him, this guy never gave a word of evaluation.

"Fairly decent."

Gui Hu replied nonchalantly.

Xin Lin's eyes dimmed in disappointment.

"Life Book prompt: Congratulations to the life master, for receiving the Corpse King Gui Hu's very satisfied evaluation, Heaven-defying Value +5."

But the next moment, the Heaven-defying Book's voice echoed.

"!!!"

Xin Lin's eyes lit up.

Gui Hu's face froze, his cool demeanor slightly cracked.

That damn broken book.

"Life Book prompt: Congratulations to the life master, for receiving Lu Yuan's very satisfied evaluation, Heaven-defying Value +5...

Received Mo Lin's very satisfied evaluation...

Received..."

In one go, Xin Lin received 4 very satisfied evaluations.

Xin Lin was instantly overjoyed.

But then, she felt something was not quite right.

She remembered, her Spiritual Delicacy Buns could only earn 3 Heaven-defying Points each time, even for a very satisfied evaluation.

But this time the Three Eats Lobster received 5 Heaven-defying Points, four people and one evaluation, a total of 25 Heaven-defying Points.

The last time she got 5 Heaven-defying Points for a very satisfied evaluation was when she made Fire Phoenix Auspicious Soup, which was a Four-star Spiritual Cuisine.

Just as Xin Lin was puzzled.

The Heaven-defying Book spoke again.

"Life Book prompt: Congratulations to the life master for developing a unique new Spiritual Food, River Dragon Three Eats, Life Book rating, three-star. Spiritual Delicacy Effect: Strengthen the body, strengthen the muscles and bones, quickly restore physical strength, Heaven-defying Value +10."

Xin Lin's Spiritual Delicacies instantly had a new Spiritual Food added to it.

River Dragon Three Eats, isn't it just her Three Eats Lobster, which was directly rated as a Three-star Spiritual Cuisine?

The Three Eats Lobster, speaking of it, isn't a new dish, it's a modern dish, but unexpectedly, in Longteng it has become a new Spiritual Food, and the rating isn't low either.

This way, if she takes those modern dishes and uses Xuan Spirit Beast as raw materials or adds other medicinal materials to reinvent them, doesn't that mean they become new Spiritual Delicacy dishes, and they're her exclusive dishes too?

Xin Lin felt an urge to laugh out loud to the sky.

Truly blessed by Heaven.

That night, the School Clinic was filled with laughter, and Xin Lin temporarily forgot the troubles of the day.

As Emperor Longteng's birthday was drawing near day by day, inside Purple Cloud City, the ripples caused by the True Dragon incident grew more intense, with undercurrents stirring in the dark.

Chapter 825: Voices of Doubt

The business at Chu's Restaurant remained lukewarm.

To avoid wastage, Xin Lin instructed Ma Jingtian and others to reduce the daily supply of buns from five hundred to one hundred, with fifty cabbage pork buns and fifty cabbage buns each. Unsold ones were given to nearby merchants.

This back and forth helped maintain good relations with the surrounding merchants.

The gang members who were detained were ordered by Xin Lin not to eat Spiritual Longevity Peach Buns. That very night, they reacted abnormally, causing a commotion in the room, clamoring for the buns.

Ma Jingtian went in to appease them and was almost bitten.

It was then that Ma Jingtian believed what Xin Lin had said earlier, that there was something wrong with the Spiritual Longevity Peach Buns from Taoyao Pavilion.

The two were detained for three days and given only clean water, gradually calming down.

This further confirmed to Xin Lin that the buns indeed contained opium ingredients.

The opium ingredient would typically be depleted in about three days.

However, with the aid of Jade Pure Spring or Wind Breath Roast Pork, the effect dissipated even faster.

Especially those around Xin Lin who often consumed Jade Pure Spring and some spiritual materials experienced adverse reactions to the opium, much like Overlord Egg and Chu Beiqing, experiencing vomiting and diarrhea.

Xin Lin was the only exception; she later realized it was likely related to the Fu Tian Pill within her.

With this realization, Xin Lin had a faint plan in mind.

As the Emperor Longteng's birthday banquet approached, Master Chen summoned Xin Lin to the Spirit Food Association.

"In two days, it will be the Emperor's birthday banquet. At that time, a banquet will be held outside the palace in Purple Cloud City, a feast for the people, coinciding with the one in the palace, celebrating for seven days and nights. I am in charge of leading the Spiritual Delicacy Masters and the main dishes. You, as the assistant chef, are responsible for pastries and cold dishes. Have you prepared the menu? I need to review it one by one."

Master Chen, seeing Xin Lin, was full of pride, assuming the stance of a head chef.

"I haven't prepared any menu."

Xin Lin shrugged.

She only knew a few spiritual delicacies, and there were not many pastries classified as such.

Even Emperor Longteng said that she could make some of the pastries she was good at, and the Ultimate Lingxiu Buns were fine too.

She planned to use everything she knew, including roast sweet potatoes.

As for the materials, she had prepared quite a lot.

At this moment, her Tuling hairpin still had several hundred pounds of cabbage and sweet potatoes, lotus roots, and more in stock.

However, the prospect of a seven-day and seven-night flowing banquet caught Xin Lin off guard, requiring her to prepare additional materials.

When Xin Lin mentioned this, Master Chen became visibly agitated, blowing his beard and glaring.

"Are you kidding? No menu? You can't be planning to serve those disgraceful buns of yours to guests from all over, can you? Let me tell you, Xin Lin, while you might be willing to lose face, the Emperor cannot afford such disgrace!"

With so many guests at this birthday banquet, this Xin is being too frivolous.

The Emperor must have listened to slander to let her take charge as the head chef.

"I think my buns are quite good, no problem with them. Master Chen, we're both appointed head chefs by the Emperor, you have no right to boss me around."

Xin Lin remained indifferent.

"If he doesn't have the right, surely I, the Prince, do."

As Xin Lin finished speaking, Long Qingchen and Young Master Tu walked in, accompanied by Yang Su, Chef Yang.

Chapter 826: Challengers at the Door

Xin Lin saw the three, and her eyes revealed understanding. It seemed the other party finally couldn't hold back; the fox was about to reveal its tail.

"Third Prince, it's good that you came. Look at Xin Lin, there are only two days left until the birthday feast, and the guests in the city have all arrived. She hasn't even prepared a menu. Isn't this just a perfunctory effort?"

Master Chen looked heartbroken.

"Xin Lin, without a menu, how can you be a Spiritual Delicacy Master? You won't participate in the Spiritual Banquet in two days. Yang Su, Master Yang, will replace you to host the birthday feast outside the palace."

Long Qingchen glanced at Xin Lin and sneered.

Such an important event as Father's fortieth birthday really shouldn't be entrusted to someone like Xin Lin.

What does she know about spiritual cuisine? Her baozi shop has been open until now with no business whatsoever.

"Well said, Yang Su, Master Yang is a renowned chef from the Ancient Yue Kingdom. He is qualified to host the Spiritual Banquet."

Master Chen changed his earlier attitude, clasping his hands toward Master Yang in a brotherly manner.

Yang Su courteously clasped his hands in return.

"Dare I ask, Third Prince, who is greater, you or the Emperor?"

Xin Lin curled her lips and asked.

"Presumptuous! Naturally, my father is greater."

Long Qingchen replied angrily.

"In that case, unless the Emperor removes me, I will not give up my position as the spiritual banquet's head chef."

Xin Lin was not the type to easily give in.

"You! Don't think that with that fool's backing you can do as you please. If you don't greet the domestic and foreign guests well, even Father can't protect you."

Long Qingchen was momentarily at a loss for words.

Emperor Longteng naturally couldn't personally remove Xin Lin's position.

But Yang Su's skills, he had already witnessed. These few days, the Spiritual Longevity Peach Buns he made have been unanimously praised by the city's people and guests. If he is willing to host the pastry and cold dish portion of this Spiritual Banquet, Longteng would gain considerable prestige.

"Whether or not the guests are greeted well will be known at the birthday feast."

Xin Lin maintained an expression of calm indifference.

"Miss Xin, why be so stubborn? I have no intention of competing with you for attention, just want to help you, as I now count myself as part of the Dragon Ascending Spirit Gourmet Master group."

Yang Su smiled appeasingly and said.

"Master Yang, you're too kind. Your 'part' is no small one."

Xin Lin teased.

The latter's face stiffened, thinking.

This little girl really leaves no room for error.

"Xin Lin, don't refuse a toast only to drink a penalty. Master Yang was recommended by Young Prince Tu, and my mother praises his skills endlessly. Were it not for your father's sake, you wouldn't be qualified for the head chef position. Do you really think you are a Three-star Spirit Chef? That's merely a title Father gave you. I doubt you can even make one Three-star Spirit Cuisine."

Long Qingchen mocked.

"Haha, young friend, whether Miss Xin is a qualified Spiritual Delicacy Master is not for you to decide."

Just then, an elderly laughter was heard.

Behind them, an old man walked in, leaning on a cane, accompanied by a young girl.

Xin Lin was surprised; today, the Spiritual Cuisine Master Association was truly lively, the people came one after another.

Long Qingchen's face darkened.

Where did this ignorant old man come from? When was it his turn to interject in the conversation?

As Long Qingchen was about to reprimand, he saw Yang Su and Master Chen first stunned, then swiftly went forward to bow respectfully to the old man.

"Chairman Mu."

Chapter 827: An Unexpected Helper

It's them.

Xin Lin recognized the newcomers, they were the grandfather-grandson duo she met earlier on Zixiao Street.

"Grandfather, is this the De Yue Building you mentioned? It doesn't seem that impressive to me."

The office of the Spiritual Cuisine Master Association is located within De Yue Building.

Young Mu Jin entered the door, glanced around, pursed her lips, with a hint of disdain.

"Mu Jin, don't speak irresponsibly. Chen Nian, Yang Su, long time no see."

The elder smiled kindly.

"Third Prince, this is the president of the Longteng Spirit Food Association, President Mu. He is also a Five-star Spiritual Cuisine Master."

Master Chen said respectfully.

"So it's the President, much respected."

Long Qingchen, upon hearing this, quickly changed his demeanor to one of great respect.

A Master-level Spiritual Delicacy Master is not an ordinary person.

It should be known, throughout Longteng Country, the only Five-star Chef is this very person before you.

Mu Cang, the foremost Spirit Chef of Zixiao.

Although Xin Lin knew the elder's status was extraordinary, she hadn't expected him to be the president of the Spirit Food Association.

"President Mu, have you come for this banquet?"

Long Qingchen asked joyfully.

In Longteng's spirit culinary world, President Mu is a veritable Taishan Beidou.

He hadn't appeared in any public occasion for years.

The last time he made an appearance was during the late Emperor's birthday thirty years ago.

If he agrees to preside over this banquet, it would be flawless, leaving no space for Xin Lin.

The Dragon Ascending Royal Family would also gain considerable prestige.

"Not quite, I've come mainly to observe, and also preside over this culinary assessment. If I recall correctly, Chen Nian and Ji Lan contacted me earlier, wishing to host a culinary assessment during this banquet to cultivate some new talents for Longteng Country's spirit culinary world."

Mu Cang stroked his beard.

Unfortunately, although he is here, Ji Lan is not.

Chen Nian nodded, he indeed had written to Mu Cang, but since there was no reply, he assumed the old president was indifferent to this assessment.

After all, President Mu hadn't been seen for years.

Everyone thought he was long gone.

"President Mu, can I participate in the assessment?"

Xin Lin perked up as she listened.

They all said she wasn't qualified to become a Three-star Spirit Chef, but she was determined to prove her eligibility.

"Xin, no need to rush. Earlier, I heard you discussing some opinions about hosting this Spiritual Cuisine Banquet?"

Mu Cang looked around.

"Yang Su is a Four-star Spirit Chef, and his buns are acclaimed by the city residents. This prince would like to recommend him to replace Xin Lin in hosting the pastries and cold dishes for the banquet. For the honor of Longteng, I'm sure President Mu would agree, wouldn't you?"

Long Qingchen responded.

"Heh, Prince, speaking of Longteng's honor, perhaps you have forgotten one thing. Xin is a native citizen of Longteng Country, while Yang Su, despite operating in Purple Cloud City, still hails from the Ancient Yue Kingdom. Aren't you worried that outsiders would say that we, in Longteng, have no one capable, to the extent that even the Emperor's banquet requires external aid?"

Mu Cang chuckled.

Long Qingchen, caught off guard by the question, hadn't considered this.

Indeed, although both belong to the spirit culinary world, every country's Spirit Food Association is in constant competition, both overtly and covertly. National banquets are a source of national pride and a stage for fame for a nation's Spirit Food Masters.

Chapter 828: Battle for Glory

In the same situation, as the president of Longteng, Mu Cang naturally preferred to see young Spiritual Food Masters of Longteng rise, rather than seeing famous Spiritual Food Masters from other countries shine on their own stage.

"President Mu is right, it was my oversight,"

When it came to national pride, Long Qingchen couldn't say much more.

Yang Su wore an awkward smile, while a hint of coldness flashed in Prince Tu's eyes.

This old guy really has poor timing. Just a little more and Yang Su could have replaced Xin Lin.

"But Grandpa, the Longevity Peach Bun he made is indeed delicious, much better than her buns."

The young girl Mu Jin pouted and glanced at Xin Lin.

Really can't understand why Grandpa appreciates that Xin Lin so much.

Clearly, her buns are average, and she's short. Though she's a Three-star Spiritual Delicacy Master, I'm still just a Two-star Spirit Cuisine Master. How can she be so much better than me when we're the same age and height?

"Mu Jin!"

Mu Cang shouted.

Mu Jin shrank her neck.

Grandpa was really angry, he had always spoiled her and had never raised his voice like today.

"Chairman, you see... even your granddaughter says so, which shows Yang Su's skills are indeed good. We can't ostracize someone just because he comes from abroad, especially when our Dragon Ascending Gastronomy World is renowned for fairness, openness, and impartiality."

Master Chen chimed in.

Yang Su was perceptive.

Shortly after he took over Taoyao Pavilion, he mentioned that once he had mastered the pavilion, he would find a way to let De Yue Building control Taoyao Pavilion.

On the condition that Master Chen helped him gain a foothold at this birthday banquet and win the favor of Emperor Longteng.

"Everyone, why don't I, Prince, offer a fair suggestion? Master Chen does have a point. Why not give Master Yang a chance and have him co-host this banquet with Miss Xin? For the first three days of the birthday banquet, both will prepare pastries and cold dishes to be served to all city guests. Whoever is more popular, with a better reputation, will be the winner. If Yang Su wins, he will rightfully become one of the main chefs of this banquet. If Miss Xin wins, she will also rightfully be a Three-star Spirit Chef. What do you think of my suggestion?"

Prince Tu, who had been silent all along, smiled and said.

"Prince Tu's suggestion is good, I also think it's the fairest."

Long Qingchen echoed in agreement.

A direct culinary showdown...

Xin Lin's gaze darkened slightly. It seemed the other side had made multiple preparations.

"I have no objections, of course," said Yang Su with a smile. "Let's do this: although I am a Four-star Spirit Chef, I don't want to bully Xin Lin. Let's make this a contest of dim sums, and within three days, the side that sells more dim sums from their Spiritual Food Restaurant will be the winner."

"Alright,"

Xin Lin also did not refuse.

In this situation, she had no room to refuse.

The crowd then dispersed.

"Xin, I heard you bought back that sign again?"

Just as Xin Lin was about to leave, Master Chen called out to her.

"Do you think, with just that sign, you can revive your failing shop?"

Master Chen sneered.

Ever since that sign was gone, De Yue Building's business had been doing well.

Master Chen strongly suspected that Xin Lin and others had deliberately framed him with that sign.

"Chen Nian, evil will eventually meet its retribution. I will avenge Master Ji sooner or later."

Xin Lin said no more and turned to leave.

Chapter 829: A Hint

Having left De Yue Building.

"Are you confident in defeating that Yang Su?"

Gui Hu nonchalantly asked.

"No."

Xin Lin's small shoulders slumped.

Alright, she simply had no chance of winning, even if it was just a dessert competition.

As a Spiritual Delicacy Master, she was truly still too inexperienced, even though she possessed the "Spiritual Delicacies", it was somewhat too grandiose for Xin Lin at the moment.

Although there were many spiritual foods above, most required special ingredients, and just gathering the ingredients would consume a lot of time.

Moreover, there were almost no pastries or desserts mentioned above.

If she used the Dan Wood Furnace to make pastries, each serving would consume 10 Heaven-defying Value points, which was not something Xin Lin could afford currently.

In three days, within Purple Cloud City, aside from guests in the Imperial Palace, almost everyone could potentially become her customers.

Yang Su would definitely use the Spiritual Longevity Peach Buns to attract popularity; what should she use?

"Stubborn as a dead duck."

Gui Hu sneered.

"If it were you in that situation, would you admit defeat?"

Xin Lin retorted defiantly.

Unfortunately, she couldn't figure out what methods Yang Su used to mix the effects of Aferung into the Spiritual Longevity Peach Buns. If she could pinpoint the crux, there might be a chance to compete against him.

"Xin."

Just as Xin Lin was muttering to herself, Mu Cang came out with Little Mu Jin.

He called out to Xin Lin.

"President Mu, thank you for your help earlier."

Xin Lin bowed to President Mu.

President Mu, whom she didn't know at all, offered his assistance, which left her pleasantly surprised.

"Xin, may I ask out of curiosity, have you decided what dessert to use against Yang Su?"

Mu Cang stroked his beard.

Perhaps because of the Spiritual Delicacy Buns earlier, he had a good impression of Xin Lin.

It had been years since a Spiritual Delicacy Master had been so patient in making buns.

"Honestly, not yet."

Xin Lin stuck out her tongue, somewhat embarrassed.

"According to the rules, I shouldn't be biased. However, I can give you a hint; sometimes taking a different approach and not being restricted by form might lead to victory."

Mu Cang also knew that Xin Lin was worried about the dessert matter.

Not being restricted by form?

Xin Lin was stunned upon hearing this, starting to ponder.

"Grandfather, why do you tell her so much? Look at her, ignorant and dumb; probably can't make anything besides buns. I'm hungry, grandfather, let's go to Taoyao Pavilion to buy Spiritual Longevity Peach Buns?"

Little Mu Jin looked disdainfully at Xin Lin.

Wondering why her grandfather was so attentive to this silly girl.

"Mu Jin, these days you've only eaten Spiritual Longevity Peach Buns, it's not good for your health, you are prohibited from eating more today."

Mu Cang frowned.

His granddaughter had always been a picky eater and previously even criticized the food in Purple Cloud City. Ever since consuming Taoyao Pavilion's Longevity Peach Buns, she had been clamoring to eat them.

Yesterday she consumed ten in one go, he felt something was amiss.

Mu Cang himself did not particularly like the Longevity Peach Bun and didn't eat a single one.

"President Mu, here's a bottle of Spiritual Water I got from Taichang Temple. I noticed your granddaughter seems to have lost her appetite, this might help."

Xin Lin noticed discreetly and handed a bottle of Spiritual Spring to President Mu.

Spiritual Water sought from Taichang Temple.

Mu Cang nodded, as in the hearts of Dragon Ascending Citizens, the Spiritual Water from Taichang Temple was considered a rare treasure.

"The day after tomorrow, I'll be selling desserts at Chu's Restaurant, I hope the two of you will come and support."

Xin Lin exchanged a few polite words before returning to Qingtian Academy.

Chapter 830: Hornet Monster

On the way back, Xin Lin couldn't stop thinking about what Mu Cang had said.

Taking a different path.

Unknowingly, she returned to the School Clinic.

Inside the clinic, as soon as Master Mo saw Xin Lin, she started shouting.

"Xiao Xin, you're finally back. Hurry, stop the bleeding for me. I almost lost my life."

Master Mo was covering her forehead, which was bleeding profusely.

Seeing this, Xin Lin was shocked.

"Did people from the Martial Arts Academy cause trouble again?"

"The people from the Martial Arts Academy came, and I beat them so badly their own mothers wouldn't recognize them. Ouch, hurry, it hurts so much."

Master Mo wailed.

"Did you go to catch lobsters again? But lobsters wouldn't attack your head, would they?"

Xin Lin grew increasingly puzzled.

"What lobsters, this time it's hornets. I discovered a nest of hornets behind the clinic, in the wood shed. I got Beibei to help me poke the hornet's nest, but they rebelled and stung me."

Master Mo looked in agony.

"Where's my dad?"

Xin Lin was taken aback.

"Beibei reacted quickly and dashed into the pond."

Master Mo was still annoyed about the incident.

The hornets were very aggressive, stinging anyone they saw, forcing Master Mo and Chu Beiqing to sprint for their lives.

Chu Beiqing jumped into the pond, and seeing this, Master Mo followed suit into the pond.

But as soon as she got in, the Combat Lobsters went wild and attacked her with their pincers. She had to climb out of the pond, ending up with a head that looked like a pig's due to the stings.

And the wound was strange, the bleeding wouldn't stop; even applying medicine was useless.

As the "Divine Doctor" of the School Clinic, Master Mo was too embarrassed to go to an outside medical hall for bandaging, so she bled while waiting for Xin Lin to return and save her.

If Xin Lin had been a bit later, Master Mo might have bled to death.

Xin Lin knew about the little wood shed at the School Clinic.

The School Clinic wasn't big, besides the consultation room, there was Master Mo's room, and her silly dad's small room.

Seeing there was not enough space when she first arrived, Xin Lin had helped Master Mo and Silly Chu set up a small wood shed to store some firewood, seeds, and sundries.

They rarely went in and out, so Xin Lin hadn't noticed the hornet's nest inside.

Xin Lin couldn't help but laugh and cry as she stopped the bleeding for Master Mo.

Upon closer inspection of the wound, oh~ it was truly frightening.

The skin was torn, with several thick hornet stingers still lodged in.

"These hornets must be huge. I've never seen stingers this big."

Xin Lin clicked her tongue in wonder.

"Exactly, you should've seen the size of those hornets; they're like honey bee monsters, as big as a child's fist. Once I recover, I'm going to burn that hornet's nest. How dare they sting me, without even knowing whose territory this is."

Master Mo winced in pain, speaking fiercely.

And those lobsters!

Daring to attack her, she was determined to devour all of them!

Such large hornets?

Xin Lin was stunned.

It was said in Longteng, due to the presence of Spiritual Energy, many species were quite peculiar, yet most plants and animals were similar to those in Xin Lin's modern world.

Xin Lin couldn't help but think of the Combat Lobsters.

Could it be these Honey Bee Monsters were similar to Combat Lobsters?

Xin Lin's interest was piqued.

After treating Master Mo's wound, Xin Lin took out the Xuanyu Bee Needle and pricked a few spots on the wound, finally stopping the bleeding.