

Little Girl 841

Chapter 841: Original Spiritual Food Creation

Several people entered Chu's Restaurant.

Xin Lin soon brought up a few small plates.

"This..."

Everyone looked at the dishes and was stunned. What is this?

"Try it."

Xin Lin smiled.

Indeed, the snacks were unique, and none of them had ever tasted anything like it.

"Xin."

Just as everyone was about to dig in, Jiang Qing's voice came from outside.

Jiang Qing arrived with the Purple Cloud Alchemy Hall staff.

"It seems like there's some trouble over at Taoyao Pavilion."

Jiang Qing was well-informed, having quickly learned about the return of the Spiritual Longevity Peach Bun from Taoyao Pavilion.

"Oh? Is there an issue with the Spiritual Longevity Peach Bun?"

Seeing Jiang Qing nod, Xin Lin was a bit surprised.

"I heard it was someone from Taichang Temple who returned it."

Jiang Qing was also somewhat caught off guard.

The monks from Taichang Temple rarely venture out, and to return the Spiritual Longevity Peach Bun today was certainly unusual for their style.

"Is it a young monk?"

Xin Lin blinked her eyes.

"Boss, there's a monk standing at our door, seems like he's here seeking alms."

A gang member, who was at the entrance attracting guests, saw a monk and brought him over.

When Xin Lin looked outside, she immediately laughed.

Jiang Qing, upon seeing the newcomer, was also taken aback. He opened his mouth to say something but stopped when the monk looked over.

Both their gazes met, and Jiang Qing looked at the monk's robe without saying anything.

"Monk Fengxi, you're back. I heard you went out with Taichang Temple for some business."

Upon seeing Monk Fengxi, Xin Lin smiled.

"Just got back, was missing the little benefactor's buns."

Monk Fengxi's face showed a tinge of embarrassment.

"Unfortunately, there aren't any buns today, but don't worry, I've prepared new snacks that everyone can enjoy. Ma Jingtian, quickly welcome the guests."

Seeing Chu's Restaurant gradually gain popularity, Xin Lin's face was full of smiles.

"Master."

Jiang Qing greeted with a gesture of respect, speaking quite deferentially.

Monk Fengxi nodded and returned the gesture.

The two understood each other and made inviting gestures, each taking a seat.

"Wow, Mingshang, luckily we came early. If we were late, we might not have found a seat."

Outside, there was a commotion.

Zuo Mingshang and the round-faced girl Huang Xuerou walked in.

The two had some acquaintance with Xin Lin.

Upon hearing about Xin Lin's competition with Yang Su, they hurried over to lend their support.

After finally locating Chu's Restaurant, Huang Xuerou made a fuss.

"Wait, Mingshang, don't you think this place looks familiar? Isn't this where I bought the Ultimate Lingxiu Buns before?"

Huang Xuerou glanced at the shop.

Indeed, there couldn't possibly be another Spiritual Food Restaurant next to a coffin shop in the entire Purple Cloud City.

"So, all along, you were the one selling the Ultimate Lingxiu Buns?"

Huang Xuerou pointed at Xin Lin, her mouth agape with shock.

"No buns today, but the snacks I'm selling wouldn't be any less than the Ultimate Lingxiu Buns."

Xin Lin instructed to serve each person a prepared snack.

"Is this a snack? Isn't this lotus root?"

Huang Xuerou was a true foodie, wearing a puzzled expression upon seeing the dish.

"This snack is called Heavenly Lotus, everyone give it a try. If it's not tasty, you don't have to pay."

Xin Lin explained on the side, being cautious despite having confidence in her skills, as the new dish was after all a new experiment, she carefully watched everyone's reaction.

Chapter 842: Rave Reviews

The reactions of the people in front of me varied.

Huang Xuerou blinked.

Among the crowd, she wasn't the oldest, but her eating experience was undoubtedly the most extensive.

Starting from her great-grandfather, they all worked in the Imperial Kitchen. Her grandpa was a resident chef there, and her father also participated in this palace birthday feast.

She practically grew up around the stove, having seen and tasted it all.

She had eaten various dishes made from lotus root, including Spiritual Food.

But this "Heavenly Lotus" in front of her was something she had never seen before.

In a small, pristine white porcelain dish, the lotus root slices had been peeled and chopped.

Each serving consisted of only three slices.

Each slice was soft, sweet, and beautifully coated with a golden layer of honey, sprinkled with some osmanthus flowers on top.

Could Xin Lin really be using this dessert to face off against Yang Su's Spiritual Longevity Peach Buns?

Not to mention anything else, Huang Xuerou was certainly a loyal supporter of the Spiritual Longevity Peach Buns.

The taste of the Spiritual Longevity Peach Buns was no less than the Ultimate Lingxiu Buns.

Huang Xuerou almost felt like betraying her loyalty.

She thought that unless Xin Lin competed with Spiritual Food-grade desserts, there was no chance of winning.

The lotus root was freshly dug from the pond of the School Clinic, the osmanthus was the most common at this time of year, and even the honey was just ordinary ingredients.

She felt a bit regretful, convinced that this lotus root dessert couldn't compare to the taste of the previous Ultimate Lingxiu Buns.

Huang Xuerou picked up a slice and took a small bite.

Suddenly, she felt a sticky and glutinous texture in her mouth, something very unusual under her tongue and teeth.

She paused and took another look, only to realize that the lotus root holes were filled with elastic sticky rice grains.

The sticky rice had a fragrant aroma in her mouth, followed by the sweet honey, which was deliciously sweet. The texture of the rice and lotus root was completely different, but when mixed, it was indescribably tasty.

But that wasn't the most magical part. The most special thing was that with this one bite of "Heavenly Lotus," Huang Xuerou's eyes lit up.

She had been feeling a bit off her appetite these past few days, but with this sweet bite, her taste buds on her tongue suddenly came to life.

Her appetite returned instantly.

She quickly finished a small plate of sugar lotus root in three bites.

She glanced beside her at Zuo Mingshang, who was just about to dig in.

But Zuo Mingshang was prepared, and with a quick swipe of her chopsticks, she had eaten all the sugar lotus root.

Huang Xuerou was anxious, her eyes darting to the other tables.

But others were not slow either.

The table to the left had Murong Ziyue and Little Xinzhao, whom she dared not offend.

At the table on the right, Huang Xuerou's eyes shifted as she was about to make a move, only to see those two faces.

Handsome guys!

Super handsome guys!

With Chu Beiqing, the small Chu's Restaurant was practically a gathering of gourmet food and handsome men!

To maintain her good image in front of the handsome guys, Huang Xuerou had to swallow her saliva.

"Just three pieces? Not enough, this little snack is so delicious, Xin Lin, can't you make more?"

Huang Xuerou was like a greedy little cat, staring at Xin Lin.

She felt it!

Her stomach had come back to life.

Xin Lin didn't need to look at everyone's reactions; she already heard the prompt of the Life Book in her mind.

"Life Book prompt: Congratulations to the life master, for successfully creating a unique two-star Spirit Food, Heavenly Lotus.

Congratulations to the life master for receiving a very satisfied review from returning customer Huang Xuerou, Heaven-defying Value +3.

Congratulations to the life master for receiving a very satisfied review from new customer Lu Yuan, Heaven-defying Value +5.

Congratulations to the life master, for..."

"Congratulations to the life master, Reputation Value +13, gaining 13 regular customers."

Chapter 843: Antidote Method

Old guests have a Heaven-defying Value of 3, new guests 5, plus the corresponding reputation and regular guests, with a few plates of sugar lotus root, Xin Lin gained over 40 Heaven-defying Values.

It's not enough, still far from the 1000 regular guests required for the random task.

Xin Lin pondered.

However, this is at least a good start.

"Three more plates, no, five plates."

The more Huang Xuerou ate, the hungrier she felt, calling out from the side.

"Xuerou, you can eat now? Earlier, didn't you say you had no appetite and were too lazy to come over?"

Zuo Mingshang, sitting beside, also polished off her sugar lotus root. She wasn't very fond of sweets, but the sugar lotus root from Chu's Restaurant was indeed delicious.

From the lotus root to the honey to the sticky rice inside, everything was exquisite, and together, it was extremely tasty.

Zuo Mingshang looked at Huang Xuerou in surprise.

Earlier, she mentioned going to the Taoyao Pavilion to buy Spiritual Longevity Peach Buns. If it weren't for the rumor that Chu Beiqing was here, she would probably have been allured away by the Spiritual Longevity Peach Buns.

"I don't know what's going on. After eating a few pieces of sugar lotus root, I feel a lot better."

Huang Xuerou coughed lightly a few times.

Xin Lin observed quietly from the side.

Huang Xuerou's appearance seemed to indicate she was already detoxified.

It looks like her method was successful.

Xin Lin could conclude that the Spiritual Longevity Peach Buns from the Taoyao Pavilion must have contained opium.

But how exactly it was mixed, she couldn't verify immediately.

What she could do was counteract the poison of the opium.

By coincidence, Xin Lin found that the Jade Pure Spring she possessed had an inhibitory effect on the toxicity of opium, combined with the detoxifying Wind Breath Roast Pork for the best effect, allowing for immediate detoxification.

However, she couldn't just give the Jade Pure Spring to everyone to drink, and as for the Wind Breath Roast Pork, the cost was 10 Heaven-defying Values, which was too high.

Therefore, she conducted repeated experiments at the School Clinic, and with Silly Chu's cooperation, she finally discovered an antidote that could replace the Wind Breath Roast Pork.

She soaked sticky rice in the Jade Pure Spring.

Sticky rice, like green beans, already had a mild detoxifying effect, and after being soaked in the Jade Pure Spring, the sticky rice looked even better, and when combined with golden honey and lotus root, it was made into a honey-glazed sugar lotus root.

This little dessert was one of Xin Lin's favorites back in modern times.

She also checked Longteng's Spiritual Food Guide and found that it didn't have such a dish.

When she made it, even she was very satisfied with the results.

Seeing that "Heavenly Lotus" had a good reputation, Xin Lin decided to implement her second step plan.

"Sorry everyone, today's supply of sugar lotus root at Chu's Restaurant is limited. Each person gets one free serving."

Xin Lin said with a smile.

"Then I'll pay, I want five servings, no, ten servings."

Huang Xuerou shouted the loudest.

"Even with money, we won't sell. To celebrate the Emperor's 40th birthday, the desserts at Chu's Restaurant are only given, not sold. If you want to eat more, it's simple, just refer guests to Chu's Restaurant. For each guest referred, you get one serving free."

Xin Lin explained.

Chu's Restaurant was small in reputation, and she didn't have the recruitment methods like Taoyao Pavilion, so under these circumstances, she had to make the best use of every customer who came through the door.

If you want delicious food, then bring more people to Chu's Restaurant.

Her supply of ingredients should still be able to serve quite a few guests.

As soon as Huang Xuerou heard this, she quickly disappeared without a trace.

"You really are clever, Xin."

Jiang Qing shook his head, commercially speaking, one had to admit, Xin Lin's recruitment strategy was indeed brilliant.

Chapter 844: Scheming Little Monk

"No, no, compared to Brother Jiang, I'm not even worthy to carry your shoes."

Xin Lin squinted with a smile.

"Feng Xi, does the sugar lotus root suit your taste?"

Xin Lin glanced at Feng Xi.

As soon as "Heavenly Lotus" was served, everyone finished it quickly.

Except for Monk Fengxi, who ate a few small bites leisurely, it was unclear if it suited his taste.

Moreover, Xin Lin noticed that she received extremely positive feedback from almost everyone; only Monk Fengxi's review was missing.

It seemed the monk wasn't quite satisfied with the sugar lotus root.

Xin Lin felt somewhat disappointed, gazing eagerly at Feng Xi and his lotus root.

Jiang Qing beside her was also a bit surprised upon hearing Xin Lin call Monk Fengxi by name.

Xin addressing Monk Fengxi as Feng Xi?

In the entire Purple Cloud City, only Emperor Longteng dared to call Monk Fengxi like that.

"It's delicious."

Feng Xi looked up and said gently.

"Just delicious?"

Xin Lin's face drooped, her big eyes filled with disappointment.

"The lotus root and glutinous rice are very tasty, but this honey..."

Monk Fengxi glanced at the honey.

"What's the problem with the Golden Honey?"

Xin Lin was taken aback.

"The honey could be thicker."

After Feng Xi spoke, Xin Lin blushed, coughing lightly a few times.

This Monk Fengxi, who usually appeared quite honest, in fact, had a sly side?

No one else mentioned it, even Huang Xuerou, a food enthusiast, didn't react—how come he noticed?

The ingredients for the sugar lotus root were all very fresh, and the glutinous rice had been soaked in the Jade Pure Spring for a day, except for the Golden Honey.

Xin Lin had painstakingly gathered thirty pounds of Golden Honey from the Hornet Monster.

The quantity wasn't much; Xin Lin needed it for several days, so she mixed it with ordinary honey in a five-to-one ratio, worried it wouldn't be enough.

However, despite that, the Golden Honey's taste was still excellent, and no one else could tell.

Little did she expect Monk Fengxi to recognize it right away.

"It's a unique time right now; after these few days, once I find better honey, I'll definitely replace it."

Xin Lin's face was full of guilty conscience.

Yet Monk Fengxi smiled slightly, leisurely finishing the sugar lotus roots.

"Life Book Tip: Congratulations, life master, you've received a satisfied review from the regular customer Monk Fengxi, Heaven-defying Value +2. New regular customer added."

"Actually, I'm here today for another matter. Could Chu's Restaurant continue to supply Taichang Temple with vegetarian buns, the same as before, a hundred a day?"

Monk Fengxi asked.

"Of course, once the birthday feast is over, Chu's Restaurant will resume supply."

Xin Lin replied with a grin.

"Then I'll head to the temple to bring the masters to support you."

Monk Fengxi gracefully stood up, bowed to Xin Lin, nodded at Jiang Qing, and turned to leave.

"Xin, are you very familiar with Feng Xi... the monk?"

Jiang Qing looked complexly at Xin Lin.

"We are old acquaintances; I met him back home."

In fact, Xin Lin met Monk Fengxi shortly after arriving in Longteng.

He had saved her numerous times, making him a friend through hardships?

"He's not an ordinary monk, be cautious in your dealings."

Jiang Qing pondered before reminding Xin Lin.

Not an ordinary monk?

Xin Lin hadn't realized—what did that mean?

She was about to inquire further, when footsteps could be heard outside Chu's Restaurant.

"Xin Lin, I've brought you loads of guests, come greet them!"

Huang Xuerou called out loudly from outside.

Chapter 845: Ice and Fire

Xin Lin swallowed the words that were on the tip of her tongue and hurried out to greet the people.

Jiang Qing shook his head.

"Oh well, that one isn't a bad person, just... Taichang Holy Institute, I suppose..."

Shortly after noon, the entrance of Chu's Restaurant started to become lively, especially after Huang Xuerou brought in a group of people from the Gua Alliance.

"These are all members of my Gua Alliance, a few of whom you should have met before, having consulted with you. When I mentioned that the Spiritual Food Restaurant needed support, they all came over; there are 15 in total. Remember, count them under my name, 15 dishes."

Huang Xuerou is efficient; she put in a lot of effort to eat that delicious sugar lotus root.

Almost all of her Gua Alliance members had been brought over by her.

Moreover, she was smart enough to intercept Chu Beiqing and Lu Yuan who were distributing flyers on the street.

The flyers directly stated that the old Chu's Restaurant was reopening, and that as long as they mentioned her name, they could eat for free, both individuals and families.

Sure enough, with Chu Beiqing and Lu Yuan, two high-quality handsome guys standing at the street of Purple Cloud City, all the housewives gathered around.

Taoyao Pavilion employed the oiran to bring in customers, naturally attracting male guests, but leaving the female guests dissatisfied.

Many female guests, seeing their husbands and sons heading to Taoyao Pavilion, got angry and dragged them by the ear straight to Chu's Restaurant.

Moreover, shortly after noon, many girls from Taoyao Pavilion "fell ill" and were unwilling to go out to solicit, leading to fewer people going to Taoyao Pavilion and more heading to Chu's Restaurant.

The visitors, whether new or old customers, all tasted "Heavenly Lotus" for the first time, and just like Huang Xuerou, they were thrilled and exclaimed at how delicious it was.

But however, the rule set by the owner of Chu's Restaurant was, only giving for free, not selling. If you want to eat, you have to bring new customers.

Those who couldn't get enough went home, bringing their families, just to have another serving.

"Life Book prompt, congratulations to the life master..."

Throughout the afternoon, Xin Lin's ears were filled with the prompts from the Life Book for the first time, she found the sound of the Heaven-defying Book so pleasant.

By the end of the afternoon, Chu's Restaurant gained more than 220 regular customers, and the Heaven-defying Value had increased to over 800.

Well, indeed selling Spiritual Food to earn Heaven-defying Value is the fastest way.

Xin Lin, watching the rising Heaven-defying Value, was very pleased.

The lotus root, honey, and glutinous rice she had prepared for the day quickly sold out.

By evening, she had to close early.

On the other hand, things were not looking great at Taoyao Pavilion.

"Master Yang, fewer guests came in the afternoon, and business was also somewhat poor in the evening."

The owner said with a frown while settling the day's accounts.

This was the first time the owner frowned when speaking since Yang Su took over as the head chef of Taoyao Pavilion.

"It's all because of that monk from Taichang Temple who suddenly appeared, affecting a lot of business; business will certainly improve tomorrow."

Yang Su blamed the poor business on Monk Feng Xi.

Nonetheless, Taoyao Pavilion still attracted five to six hundred guests today, which was much better than the almost lifeless Chu's Restaurant.

Yang Su comforted himself.

Three days had passed; two days remained, and he was determined to defeat Chu's Restaurant in one fell swoop.

Meanwhile, at another venue for the longevity banquet, inside the Longteng Palace, a different scene was unfolding.

Chapter 846: Guests from All Nations

In recent days, it has been Emperor Longteng's grand birthday. Although the actual day has not yet arrived, one by one, guests from many countries have already started to come to extend their congratulations.

As the Emperor and Empress, Emperor Longteng and Empress Feng are naturally busy receiving guests from all over the world.

Meanwhile, a group of princes, including the Third Prince Long Qingchen, are also extremely busy.

"Have you heard? There are especially many people coming to celebrate this year, with many main countries sending their delegations."

"Father's cultivation has progressed over the years. Those from the main countries are likely worried about Longteng's rise, which is why they sent people."

As Long Qingchen and Young Master Tu walked through the palace corridor, they overheard some princes discussing this.

Long Qingchen coughed lightly a few times, but inside, he was secretly pleased.

"What nonsense are you all spouting here? Are you so idle as to be gossiping aimlessly here?"

Long Qingchen wore an arrogant expression.

In theory, such a significant event as Longteng's birthday banquet should be hosted by Crown Prince Long Teng.

However, Crown Prince Long Teng has been preoccupied with cultivation in recent years and hasn't returned home for several years.

A few days before the banquet, he entrusted someone to send back a rare gift, stating that he couldn't return this year and left domestic affairs to his third brother to handle.

The way Long Qingchen behaved, he already had the demeanor of a crown prince.

Although the other princes harbored resentment in their hearts, they dared not say much, mumbled a few words in agreement, and hurriedly left.

Young Master Tu watched from the side, inwardly mocking Long Qingchen's ignorance. This fool truly believed that it was due to Longteng's growing national strength that other countries would send people to attend?

He likely didn't understand that the rumors about Longteng's True Dragon were rampant, and the delegations were here merely to ascertain the truth.

As for Crown Prince Long Teng, he must be wise; his absence is likely to avoid disaster.

"I hope I didn't embarrass you, Young Master. By the way, Young Master, is the hospitality in the palace satisfying these days? Especially the spiritual food, does it suit your palate?"

Long Qingchen inquired.

Young Master Tu is an honored guest for this Longteng birthday banquet, and the Emperor has repeatedly instructed that they must not be negligent.

"The palace's spiritual food is quite delicious."

Young Master Tu nodded with a smile.

"That's good..."

Long Qingchen was relieved to hear this.

"However, the dishes are somewhat outdated. I am thinking of going out of the palace to see, as I've heard that the city's Spiritual Food Restaurant has put significant effort into preparations for the birthday banquet during these days."

Young Master Tu has not yet received a battle report from Yang Su. Although Yang Su is confident of victory, for some reason, Young Master Tu always feels that a little girl named Xin Lin will not easily concede.

The implication was that the spiritual food from Longteng Palace was considered ordinary, wasn't it?

If the spiritual food from the palace couldn't even compare to that from the civilians, where would Longteng Palace's dignity lie?

"The city's Spiritual Food Restaurant is nothing special. How can it compare to the Imperial Kitchen? I'll have the Imperial Kitchen prepare some new dishes immediately."

Long Qingchen responded defiantly.

He blamed the lazy servants of the Imperial Kitchen for their failure, which resulted in negligence of the honored guests.

Long Qingchen, incensed, was about to go admonish the Imperial Chefs.

"Third Prince, hold your steps."

At that moment, a few people appeared at the other end of the palace corridor.

Seeing those people, both Long Qingchen and Young Master Tu bowed in greeting.

"General Nalan."

The newcomer had a broad frame, exceptionally tall and robust, with skin dark as coal shining with brilliance. When he smiled, his mouth displayed rows of sharp white steel teeth, making him look intimidating.

Earlier, Young Master Tu bore an arrogant expression, but before this person, he found himself somewhat diminished, for this person was one of the few guests from the main country, Hai Zhang Country, at this birthday banquet.

Chapter 847: Making Things Difficult

Longteng is small, Hai Zhang Country is big.

Hai Zhang's navy is unparalleled in the world.

However, due to geographical location, Hai Zhang Country and Longteng are worlds apart.

This time, Hai Zhang Country suddenly sent representatives to congratulate Emperor Longteng on his birthday, and it is rumored that they brought generous gifts. Emperor Longteng values this, treating General Nalan from Hai Zhang Country as a distinguished guest.

However, this person's character is wild and uninhibited, drinking from a jar, and enjoying raw meat, living like a savage.

Long Qingchen has been hosting for a few days, and every day he is drunk and overwhelmed, avoiding him whenever he sees him.

Yet, this person is a VIP, and Long Qingchen can't neglect him.

General Nalan's cultivation is not poor; even at the far end of the palace corridor, he hears Long Qingchen boasting about Longteng Country's strength.

He is nothing like Young Prince Tu, who has a hypocritical nature.

Upon hearing this, he cursed in his heart.

What kind of strength? If it weren't said that Longteng had a dragon, would Hai Zhang send people to offer birthday wishes?

He has been in Longteng Zixiao City for several days, drowning Long Qingchen in wine every day. This guy got drunk several times, yet didn't reveal anything about the True Dragon.

General Nalan is getting impatient; he decided to give Longteng a good warning, letting them witness what is called the demeanor of a great country.

"Young Prince Tu said it well earlier. Everything in the Longteng Palace is great, except the spiritual food, it's all ordinary fare. If you want to taste new spiritual delicacies, you must use new ingredients. How about this: among the gifts I brought, there is a Level 5 Spiritual Beast. Its meat is incredibly tender and melts in the mouth, perfect for crafting spiritual delicacies. On Emperor Longteng's birthday, presenting this beast will definitely astound everyone. I will give it to the Emperor right now."

Finishing his words, General Nalan waved his hand.

Several robust martial artists from Hai Zhang Country stepped forward, carrying a large dark jar with a grunt.

The jar seemed to be made of Mo Tie, extremely heavy, and landed with a thud, making a dull sound.

The palace bricks were left with a big mark, showing how heavy the jar was.

Level 5 Spiritual Beast.

Long Qingchen and Young Prince Tu both looked surprised, and glanced into the jar. Suddenly, a thing emerged from the water, and with a puff, ice arrows shot out.

Young Prince Tu reacted quickly, pulling Long Qingchen back, and the ice arrows fell to the ground.

On the ground, there were several sharp ice shards, stabbed several inches deep into the ground.

"Oh~ I forgot to warn you two, this thing is very fierce, whoever approaches it, it attacks. Tell the Imperial Kitchen to be careful when handling it, lest they lose their lives."

Seeing their reaction, General Nalan laughed three times and breezed away.

"Unbelievable, what kind of person is this!"

Long Qingchen was quite furious; this person was too arrogant.

"Third Prince, they don't come with good intentions, but he is still a distinguished guest from Hai Zhang. What do you plan to do with this creature?"

Young Prince Tu looked at the creature underwater, saying it is a beast, but it hardly resembles one.

Even someone as knowledgeable as Young Prince Tu had never seen such a strange spiritual beast.

Young Prince Tu's words reminded Long Qingchen that Hai Zhang is a major country and shouldn't be neglected. This Level 5 Spiritual Beast must be properly handled on father's birthday.

"Just leave it to the Imperial Kitchen; the Spiritual Delicacy Masters there will know how to deal with it."

Long Qingchen did not yet realize how much trouble he had taken upon Longteng Country.

Chapter 848: Siding with Outsiders

The second day of Longteng's birthday banquet, early in the morning, Chu's Restaurant opened as usual.

"Little Boss, there are more customers outside."

As soon as the door opened, Ma Jingtian saw many customers waiting outside, many of whom were returning customers from yesterday, bringing new people along today.

To be fair, Little Boss's method of having old customers recommend new ones really worked.

"Today will be very busy. Each one of you, stay alert and don't make any mistakes."

Xin Lin advised Ma Jingtian and the others for a while, then picked up a cloth to wipe the Phoebe Wood Sign.

The day she and Yang Su had agreed to for their competition was set for three days, and this was already the second day.

Looking at the popularity and number of customers, Yang Su still had a large lead. To close this huge gap, it all depended on these two days.

She had to put in more effort.

As Chu's Restaurant opened, Taoyao Pavilion also started its day.

Customers buying Spiritual Longevity Peach Buns were endless.

"How could Chu's Restaurant ever compete with us? This time, we're bound to win."

Wang Lei and several staff members were busy, faces full of pride.

"What's going on? Today's Spiritual Longevity Peach Buns don't taste right."

"I think so too. They're dry and seem to have a strange taste."

Several customers had just bought the Peach Buns, took a few bites, and started to complain.

"What nonsense! Taoyao Pavilion's Spiritual Longevity Peach Buns are true to their word, and the taste is always consistent. If you don't want them, we won't sell them."

Upon hearing this, Wang Lei glared angrily and gave the person a tongue-lashing.

"What's the big deal? You're just a staff member. If you don't sell, I won't eat! I'll go to Chu's Restaurant to try something new!"

The two customers were also displeased upon hearing this.

They were loyal fans of the Spiritual Longevity Peach Buns, but today's buns indeed tasted off.

They stormed out in a huff.

The staff, including Wang Lei, initially didn't care.

But soon they realized something was amiss.

Many customers complained that today's Peach Buns tasted wrong.

Some even started discussing a new dish Chu's Restaurant had launched, which was rumored to taste delicious.

Hearing this, many customers left.

The sea of people in Taoyao Pavilion gradually dissipated.

"What's going on? Could it be that there's really something wrong with the Spiritual Longevity Peach Buns?"

Wang Lei was puzzled.

He took a bite of the Peach Buns, and indeed, there was a problem.

The texture was the same, and the appearance was still the same, with almost no difference, but somehow, the taste wasn't as good as yesterday's. What was going on?

Wang Lei looked baffled.

At this moment, he noticed the Oiran's maid sneaking in.

"Stop."

Wang Lei stopped the maid.

"Wasn't the Oiran sick? Why aren't you taking good care of her, sneaking around?"

Wang Lei looked arrogant and overbearing.

"I went to get medicine."

The maid's expression was evasive.

"Still dare to lie? What's in your hand?"

Wang Lei snatched a package wrapped in oiled paper from the maid's hand.

On the oiled paper package were the delicate and small words "Chu's Restaurant."

"Good for you, you little brat, eating here and there. Isn't this Chu's Restaurant's mark?"

Upon seeing this, Wang Lei was furious and dragged the maid inside.

"Hold on, I asked her to buy snacks from Chu's Restaurant."

The Oiran heard the commotion, came out, and had a face full of anger.

Chapter 849: The Incident Occurs

At this moment, the guests in Taoyao Pavilion also heard the commotion and began to discuss among themselves.

"What is Chu's Restaurant? I've never heard of it."

"It's an old brand Spiritual Food Restaurant that just recently opened."

"I've heard too, my wife ate their new dessert yesterday and said it was delicious."

"Could it really be that good? Look, even Taoyao Pavilion's Oiran is secretly buying from them."

Some of the guests started leaving.

Anyway, Taoyao Pavilion's Spiritual Longevity Peach Buns taste off, Chu's Restaurant's snacks are tasty and free, why not go there?

A moment later.

The Oiran, the owner of Taoyao Pavilion, Yang Su, Wang Lei, and the servant girl faced off.

"Boss, that's how it is. The Oiran is siding outside and secretly buys snacks from Chu's Restaurant."

Wang Lei handed the oil paper package to the owner.

"Oiran, what do you mean by this? Do you think Yang's snacks have a problem?"

Yang Su looked livid.

"I have no appetite today, can't eat anything. The snacks from Chu's Restaurant seemed very appetizing, so I had someone buy them. Do you really want Master Yang to dictate what I eat?"

The Oiran retorted angrily.

"Chu's Restaurant's snacks are delicious? I suspect you've been bribed. Yesterday, Wang Lei saw you whispering with Xin Lin from Chu's Restaurant on the street."

Yang Su sneered and casually opened the oil paper package.

What a joke, it was just some slices of lotus root.

"I have some personal dealings with Xin Lin, but the fact is Chu's Restaurant's snacks are delicious, and our pavilion's Spiritual Longevity Peach Buns are not. If you don't believe me, you can try."

The Oiran admitted frankly.

Yesterday, Xin Lin invited her for a sit at Chu's Restaurant, but due to the current situation between Taoyao Pavilion and Chu's Restaurant, she dared not go recklessly.

However, she still had her servant girl bring her a portion of "Heavenly Lotus."

Upon tasting it, the Oiran felt her discomfort over the past few days melt away.

When eating the Spiritual Longevity Peach Bun today, she found it extremely unappetizing and longed for the sugar lotus root, hence asked the servant girl to secretly buy another portion.

"It truly is quite delicious."

The owner glanced at the sugar lotus root and couldn't help but eat a piece.

As he took a bite, his eyes sparkled.

Yang Su listened and felt increasingly uneasy.

The owner and the Oiran both had eaten his Spiritual Longevity Peach. How could they manage to enjoy something else?

He picked up a piece of sugar lotus root and took a bite.

"This..."

Yang Su's expression drastically changed.

The taste was soft and glutinous, the sweetness of honey, with a fragrant hint of osmanthus, accompanied by the freshness of lotus, warming the stomach like a sip of warm wine, utterly comforting.

Spirit-grade delicacies aren't just about taste—they're also the top choice in appearance and ingredients.

Could this thing really have been made by that little girl?

Yang Su was utterly shocked.

If Xin Lin can create such Spiritual Food, her title as a three-star Spirit Chef is indeed well-deserved.

"Isn't it just as I said? Even the other sisters in the pavilion say it's good; it doesn't mean we don't support Taoyao Pavilion."

The Oiran saw two pieces of her sugar lotus root eaten and quickly snatched back the remaining one.

"Master Yang, there's another matter. Our pavilion's Spiritual Longevity Peach Buns are getting worse and worse. Haven't you noticed customers have significantly dwindled?"

With that, the Oiran left with the servant girl, visibly dissatisfied.

Chapter 850: The Missing Firewood

The Spiritual Longevity Peach Buns aren't tasty?

Yang Su's expression was gloomy.

"That's indeed the case. Today's Spiritual Longevity Peach Buns taste somewhat off, though I can't pinpoint exactly what's wrong."

The owner of Taoyao Pavilion muttered beside him.

Yang Su said no more and turned to walk into the inner chamber.

Inside the chamber, steam filled the air.

Several steamers were still steaming buns there.

"Impossible, how could my Spiritual Longevity Peach Buns have problems."

Yang Su grabbed one, took a casual bite, and his face changed dramatically; how could it taste so awful.

Was it due to that sugar lotus root from earlier?

A shock passed through Yang Su's eyes, suddenly realizing that the sugar lotus root from Chu's Restaurant was probably not so simple.

Antidote... could it be that inconspicuous sugar lotus root has antidote properties?

But why would a sugar lotus root have antidote properties, could it be that little girl discovered the secret of my Spiritual Longevity Peach Buns?

Yang Su's heart trembled.

Impossible, for so long, no one has ever uncovered the secret of his Spiritual Food.

How could that little girl possibly see through it!

Yang Su was somewhat unsettled as he approached the pile of firewood.

His eyes suddenly deepened, incredibly he grabbed the firewood.

These firewoods?

"Someone, who entered the inner chamber!"

Yang Su asked furiously and sternly.

"Master Yang, no one has been in the inner chamber."

Wang Lei and the other workers all looked puzzled.

Master Yang was very strict in guarding the inner chamber, aside from himself, no one had ever entered it.

"My firewood has been swapped, all of it replaced, yet you tell me no one went in? Hundreds of pounds of firewood, no one entered, are you saying it was moved by ghosts!"

Yang Su finally realized why the taste of his Spiritual Longevity Peach Buns was off.

Someone replaced all his firewood!

Yang Su was furious, questioning everyone inside and outside the kitchen, but not a single person figured out who swapped the firewood.

Left with no choice, he urgently contacted Prince Tu.

Earlier, the opium poppies were provided by Prince Tu.

Yet, even Prince Tu had no way to transport enough new firewood soaked in opium water immediately; only about ten pounds could be delivered, which made it impossible for Yang Su to make new Spiritual Longevity Peach Buns.

The next day, nearly a thousand servings of "Heavenly Lotus" from Chu's Restaurant were sold, the number of regular customers reaching straight to over six hundred.

By evening, the sugar lotus root was sold out.

Xin Lin's heaven-defying value also broke a record, surpassing 1000 points.

"Finally able to concoct the antidote for Three Corpse Poison."

Xin Lin couldn't help but feel joyous.

Looking at the skyrocketing heaven-defying value, Xin Lin decided to prepare the antidote that night in Chu's Restaurant.

These days, due to matters at Chu's Restaurant, she had been staying there overnight.

She sent Chu Beiqing back to the School Clinic with the Overlord Egg, suspecting the Hornet Monster had likely produced new honey in two days.

After nightfall, Ma Jingtian and others also returned to Chu Mansion, and when it was quiet late at night, Xin Lin prepared the herbal ingredients, readying herself to begin concocting the antidote.

"Someone's outside."

At this moment, Gui Hu's voice was heard.

Xin Lin was startled and listened intently, indeed hearing faint footsteps on the quiet street.

The street where Chu's Restaurant was located was very secluded; at night, even the night watchman seldom passed by, let alone any living person.

After pondering for a moment, Xin Lin quickly extinguished the oil lamp and used a Ghost Escape technique to leave Chu's Restaurant.