

## Stay At home 1491

### Chapter 1491: No Way. You Will Lower The Average Looks Of Us, The Children

“Silly boy, children shouldn’t take alcohol. Take a sniff of this soup. It’s cooked with alcohol directly. It isn’t nice. Come, Master will take the burden off you.

“Fatty, stop eating. Look at your tummy. It’s going to catch up with that wok you’re carrying on your back soon. Master will drink that soup on your behalf. Master is thinking about your welfare, you know.

“Manman, you’re taking so long to blow on the soup to cool it down. You will be wasting 30 minutes of your life if you want to finish this soup. Master will help you finish the remainder then. After all, Master has enjoyed plenty in life, it’s ok for me to waste a little of my life.”

Harris walked among his disciples, and shamelessly extorted another few bowls of ‘Buddha jumps over the wall’.

People who were already beginning to line up were all staring at Harris—who was blushing with steam emerging from his head, and his bald head already had a layer of dense short hair—with an odd expression.

Why was this master a little different from what they had imagined?

“Master, you seem to be drinking too much of it,” his youngest disciple, Fanner, reminded him softly.

“You know nothing, kid. This is the effect that I want,” Harris said nonchalantly as he reached out to touch the top of his head with a blissful smile. He finally could have a head of luscious hair again after so many years, and return as the culinary world’s most handsome chef.

“The competition took up a lot of our time. It’s time for us to swiftly get ready now,” Mag said as he strode to the kitchen after he returned to the restaurant and closed the door. He didn’t even have the time to share his joy.

“I will get the ingredients ready very soon.” Firis jogged to the kitchen. She took her apron from the peg, and tied it around her waist. She washed her hands, and threw herself into the work of preparing the ingredients.

“I can help mill the tofu pudding,” Anna said. She already learned how to operate the beans-crushing machine.

Everyone quickly got back to work. To the restaurant, starting their operation on time was a very important affair.

Mag turned around, and said, “Oh yes, Miya. Dig out that giant menu, and set it up at the restaurant’s entrance again.”

“Alright.” Miya found the one-man-tall standing menu that was folded up behind the counter. She went out, set it up at the door, and smilingly reminded, “This is the restaurant’s menu. First-time customers, you can have a look first so it will be easier for you to place your order later.”

Then, she returned to the restaurant.

A commotion had already broken out behind her.

“The items on this menu are so expensive! A dish can cost hundreds or thousands each!”

“‘Buddha jumps over the wall’—10,000 copper coins for a helping!!!”

“Erm... This line is really too long. I heard there is a very nice fish restaurant there. Should we go over there to try it out?”

“Sure. I don’t want to wait too long for a meal, either.”

Besides causing a commotion after setting up this menu at the door, it also had a great effect of making people back off.

At the same time, it also spared the customers the awkward situation in which they wanted to leave after lining up for hours, and then seeing the menu in the restaurant.

“This ‘Buddha jumps over the wall’ actually costs 10,000 copper coins per helping. Grandmaster is really very generous.”

“Even 10,000 copper coins isn’t enough to measure the value of such a delicacy.”

“I only drank one sip. The rest was drunk by Master...”

“Woo... I didn’t even start to drink.”

Harris’ disciples all had a shocked expression when they saw the menu.

They had traveled extensively on the continent, met many famous chefs with their master, and been to their restaurants.

They had seen expensive menus before, but this was indeed the first time they’d encountered a soup that sold for 10,000 copper coins, and even consumed it.

“It’s such a worry-relieving miracle drug. Never mind that it costs 10,000 copper coins, it would have been worth it even if it had cost 100,000 or 1,000,000 a bowl!” Harris lamented as he received a towel from Chapman to wipe his wet head. Although he had gained a master at such an advanced age, his hair had regrown, and he hadn’t felt so happy for a long time.

A long line formed outside of Mamy Restaurant at noon as usual. Some regulars who came later and saw the cutting-off board at the line could only sigh and leave.

“There are so many people today.” Amy stared at the crowd in shock as she skipped toward the restaurant while holding Krassu’s hand. After thinking for a minute, she suddenly stopped, and curiously asked the crowd, “I heard that there was a little fool who came to challenge Father today; did Father send him running?”

“What an adorable little girl. Is she the restaurant’s boss’ daughter?” Many people were staring at Amy with glowing eyes.

“Yes. That is our restaurant’s treasure, Little Boss. The Super Cute and Precious Miss Amy.” Harrison nodded.

“She looks so cute, and speaks so adorably too. I want to steal her away,” a weird mister said, his heart clenching.

“You could try, but let me remind you that the bearded old man over there is the Lord of Fire, Krassu, the master of Little Boss. And take a look over there at that magic potion shop too. It’s opened by the Lord of Ice, Urien, who is also Little Boss’s master,” Harrison said smilingly.

“Ahem... I am just joking. Joking, joking.”

Everyone was amused by Amy, but their gazes landed on Harris. The little fool she said was most likely Harris.

“Aiyaya. What an adorable little elf. It had to be a royal who could give birth to such a beautiful little elf, right?” Harris wasn’t embarrassed to be called a little fool by this little cutie. He smilingly said to Amy, “Little girl, I can see that you have great potential, and are a rare talent meant to be a chef. I have—”

“Scram. This is my disciple.” Krassu lifted his leg to kick Harris’ butt, and annoyedly said, “Harris, you have become daring. How dare you poach my disciple?”

“Aiyoh!” Harris jumped, and ecstatically said to Krassu, “Old Master Krassu! What are you doing here?!”

“My disciple is here, so naturally I’m here,” Krassu replied, pursing his lips.

“This beautiful little elf is your disciple?” Harris was a little astonished. After pondering, he continued, “I’m her father’s disciple now, while you’re his daughter’s master. So, what should I call you?”

Krassu thought about it seriously before saying, “Scram.”

“Oh, so you’re that little fool who came to challenge Father.” Amy looked at Harris with realization.

“Little girl, we’re of the same generation now. You may call me Little Harris,” Harris said with a smile.

“No way. You will lower the average looks of us, the children.” Amy shook her head seriously. After pondering, she continued, “Perhaps you should be called ‘Old Harris who has just regrown his hair’.”

#### **Chapter 1492: Booohoo. Princess, Don’t Die...**

“Erm...” Harris held his breath and looked at Amy seriously. He didn’t know what expression he should display at that moment.

He, who had just regrown his hair, was about to welcome the second spring of his life. He didn’t expect to meet with a life crisis so soon.

But he simply couldn’t get angry looking at that little one. After considering seriously for a while, he found it to be rather apt, and he suddenly felt a little aggrieved.

“Pfft... This title is rather cute.”

“Hahaha. What an adorable nickname. This Little Boss is so cute.”

The customers at the door were all tickled into laughter by Amy.

*This little one is really very adorable.* Scheer was also watching Amy with smiley eyes. She only had a few fleeting glances at this little girl when she came to the restaurant previously. Amy was indeed very adorable, and had an interesting character.

*However, who could her mother be? Her mother has to be a very beautiful elf to have such a beautiful little elf?* Scheer thought curiously, and a few elven candidates popped up in her mind.

The first to be ruled out was Princess Irina. Although she, too, was extremely beautiful, she was Alex's official mate after all. Hence, it was obviously impossible between her and Mag.

As for the others, she ruled them out one by one too. At that moment, she no longer had any suitable candidates.

"Old Harris who has just regrown his hair, bye bye. I'm going in first." Amy smilingly waved to Harris before knocking on the door and calling out. The restaurant's door soon opened to let her in.

A short while later, she came out with a little stool and a beggar's chicken thigh that was piping hot in her hand. She allowed the aroma to emanate. She sat on the steps and raised the chicken thigh to show everyone before she smilingly said, "I have a chicken thigh to eat."

"Ow."

Then, she opened her mouth wide to take a big bite of the thigh with a blissful look on her face. She swayed left and right gently on her little stool as if she was eating the most scrumptious food in the world.

Gulp~

The sound of gulping could be heard in the lines instantly.

Everyone had a miserable and helpless expression. They had been already badly tortured during the duel; they didn't expect to be further tortured when they were lining up.

"Life's too hard on me..." Harrison said with sorrow as he caressed his tummy.

Many customers nodded in agreement.

Although watching Little Boss eat was a very appetizing affair, it was actually a torture to the customers who were starving now.

"Meow~"

Ugly Duckling stretched out its pinkish paws, and placed them gently on Amy's legs. It was looking at her with anticipation.

Amy looked down at Ugly Duckling and pondered. After a moment, she tore a strip of chicken, and gave it to it. "Alright. I'll give you a small piece, and that's your lunch for today."

Ugly Duckling that received the chicken ecstatically was suddenly stunned, and stared at Amy with widening eyes. *Are you the devil?*

“Weight loss meals are all like this. Be good,” Amy replied with a smile, and then continued to munch on her chicken thigh.

The customers who were initially slightly envious were all giving Ugly Duckling piteous looks. However, this kitten looked small, but it indeed looked rather fat. It was already becoming an orange ball.

Lunch became Krassu, Harris, and Jeffree’s senior citizens’ gathering.

Mag naturally didn’t have any objection to this. After all, they were paying, and it wasn’t against the rules.

However, Mag didn’t release the “husband and wife lung slice” for lunch, and “Buddha jumps over the wall” wasn’t available, either. That caused many customers to complain.

“The ‘husband and wife lung slice’ is still in adjustment, and will be released at the appropriate time.” Mag gave the same answer repeatedly. As for the ‘Buddha jumps over the wall’, that was only available for dinner service.

After the lunch service was over, Mag went to the door, and was about to close it when he saw Harris and his disciples still standing at the door.

Mag went out, and puzzledly asked Harris, “What are you doing?”

“This is called respecting my master. Master was busy in the kitchen, so I didn’t go in to bid my farewell to you.” Harris chuckled.

“It’s just a joke. Master Harris didn’t have to take it seriously. If we talk about culinary skills, you’re much better than me. If we talk about experience, you’re even a master with tons of it. I can’t accept you calling me master.” Mag quickly waved his hands. He knew very well he would be a fool if he really tried to teach Harris to cook.

“This cannot do. I have to admit my defeat. You won, so you should be my master.” Harris shook his head as he seriously said to Mag, “Even though experience counts in cooking, every chef has their forte. It doesn’t mean I am better when I have more experience. This is not right.

“Every chef can be my teacher, and I learned my culinary skills from them. From you, I have seen many things worth learning. Hence, this isn’t just a simple bet, it’s me asking for advice sincerely.”

Mag looked at Harris’ serious expression, and was suddenly reminded of a tall and strapping great historical figure. He bowed with cupped fists. “I look forward to your guidance too.”

Smile appeared on Harris’ face again, and he asked Mag, “I wonder when Master is going to teach me the dish ‘husband and wife lung slice’?”

“Tomorrow’s morning then. My restaurant employees and I haven’t had our lunch yet.” Mag smiled.

“That’s fine too.” Harris nodded before leaving with all his disciples.

“Did you feel rather smug after taking a disciple who is twice your age?” Irina smilingly asked as she stood behind Mag with a chicken thigh.

"It's alright. It's a little weird." Mag turned to look at her with a smile. "I've heard you bet quite a sum on me today."

Irina's eyes lit up as she chuckled. "I would've forgotten about it if you hadn't mentioned it. I got to bring someone with me to collect the money later. I wonder if those gambling dens got my money ready? I bet 300,000,000[1] on you."

"300,000,000." Mag was speechless. Fortunately, he refrained from betting on himself, otherwise those gambling dens' bosses would've gone blind from all the tears they would have shed.

"It will be the best if they have this understanding, or else it won't be too nice to get all physical on people's territory when I have just arrived."

"Let's eat. We're all hungry." Mag closed the restaurant's door, and walked to the table of dishes with Irina. They had been too busy in the morning, and their lunch was pushed back to after the service.

After their lunch, Irina brought Firis out to collect the wagers.

"Princess, t-this is my first time collecting wagers. What should I do to look more professional?" Firis asked nervously as she trailed after Irina.

"Just be fiercer," Irina replied casually.

"Fiercer?"

Irina halted, and turned to say to Firis, "Come, give me a fierce expression."

Firis squeezed her face together for a long time before she aggrievedly said, "I-I-I can't do it..."

Irina braced her hand on her chin as she stared at Firis and pondered. She then said, "You could imagine someone killed me, and now you're going to avenge me."

"Boohoo. Princess, don't die..."

"..." Irina.

### **Chapter 1493: Sexy Croupier Dealing Out Cards Online**

After confirming Firis couldn't undertake the responsibility, Irina could only let her be the follower. She led her into the first casino.

In the boisterous casino, gamblers of all the different species were gathered at the tables. Chaos City's unique environment allowed the casinos here to have all kinds of gambling methods. After many years of improvement, the games became increasingly sophisticated and interesting. The casinos were crowded almost every day.

"Princess, is this the casino? It feels scary." Firis followed after Irina closely as she stared at those gamblers who were shouting loudly with flushed faces and scary expressions.

"They're just a bunch of useless gamblers. What's there to be afraid of? They are no fiercer than the rabbits that bite in the Wind Forest after they leave the gambling table." Irina chuckled casually.

"When did the rabbits in the Wind Forest ever bite?" Firis asked with surprise.

“When they’re in a panic,” Irina calmly replied, and then walked straight to the casino’s counter. She slammed her hand on the counter, and said to the demon bouncer, “I’m here to get my winnings.”

The demon who was snoozing was rudely awakened by this loud slam. He looked over angrily, and was taken aback when his gaze landed on Irina. Then, his eyes slowly brightened. What a beautiful elf. He had never seen such a beautiful elf in Chaos City before, so he couldn’t help staring in a daze.

“Get my winnings,” Irina repeated in a cold voice.

It was then that the demon regained his wits. He didn’t expect such a beautiful elf would come to gamble at the gambling den, and she even won. He wondered how many copper coins she wanted. He laughed before picking up that betting coupon to have a closer look, and then gaped.

After counting the number of zeros after the ‘three’ twice, and confirming that it was truly 300,000,000 copper coins, that demon looked at Irina again and blinked. He immediately got up with that betting coupon, pushed open the door behind him, and ran in. He shouted as he ran, “Boss, that person who bet the 30,000,000 is here!”

“Princess, why is he afraid of you?” Firis asked perplexedly as she watched the door close slowly.

“He’s not afraid of me. They’re afraid of losing money. Their hearts are aching.” Irina smiled. Her gaze flicked over at the table that was playing grand hazard, and she glanced at that sexy croupier that was shaking the dice. She took a Buffett Bank banknote that had a value of 1,000,000 copper coins, and passed to Firis as she said, “Go and place this banknote on the ‘18 point’ position on that table.”

“I...” Firis received the banknote with both hands. She looked at that table full of people, and looked at Irina, who looked persistent, again before making herself go over, and slammed that banknote heavily on the “18 point” zone.

“Huh?”

The croupier who was about to remove the dice cup’s cover was taken by surprise.

The expectant gamblers were stunned too, and their gazes landed on Firis.

What was this weak and tiny elven maiden trying to do? Making trouble?

“S-sorry. There are too many people, so I accidentally used too much strength.” Firis panicked as she was stared at by so many people. She retrieved her hand apologetically, and revealed that lonely banknote that she slammed onto the “18 point” zone.

“1,000,000 copper coins!!!”

A commotion erupted immediately.

Although it wasn’t rare for some high-rollers in this casino to toss out a 1,000,000 bet, a girl like her actually dared to bet 1,000,000 on the “18 point” which had the lowest bet probability. Even the seasoned gamblers had never seen a stunt like this.

The croupier even subconsciously asked, “Did your hand slip?”

“18 points” did happen before. However, the dice in the casino were specially made, and the number of times that “18 point” would occur every single day was very limited.

After all, the winnings of the 18 points were twentyfold of the bet. They had to prevent some gamblers from persistently betting on the 18 points as that wasn't a good deal for the casino.

“N-no, I do want to bet on this.” Firis quickly shook her head. She had no idea why the princess wanted her to bet on this, nor what it meant, but if the princess said so, then it had to be it. After seeing everyone's weird expression, she continued to ask, “Can't I bet on this?”

“Oh yes, you may. You're the customer, naturally you can bet on anything you want,” the croupier quickly said. This was a 1,000,000 sales achievement, and was equivalent to the table's entire morning's earnings. Since such a rich and stupid little rabbit served herself up here, there was no reason for her to let her off.

All the gamblers were looking at Firis like she was an idiot. They had been playing here for the whole morning, and 18 points had not appeared even once.

1,000,000 was simply wasted like this. Everyone felt a little heartache for her.

“Alright. Please finalize your bets. We will reveal the points after a count of five!” The croupier gestured for everyone to take one step away from the gambling table, and removed their hands before she started counting, “Five, four...”

“12 points!”

“10 points!”

“Eight points!”

The gamblers were staring at the dice cup with glowing eyes. They began to shout out the points that they bet on loudly as if Lady Luck was going to favor them as long as they were loud enough.

Firis was so alarmed by them that she stood to the side and watched these crazy gamblers. She had no idea why they were so crazy.

“Two, one!” The croupier removed the dice cup, and everyone's gazes landed on those three dice in the dice cup at the same time.

“Six, six, six. 18 points!!!”

After a moment of dead silence, the gamblers broke into a commotion as they stared at the three dice with six dots on the surface each with dumbfounded disbelief!

18 points was rare, but the crux was that that maiden had just bet 1,000,000 on it, which meant she had just won 20,000,000 copper coins for this round.

20,000,000 copper coins!

Many gamblers' eyes had turned green.



They had been playing there for the entire morning, and many of them had tried to bet on 18 points. They didn't expect a little girl who seemed to know nothing to actually get it.

The croupier's expression was also a little unnatural. This was her first time seeing a customer betting 1,000,000 on 18 points for their first bet, and even winning it.

Firis was also staring at those three dice in a daze for a while. Seeing everyone's exaggerated reactions, she gingerly asked, "If I counted correctly, I should have won this, right?"

"Yes. According to the rules, you will receive 20,000,000 copper coins," that croupier said with a bitter smile. Her commission for this month should be completely gone. She continued, "Due to the huge amount, could you please follow me there to settle your winnings?"

"Oh." Firis followed after the croupier innocently. After emerging from the crowd, she even turned to apologize to those gamblers with green eyes, "Sorry. I don't know how to play this. You all can continue."

"Pooh..." All the gamblers vomited blood together. How could she rub it into them like this?!

"A beautiful elf?" The demon casino boss took the betting coupon, and came out with five or six demon henchmen aggressively. He wanted to see who was the one who had won 60,000,000 copper coins from him. Don't blame him for being ruthless if he discovered foul play was involved. He reached out to push open the door.

"Boss, this customer won the grand hazard's 18 points, and we need to pay her 20,000,000 copper coins," that croupier rapidly said when she saw the demon boss who just came out aggressively.

#### **Chapter 1494: Anyone Who Met Her Had To Surrender!**

"20... 20,000,000!" the demon boss stammered.

It wasn't that he couldn't afford it, but it was really a little unreasonable that someone could win 20,000,000 by playing grand hazard, and betting on 18 points some more.

His scary gaze landed on Firis instantly, and looked her up and down like a wolf. She was only a young elf about 13 or 14 with a weak power. She couldn't have seen through the dice cup.

However, 18 points couldn't have been easily guessed, and she even got it right on her first attempt. As an experienced person, he knew very well what was happening under the table.

How dared they cheat on his territory? Did they think of him, Bircher, as a weakling?

"Is she the one who came with the betting coupon?" Bircher coldly asked that demon who'd informed him earlier.

The demons who followed Bircher out had already spread out, and surrounded Firis with hostile looks.

"W-what are you trying to do?" Firis asked in a panic, and her gaze looked out instinctively.

“I came with the betting coupon, and that elf is mine too. Are there any problems?” Right then, a cold voice sounded, and Irina walked over and smirked at Bircher. “What is it? Are you trying to repudiate a debt?”

“Someone is making trouble?” Many gamblers looked over curiously. They loved trouble.

The two demons standing in front of Bircher walked over with clenched fists, and stared at Irina with an unfriendly expression. They were the casino’s bouncers. They would use their fists to teach troublemakers a lesson.

Bircher turned around, and was stunned when his gaze landed on Irina. What a beautiful elf. However, what surprised him even more was that this elf looked a little familiar. He seemed to have seen her somewhere, but he simply couldn’t remember who she was.

However, Bircher was certain that this elf and that little elf over there weren’t on the same level. He immediately smiled. “This customer must be joking. Our casino is the most trustworthy, so we will never repudiate a debt. However, this amount is rather huge, so as the boss, I have to do a simple verification, and then we will give you all the winnings.”

The gambling dens had to have integrity in order to operate. Otherwise, no gamblers would ever come again.

“The betting coupon is yours, and the table and dice are yours too, so what’s there to verify? Are you trying to verify whose fists are tougher?” Irina checked her neatly manicured nails and smirked.

Annoyance flashed across Bircher’s eyes. This woman wasn’t understanding at all. But, he still smilingly said, “Please come this way. We will talk this out in the VIP area.”

“I still have many gambling dens to go and collect my winnings from. Either you give me my money right now, or I’m going to dismantle this gambling den, and then get my money.” Irina reached out for a chair casually, and dragged it across the floor as she walked toward Bircher.

Joy flashed across Bircher’s eyes. At first, he was still thinking about how to resolve this issue, and he didn’t expect the other party would make trouble first. With a stern expression, he swiftly said, “Seems like this customer isn’t here to get her winnings, but to make trouble. Since this is the case, to protect the other customers’ rights, I will have to take you—”

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Before Bircher could even finish talking, the demon bodyguards around him were already sent flying through the air like flies, including two 7th-tier demons.

Looking at the holes that suddenly appeared in the roof of the casino, Bircher gulped, and then looked back down. That extremely beautiful face was already right in front of him together with that chair that was almost falling apart.

“Irina!”

Bircher was suddenly enlightened, and a name instinctively jumped out in his mind.

Thud.

Bircher's knees went weak, and he knelt in front of Irina straight away as he loudly said, "Mercy, Princess! The money, I—"

Bam!

A loud bang, and the chair shattered into pieces.

Bircher also flew out along with the sound, and was embedded in the wall at the opposite side of the casino.

The gamblers were all shocked. They had no idea what was going on. Why was the boss sent flying? Who the heck was this elf? Why was she so violent?

"Uh? What did he say?" Irina asked.

"H-he seemed to be saying that he's willing to pay," Firis softly said as she flicked a piteous glance at Bircher.

"He's unexpectedly spineless." Irina tossed the remaining half of the wooden chair away before facing Bircher, who was stuck in the wall with half of his face swollen, and saying, "Be more straightforward next time."

Bircher was pulled out of the wall by his people. He cradled his swollen face, and muttered, "Quick... go and get the princess her money. Quickly go now!"

Very soon, a 120,000,000 copper coins banknote was offered up by Bircher with both hands respectfully.

Irina took the banknote and gave it a quick glance before smiling at Bircher. "The chair is not bad."

Then, Irina left with Firis.

All the gamblers watched her leave in a complete silence. They only began to slowly break into a commotion after she disappeared from the door.

"Boss, w-who is she?" That demon who went in to inform him earlier was now inquiring perplexedly as he cradled the half of his face that had several of his teeth broken.

"Who else could that be? That was Princess Irina, you stupid fool!" Bircher kicked that demon down while covering his face, and felt like crying.

What else could he do? He was in despair too. Anyone who met her had to surrender.

"Princess Irina!"

Everyone finally understood with shock. Nobody dared to antagonize that legendary big boss indeed. They were surprised that she actually bet on that culinary duel.

Very soon, the news about Princess Irina causing a bloodbath in the top 10 gambling dens in Chaos City spread throughout the city like a wildfire.

However, the top 10 gambling dens quickly issued a statement to deny the fact that they had a bloodbath, and congratulated Irina on her win.

Hence, everyone in Chaos City soon knew that Irina had won 800,000,000 by betting on the culinary duel of the boss of Mamy Restaurant and the Invincible God of Cookery, Harris.

“You’re the real business genius,” Mag praised as he glanced at Amy who was helping to count the banknotes and Irina who was eating a pizza gracefully.

He also knew that she got the 300,000,000 from the Ten Kings Palace on the Demon Islands.

“Of course. After all, I am the elf who earned 100,000,000 by making a vampire eat grass,” Irina answered with a matter-of-fact expression before she murmured, “He’s a vampire ancestor now. If we repeat the performance, we could maybe earn 10 times the previous ticket sales.”

“Perhaps.” Mag nodded with a weird expression as he lamented for that newly promoted vampire ancestor in his heart.

### **Chapter 1495: I’m Super Fierce!**

“Mother, I think you can bring me along when you go collect your winnings next time. I’m super fierce!” Amy turned around with a fistful of banknotes, placed her fist next to her face, and howled very “fiercely”.

“Hmm. That’s a good idea.” Irina nodded seriously.

Mag held in his laughter with resignation. The little one’s howl would most likely make the gamblers cry out because of her cuteness. As for the forcing payment... mostly it would be negative.

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Mag and Harris’ duel was like a pebble that was thrown into the pond of Chaos City’s peaceful life, and it made some ripples. It became a topic for many people’s gossip.

Hence, the most obvious effect was the increase of the customers who came because of the fame.

The restaurant’s old customers voluntarily explained the restaurant’s rules to the new customers, and maintained the lines’ orderliness.

Some customers who had attempted to break the rules to cut the line or enter the restaurant in advance became more obedient after they were taught a lesson. The customers were still lining up orderly at the restaurant’s entrance as usual.

Due to Mamy Restaurant’s spur, Aden Square’s northwestern corner which had been very deserted initially had gradually become prosperous now. A few restaurants had opened along the street, depending on Mamy Restaurant’s popularity. Although they weren’t on par with Mamy Restaurant, they did manage to catch some of the customers who couldn’t afford the steep prices or missed out on the line.

“Boss, when would our restaurant’s business be as good as theirs?” a waiter from a newly opened roasted meat restaurant asked as he leaned against the door frame, and looked at the long lines outside of Mamy Restaurant enviously.

“Maybe after we poach their boss over.” That boss shrugged. Such lines were not going to happen to another restaurant in Chaos City again.

“I heard the restaurant next door plans to serve hot pot.” The waiter’s gaze landed on that shop which was currently under renovation right now.

“They really know how to catch the waves. I wonder how much of the hot pot’s essence they are able to replicate.” That boss smiled, and then turned to look at the sparse two or three tables of customers sitting in his restaurant. He, too, began to seriously consider changing his restaurant into a hot pot restaurant.

Currently, there were already a few restaurants in Aden Square which thrived by imitating Mamy Restaurant. They took certain dishes of Mamy Restaurant to be their restaurant’s main dish, and charged a cheaper price. They did manage to attract many customers to come and try them out.

However, for a hot pot restaurant, this seemed to be the very first one.

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“Are you Miss Rena? Nice to meet you. I’m Bennett, the boss of Zebra Hot Pot Restaurant.” A balding middle-aged stopped Rena who was walking toward the dormitory with a shopping basket. He removed his hat politely and smiled. “Can I borrow a few minutes of your time for a chat?”

Rena was surprised that the other party knew her name. At the same time, she was slightly puzzled when Chaos City had a new Zebra Hot Pot Restaurant. But, since the other party was an elder, she stopped, and said, “Go on, please.”

Bennett pointed at the resplendent tearoom nearby, and said, “That tearoom is mine too. If Miss Rena doesn’t mind, perhaps we could go have a cup of hot tea over there while we chat.”

“No, thank you. I have to bring these groceries home to cook for my mother before I start work at the restaurant. If you have anything to talk to me about, let’s do it here.” Rena rejected his offer.

A faint disappointment flashed across Bennett’s eyes, but he smilingly continued, “If so, then we will talk here. Actually, I have come to invite Miss Rena to be the manager and partner of Zebra Hot Pot Restaurant.”

“Manager? Partner?” Rena looked at Bennett perplexedly.

Bennett earnestly nodded. “Yes, I hope that you can come to take charge of Zebra Hot Pot Restaurant’s operation and management, and utilize your superb hot pot skills to make Zebra Hot Pot Restaurant the best hot pot restaurant in Chaos City. Furthermore, you do not have to inject any funds, and you will be able to receive 30% stakes and profits of the restaurant straight away as the hot pot restaurant’s partner.”

Rena was taken by surprise. She understood Bennett’s meaning, and shook her head immediately without a second thought. “I’m sorry. I’m already working at Mamy Restaurant now, and I do not intend to change my job. If there’s nothing else, I will make a move first.”

“Wait a sec.” Bennett quickly stopped Rena, and continued, “If Miss Rena agrees to the terms, you will also receive a mansion located in the affluent area in the city center. After the hot pot restaurant starts

to operate normally, it will bring you a monthly profit sharing of hundreds of thousands of copper coins. This money will allow you to have an affluent lifestyle in Chaos City. Isn't it better than slaving off in that restaurant, and only earning a wage of a few thousand?"

Managing a restaurant on her own, a mansion in the affluent area, and a monthly salary of hundreds of thousands of copper coins. Honestly speaking, that was indeed very tempting.

After all, Rena's current target was saving money so that she could buy a small house for her mother and her in Chaos City soon and have a stable home.

Now, she only needed to nod her head, and she could easily have all that and completely change her life tracks.

"I'm sorry. I still prefer to work in Mamy Restaurant. Boss Mag taught me everything I know about hot pot, so I'm indebted to him. Goodbye." Rena shook her head without any hesitation before walking past Bennett with her basket.

"I will give Miss Rena some time to consider. You can always come look for me at that tearoom after you think things through," Bennett said to Rena's back.

Rena hastened her steps without giving him any reply.

"She is a good girl who knows gratitude." Bennett watched Rena disappear at the end of the alley with furrowed brows. He only unfurrowed them after a while and smiled. "However, I will not be giving up so easily."

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"Rena, why do you look like you have a problem?" Clarince asked Rena, who was holding a stalk of vegetable, as she went into the kitchen to turn off the tap, and glanced at the water that was almost flowing out of the basin.

"N-nothing. I'm just a little out of sorts." Rena swiftly shook her head, and continued to wash the vegetables.

Clarince patted Rena's head concernedly while saying, "You must be overworked, my child. You don't have to come home to cook for me in the future. I'm all well now, and I can take care of myself."

"It's fine. The restaurant is so close to the dormitory, and I can get home in no time. Besides, my colleagues have to come to the ice cream shop below, so I always come back with them. I'm not tired at all." Rena shook her head, and said, "Mother, I simply love to come home to cook for you. I will be sad if you don't let me do it."

"Alright, alright. I'll let you do it." Clarince chuckled with resignation. She knew this girl was filial, and would never allow her to cook for herself.

Rena took a quick bite after cooking for Clarince. She then set off for the restaurant.

"Rena, I have already prepared all the ingredients needed for tonight's hot pot. Please check if you need to replenish anything else?" Firis asked Rena as soon as she saw her enter the kitchen.

“Let me go through them.” Rena put on her apron, and quickly got into her work.

#### **Chapter 1496: We Can Be Poor, But We Cannot Lose Our Values And Principles**

“Let’s eat,” Mag said with a smile to the people hustling in the kitchen as he took out the last dish, spicy grilled fish, from the oven.

“Tonight will still be very busy, so dig in,” Mag told everyone with a smile as he put a piece of fish meat in Amy’s bowl.

“Thank you, Father,” Amy said happily. She poked the fish meat with her chopsticks. She put her mouth to the edge of the bowl, and blew on it carefully before pushing it into her mouth with her chopsticks.

“Ooh... It’s so good,” Amy exclaimed with delight as she beamed blissfully.

Everyone picked up their chopsticks. The table full of food gave them an enjoyable eating experience other than just filling their stomachs and giving them enough energy for work later. It was probably the best time of their day.

Rena ate in small mouthfuls as she watched everyone enjoy their food and chatter merrily. It was a happy and harmonious scene that made the corner of her lips curl up.

Even though their workload was quite heavy, the happiness and satisfaction she got from working at Mamy Restaurant were incomparable to her previous jobs. In addition, she was fully respected here.

After dinner was the start of the long evening operating hours.

Mamy Restaurant’s designated hot pot area was almost as crowded as their usual dining area. There would probably be nothing as blissful as being able to sit around a warm hot pot, having some spicy hot pot with two or three good friends on a cold winter day.

Rena was in charge of the designated hot pot area. She was busy almost the entire night. She was the one who made every hot pot base, and served it to the different tables. That made her the source of the delicious hot pot.

Rena leaned against the wall during a break, and used a towel to wipe the perspiration off her forehead. After that, she opened her thermal flask, and took a few sips of water.

Her gaze landed on Mag, who was still busy around the stove. He was taking care of three metal woks and two pots, all with food cooking in them. In addition, there were various cooking utensils around him.

He was just like a divine being that could switch between each wok and pot. His actions were smooth and graceful, which didn’t look like he was flustered. Instead, she felt like she was enjoying a beautiful cooking showcase.

“The new table wanted one insanely spicy serving. Also, the people for the other table are here. They want two servings of clear soup, three servings of medium spicy, three servings of super spicy, and a serving of insanely spicy,” Yabemiya told Rena, who appeared a little distracted, as she walked into the kitchen.

“O-okay.” Rena quickly put down her flask, and continued working.

It was 9 pm. The restaurant was closed, and the customers had left.

“It has been hard on all of you tonight. I’ve prepared a sinful set meal for everyone: durian pizza and beggar’s chicken. Have supper before you go back to sleep,” Mag told the staff busy cleaning up with a smile as he brought a tray out from the kitchen.

“Boss, I think I will become fat if we have supper every night.” Yabemiya caressed her tummy.

“Yeah. I feel like I’ve already started putting on weight. Don’t you think that my face got rounder?” Connie poked her cheek.

Everyone noticed that her face did seem rounder, and they could not help but let out a chuckle.

“You look rather cute,” Mag said with a smile.

The sinful supper was still finished amidst the laughter and refusals. After that, everyone bade their farewell and left.

“Goodnight, see you tomorrow.”

Rena said goodbye to Miya and the rest before opening the door gently with her keys.

The room was still brightly lit. Clarince was sitting at the table, mending clothes, and there was a basket full of clothes beside her.

“Mother, didn’t I tell you to turn in early? Why are you still mending clothes?” Rena said with some frustration as she closed the door.

“I just can’t fall asleep, so I’m doing some things to burn the time while waiting for you to come back.” Clarince tied a knot, and bit the thread to break it. She turned around, pointed at a small wooden square box on the table at the side with a smile, and said, “Someone sent this wooden box over, and said that it was from your friend.”

“Shanshan?” Rena walked to that table, and picked up that exquisite brown wooden box that was slightly larger than her palm. It felt a little heavy. She had been too busy these few days, and had only seen Shanshan once in the canteen. Other than the people from the restaurant, her only friend was Shanshan, so she opened the box without thinking.

“It was not Shanshan. It was a middle-aged man. He left after dropping it here.” Clarince looked at the box in Rena’s hand.

“A middle-aged man?” Rena’s hands paused. However, the box was already opened.

A striking golden glow was emitted from within the box. Inside, there lay a golden bangle with jade embedded in it.

“W-what is this? Who gave you something so expensive?” Carla walked over and looked at that shimmering golden bangle. The golden glow reflected off the jade, resembling a wave.

Below the bangle was a check for 100,000 copper coins.



“This...” Rena could already guess whom this box was from. She closed the box immediately, and put it back on the table as she slightly awkwardly said, “It’s from someone I don’t know very well. I’ll send it back tomorrow. Don’t worry, Mother.”

Clarince watched as Rena’s gaze shifted, and looked at the wooden box on the table. She sat by the table, and her expression slowly turned grave. “Rena, are you hiding something from me? Who is that man? Why would he send you something so expensive?”

“Mother...” Rena looked at Clarince and met her strict gaze. She hesitated for a while before spilling the beans. “He is the owner of a hot pot restaurant. I met him on the way back today. He told me to be the shop manager at his restaurant, and said that if I agreed, he would give us a house at the wealthy estate. In addition, he would give me 30% of the hot pot restaurant shares.”

“How did you reply to him?” Clarince continued to ask strictly. Her expression did not change because of the deal.

“I rejected him,” Rena quickly answered.

Clarince’s expression softened a little. She pointed at the wooden box at the side, and asked, “What about this?”

“I don’t know why he would give me something so expensive after I rejected him. However, I’m going to return it to him tomorrow morning.” Rena shook her head. It was the first time she saw something so expensive. Furthermore, the check for 100,000 was an amount she had never owned before.

“You did the right thing, child. We can’t accept this money or gift,” Clarince said gladly with a nod.

“But if I agreed, you would not have to work so hard to mend clothes anymore,” Rena said sorrowfully as she looked at Clarince.

“If you go to his shop, what are you going to do? Help him earn money with whatever Mr. Mag taught you about hot pot? Then isn’t that akin to robbery?” Clarince looked at Rena, and said in a low tone, “We can be poor, but we cannot lose our values and principles, or do things against our conscience. Even if you did earn a lot of money, I would definitely not spend a single cent of money earned this way.”

“Mother, I understand.” Rena’s gaze became ever clearer and more resolute. She reached towards the wooden box on the table, and said, “I will return this right now, and make things clear with him.”

After saying that, she walked straight out of the door.

### **Chapter 1497: You Might Lose Something Important To You**

“It’s already so late, where is Rena going?”

Yabemiya stood on the roof and looked down at Rena, who was putting on her down jacket as she went downstairs.

“Maybe she has something she needs to attend to.” Elizabeth glanced downwards. Her gaze stopped on the exquisite wooden box in Rena’s hand.

“It’s not safe to go out so late at night. Should we follow along?” Yabemiya asked worriedly. They had changed, and were prepared to go out of town to practice flying.

“Maybe it’s her personal matters,” Elizabeth said. As she watched Rena disappear behind a corner, she thought for a while, and said, “Maybe we can protect her from afar.”

“Mm-hm. Let’s take a look at where she’s going first.” Yabemiya nodded. She walked to the other side of the roof gently, and saw Rena walking out from an alley. She continued walking down the street, and stopped in front of a teahouse around 100 meters away from the ice cream shop. She hesitated for a while, and knocked on the door.

After a while, the door of the teahouse opened, and a staff member in black came out. He had a short exchange with Rena before inviting her in.

“Is Rena going to have tea at this time? I’m already so full from supper just now,” Yabemiya gasped.

“Maybe she’s not there to have tea, but to meet someone.” Elizabeth shook her head. She squinted slightly as she watched the teahouse. She could feel a strong presence from there. It seemed like a normal teahouse, but there was the presence of two 7th-tier powerhouses. That showed that this teahouse was not simple.

“If it’s someone Rena is meeting alone, should we still interfere?” Yabemiya was a little conflicted.

“Wait here. I’ll check it out,” Elizabeth said. She pointed her foot gently, and flew over to the teahouse.

She felt something amiss when she saw Rena’s expression previously. She did not seem like she was looking forward to meeting this person. Furthermore, this teahouse seemed rather creepy. That made her question why Rena would want to go there at this time.

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“Miss Rena, I didn’t think you would come over at this time.” Bennett was making tea in front of a stove. He greeted Rena with a smile when he saw her walk into the glittering gold tearoom with the staff.

The fireplace made the room very warm, and there was the fragrance of tea wafting out from a teapot.

“Apologies for disturbing you so late at night.” Rena bowed. She placed the exquisite small wooden box on the table, and took two steps back as she straightforwardly said, “I can’t accept such an expensive gift. I am once again going to tell you about my decision. I will not leave Mamy Restaurant to be the manager of your hot pot restaurant. Neither will I serve another restaurant with what Mr. Mag created and taught me with regards to hot pot.”

After saying that, Rena felt a lot more relieved. The thoughts clouding her mind previously were cleared all at once. She nodded at Bennett and turned to leave.

“Miss Rena, if you don’t accept this gift, you might lose something important to you,” Bennett said coldly towards Rena’s back as he stopped smiling. He went back to his seat, and propped his leg up.

Rena paused in her steps. She tried to sound as calm as possible. “This is Chaos City. It’s a city with law and order.”

“Even if it’s a city with law and order, it’s still dark, isn’t it? You should know that very well,” Bennett mocked with a sinister smile.

Rena clenched her fists subconsciously. She had been living in the slums for the past decade or so, and she knew very clearly that where there was light, there would also be shadows.

“If you accept this gift, you will get everything. If you walk out of this door empty-handed, you might lose something very important to you.” Bennett picked up his cup of tea. He traced the rim of the cup with his finger, and suddenly let go.

Smash!

The sound of the teacup smashing into pieces was crisp, and tea splattered everywhere.

“What a good teacup it was. Although it was a little old, it could have been used for a much longer time,” Bennett lamented with a smile.

Rena shuddered. That was obviously a threat. She couldn’t have not understood it.

She was just an ordinary girl from the slums. She only had her mother with her ever since she was young. All she wanted was to live.

In the past, her biggest wish had been to cure her mother’s illness. Now that Mr. Mag had cured her mother, she only wanted to live peacefully and comfortably with her mother.

She looked at the box, but her mother’s strict expression very quickly surfaced in her mind. She clenched her teeth, and said, “No, thank you.”

After saying that, she walked quickly towards the door.

“I’ll give you three days to reconsider. You can look for me any time if you change your mind. My offer still stands,” Bennett said coldly as he picked up the teapot and filled another teacup.

Rena hastened her speed until she was almost running when she left the room.

She kept running until she was tens of meters away. She bent down as she breathed heavily. She turned back to look at the tearoom that seemed like a ferocious beast masked under the glittering gold decorations, giving her the death stare.

“What should I do? What should I do...” Rena’s tears fell uncontrollably as she stood helplessly on the streets.

There was no way she could go against her conscience to accept whatever the man said. Yet, there was no way she could protect her mother as well.

Bennett’s threat and the sound of the breaking teacup resounded in her head like a curse, strangling her, and making her feel helpless.

“What happened to Rena?” Yabemiya, who was standing on the roof, watched as Rena squatted on the street, looking as though she was shuddering and crying. She quickly jumped down from the roof and walked over quickly. She looked at Rena, and concernedly asked, “Rena, what’s wrong? Are you okay?”

When Rena heard the voice, she looked up and saw Yabemiya looking at her with concern. She finally could no longer hold it in, and pounced into Yabemiya's embrace as she wailed.

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Two men walked out from behind a screen in the tearoom.

One of them was a tall and slender man. Smiling, he said, "Why don't you be more straightforward? A young girl like her would do anything you want obediently if you just take out a knife to scare her."

"I want her to help me earn money. If I go overboard, it might result in the opposite effect. I just need her to understand certain things." Bennett shook his head with a smile. "As long as she is willing to hand over all the recipes, we will be able to open our hot pot restaurant all over the Norland Continent. This is a very profitable business."

The two men's eyes lit up upon hearing that.

"Would people from Mamy Restaurant come out and cause trouble? I heard that they're quite reputable nowadays," the other short and plump man said.

"He's just a cook without any roots and connections in Chaos City. Although he has ties with two magic casters because of his daughter, as long as we do things a little more cleanly, even the Gray Temple can't do anything to us," Bennett scoffed.

#### **Chapter 1498: I'll Settle This**

"A dirty transaction. These disgusting maggots should just disappear from the surface of the earth." Elizabeth raised her hand slowly, and the temperature around dropped.

Just then, she suddenly turned to look in the northwestern direction. She squinted a little and hesitated for a while before she lowered her hand. She snorted softly, and disappeared from outside the tearoom.

There were two 7th-tier powerhouses in the tearoom. If she wanted to kill those three at the same time, she would have to put in everything she got.

Meanwhile, she could sense an 8th-tier aura moving. It should be a patrolling officer from the Gray Temple.

She still wanted to stay in Chaos City and grow old with Miya. If she attacked the three men suddenly, she might not be able to continue staying in Chaos City.

"He might be more suitable to solve such things. Even though he's not powerful enough, he has quite a lot of ideas," Elizabeth muttered to herself. The first person that came to her mind was Mag.

"Rena, are you alright? Who bullied you?" Yabemiya asked as she gently patted Rena's back.

It was the first time she saw Rena crying so sadly, and she could not help but feel anxious.

"I... I'm fine. I'm just in a bad mood. I'm much better now that I've cried." Rena gradually calmed down and took two steps back. She looked at Yabemiya's tear-stained clothes with embarrassment, and said, "I'm sorry, Miya, I've made you worried."

"It's alright. We're friends." Miya shook her head, though she felt that Rena was not simply in a bad mood. She saw Rena running out from that teahouse and becoming like this with her own eyes.

However, since Rena didn't want to talk about it, she did not probe.

"It's so cold outside. Why don't I send you back? I came out just now to practice flying," Miya said.

"It's alright. I can go back on my own. It's just downstairs." Rena wiped her tears, and squeezed out a smile. She shook her head, and said, "Go practice flying. I'll be off first. Otherwise, my mother would be worried about me."

Rena even waved goodbye to Yabemiya before quickly turning around to walk home. That fellow was too dangerous, and she did not want Miya and the rest to fall prey because of her.

"Let's go, out of the city," Elizabeth said softly as she appeared beside Yabemiya.

"But Rena..."

"I'll tell you on the way." A giant snowflake appeared beneath Elizabeth, and the two disappeared in a blue flash.

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"That is to say that someone is threatening Rena to leave Mamy Restaurant, and help him with his hot pot restaurant. Rena would not agree to it, so he is using Rena's mother to threaten her?" Yabemiya shot out a series of questions in shock as she looked at Elizabeth.

"Yes." Elizabeth nodded.

Yabemiya thought carefully for a while before asking, "Then... Then how should we help her?"

"I wanted to kill them all."

"D-did you?"

"No."

"Whew..." Yabemiya let out a sigh of relief before reminding Elizabeth, "Murder in Chaos City is a very grave crime."

"They don't think that way." Elizabeth shook her head. When she saw Yabemiya's worried face, she added, "But I don't intend to kill them anymore."

"Maybe we can let Boss settle this matter. He would have a plan," Yabemiya said as her eyes widened.

"Sounds good." Elizabeth nodded calmly.

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When Clarince opened the door, she saw Rena's reddened eyes, and guessed that she must've cried. She quickly grabbed Rena's hands, and nervously asked, "Rena, what's wrong? Did that man bully you?"

“No, it’s just too cold outside. It’s so cold that I almost cried.” Rena shook her head as she rubbed her hands together and stomped her feet with exaggeration. She closed the door with a smile, and said, “It’s so warm at home.”

“Silly child.” Clarince smiled before asking with concern, “Did you return the thing to him?”

“Mm-hm. I returned it.” Rena nodded. The image of Bennett’s face surfaced in her mind, and she clenched her fists subconsciously as fear enveloped her.

“That’s great. That’s great.” Clarince smiled gladly. She looked at Rena, and said, “I don’t need to live in riches. I just want to live happily without a guilty conscience.”

“Mm-hm,” Rena responded softly as tears started welling up in her eyes. She turned to her side and headed to the washroom as she said, “Mother, I’m a little tired. I’ll take a shower and go to sleep. You should sleep first.”

“Okay. I’ll put your pajamas by the door.”

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The next morning, Rena ran into Miya and the rest just as she walked out of her house.

“Good morning, Rena,” Miya greeted her with a smile. After that, she hooked her arm with hers, and cheerily said, “You’re very pretty today too.”

Rena looked at Miya’s energetic smile, and felt a little warmer inside. She greeted Miya back with a smile, and then greeted Elizabeth and the rest before they all walked to the restaurant together.

When they arrived at the end of the alley, Rena subconsciously turned back to glance at the teahouse that was named “Ben”. She shuddered.

“Today seemed to have gotten colder.” Miya grabbed Rena’s cold hands with her warm hands, and smilingly said, “Rena, can I try the spicy hot pot you make tonight? Today feels like the best time to have hot pot.”

“I’m fine with it,” Babla agreed.

“Same here.” Connie raised her hand.

“M-me too,” Jane chimed in.

“Can’t we have it in the morning?” Elizabeth asked.

Everyone was slightly taken aback for a while before they burst out in laughter.

Rena also smiled. The warmth traveled from her palms to her heart.

Therefore, Mag had hot pot early in the morning for no rhyme or reason.

He did not have a reason for not having hot pot in the morning. After some careful thought, he decided that it wasn’t bad to have hot pot for breakfast except for the fact that it was a little troublesome. The heat and spiciness could dispel the chill and tiredness.

After the morning operating hours, Elizabeth did not rush off. Instead, she stayed back and waited for everyone to leave before telling Mag about what had happened in detail.

“Has recent competition become so fierce and vile?” Mag frowned. It was not strange that someone outstanding would be poached, but he was really very unhappy about how they used such underhanded means to achieve their goal.

He knew very clearly how much Rena’s mother meant to her, and so he was a little touched that Rena would still choose to stay in Chaos City despite the threat and the attractive offer.

“I’ll settle this,” Mag said coldly as he threw his apron on the table at the side.

### **Chapter 1499: Tell Your Boss That Mag Is Here For Tea**

“10 minutes. I want to know all about this person.”

Mag walked into an information hut in an alley. He tossed a bag of gold coins and a piece of paper on the counter.

The sleepy shop owner reached out for the bag of money and opened it. His eyes lit up the moment he saw the content of the bag, and he quickly put on a smile as he kept the bag of money. He picked up the piece of paper, and politely said, “Please hold on for a moment.”

10 minutes later, Mag walked out of the information hut with a black cloth bag, and quickly disappeared into the alley.

“So he’s Marquis’s illegitimate son. He only got the Marquis’s family name right before his father passed away after trying hard for so many years. I wonder what’s the most important thing to him?” Mag laughed sarcastically after reading the last page. He pulled out a lighter, and lit the stack of information on fire. He watched everything burn to ashes before stepping them into the snow, and leaving the deserted courtyard.

The information was very detailed. It was worth every one of those 1,000 gold coins.

Bennett, Bennett Marquis in full, was the owner of the teahouse named “Ben”. He was the illegitimate son of the previous family leader from a drunken one-night stand, and also the brother of the current family leader, Bowen.

However, the relationship between these two brothers from the same father and different mothers wasn’t good, and their lives were very different.

Because Bennett was an illegitimate child, he was not welcomed by the Marquis Family, and even his father did not care about him. It was to the extent of not acknowledging him, and not allowing him to use the Marquis family name.

He was from the slums, and started out from nothing before he gradually made a name for himself in Chaos City.

He had quite a lot of assets under his name, and this teahouse was merely one of his registered assets. He still owned two casinos, five to six brothels, and other businesses that dominated the labor in the slums.

Benett's performance in the business world in Chaos City earned him his father's recognition, and he was allowed to use the Marquis family name before the latter took his last breath.

And in recent years, he had been trying to raise his status in Chaos City's business world, and to put on a beautiful and noble facade to become known as a kind and generous man. He even tried to overthrow his brother and officially enter the Marquis Family.

This was just like a dramatic soap opera. Although the information did not contain details on his family history, Mag could already sense the cruelty and bloodiness within.

*This fellow has a bunch of problems with just a random check. Since he has things important to him as well, he should have a taste of his own medicine.* Mag kept his disguise and walked out of the alley, leaving on his bicycle.

Killing was very simple, but it was too boring.

Similar things might happen in the future, so he had to give the others a warning.

Mag rode to the Gray Temple and saw Borg, the supervisor of the intelligence department in charge of liaising with him, waiting at the side gate.

"Supervisor Borg, I do have partial rights to carry out investigations through the Gray Temple according to the agreement, am I right?" Mag asked Borg with a smile.

Borg, an orc whose hair was already graying, nodded and said, "Yes, according to the agreement, Mr. Mag can look at all the information in Gray Temple except for classified information. You are also allowed to deploy a limited amount of Gray Temple resources, which includes manpower for investigation."

Borg examined Mag. The Gray Temple had never given someone who wasn't yet an official member such privileges.

However, this was Lord Rolan's orders. He even specially ordered him to accede to Mag's requests as much as possible. This showed that Mag had to have his merits.

"The lives of me and my employees are threatened, so I need help from the Gray Temple to investigate this person." Mag passed a paper to Borg.

"Your lives are threatened?" Borg became serious. This was a grave matter. Rolan had once passed an order to protect Mr. Mag's life at all cost. It was a 5th-tier response event.

"I will arrange for someone to start the investigation immediately and deploy manpower to protect you and your staff," Bolton said solemnly as he kept the piece of paper.

"You don't have to send people over to the restaurant, but I do need people to keep watch at the employees' dormitory." Mag nodded and bade farewell to Borg as he rode off.

"Bennett Marquis." Borg unfolded the paper and saw the name on it. He frowned. That was a familiar name. He folded the paper, and kept it before returning to the Gray Temple.



“Activate the 5th-tier response mechanism. Form a special investigations team and stop all work at hand. I will be the leader of the investigation team. I want to know everything about this person within three days.” Borg gathered seven core members from the intelligence department, and told them with a grave expression, “The other departments will cooperate fully with us in our investigation work.”

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Mag wasn’t concerned about the restaurant, because if Bennett was to lay hands on the restaurant, Amy alone could crush his group several times.

The only one he had to pay attention to was Rena’s mother. She was just a normal person, so any seemingly ordinary accident could have a dire effect on her.

However, with the people from the Gray Temple keeping watch, that should no longer be a problem.

The reason why he chose the Gray Temple was that they were professional, and they had the right to uphold law and order. They just needed to find something small to be able to take action.

In the past, Bennett might’ve been able to use several ways and excuses to avoid being investigated. Since that was the case, Mag would give the Gray Temple a reason that they couldn’t reject to investigate Bennett.

He was certain that if his safety was at stake, Rolan would prioritize his investigation.

Mag stopped in front of the teahouse named “Ben”. The gold ornaments in the teahouse made it look lavish, and the two seemingly refined black-suited staff members looked at Mag with a smile.

This was the most extravagant teahouse in Chaos City. It was a legitimate business that capitalized on its elegance. It was also another very important identity for Bennett.

*Since I’m already here, some tea would not hurt.* Mag parked his bicycle at the entrance, and walked straight in.

One of the staff members pulled open the door with a warm smile, and said, “Hello, do you have a reservation?”

“Tell your boss that Mag is here for tea. He will make arrangements,” Mag replied with a smile as he strode into the lavish teahouse.

The staff member’s eyes lit up. *Seems like this customer is the boss’s friend.*

“Sure. Please wait at the rest area for a while. I will inform my boss right now.” The staff person left quickly.

“What?!” Bennett, who was lying in the embrace of a red-haired beauty on the sofa, bolted right up when he heard the staff member’s report. He increased his volume, and said, “You are referring to Mag from Mamy Restaurant?”

“He... He didn’t mention his identity,” that staff member answered timidly. *It seems like he was not the boss’s friend.*

Bennett suddenly smiled. He stood up, and said, "Heh, very bold. He actually came looking for me first. In that case, let me go meet this Boss Mag."

### **Chapter 1500: These Are All Our Restaurant's Paying Members**

"Wow! A rare guest! The famous Boss Mag from Mamy Restaurant is actually here in my teahouse for tea," Bennett said with a smile to Mag, who was standing before a wooden statue, as he walked out.

Mag turned around and looked at the balding middle-aged man. He looked exactly like the picture. Smiling, Mag said, "That's right. If it hadn't been all thanks to Boss Bennett, I wouldn't have the time to come over and have tea with you."

Bennett froze a little. He could sense something, but he quickly regained his composure as he smilingly said, "If that's the case, please, follow me to the VIP suite. Let's have some tea."

"That won't be necessary. I suddenly don't feel like having tea anymore." Mag looked at Bennett in the eye and took two steps forward. He whispered softly by his ear, "I'm here to tell you something today. Don't touch my people. Otherwise, you will lose everything."

The corner of Bennett's lips twitched. He scoffed, and whispered back, "You're really confident. You have no say in Chaos City. We'll see whom she'll choose ultimately."

"This is not even a multiple choice question, because you, as an option, have long been eliminated." Mag smiled. He turned to walk towards the exit, and just when he reached the door, he raised his hand with a smile, and said, "You'd better wipe your \*ss clean so it'll look a little nicer when your pants are pulled down."

*This fellow.* Bennett looked at Mag who disappeared out of the door as he pulled a face and clenched his fists.

A tall and slender man appeared beside Bennett, and whispered, "Should I show him who's boss?"

"Don't touch him first." Bennett shook his head. He thought for a while, and said, "But Miss Rena is really quite disappointing. Give her a little warning tonight."

"Sure." The tall and slender man nodded as he flashed a cruel smile.

*Lose everything?* Bennett smiled. *He's just a chef that rose to some fame through cooking. Did he really think that he's already standing at the peak of Chaos City?*

He had his ways to make sure that Mag wouldn't be able to continue operating.

After coming out from the teahouse, Mag turned back to look at the glittering gold signboard. He walked away while pushing his bicycle as the staff at the door watched in bewilderment.

Informing your opponent about the show that was to come was basic courtesy.

He always meant what he said. If he said he wanted all his business assets to close down, then none would be left.

He was going to strip him naked to let everyone see how hideous he actually was.

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“Bennett Marquis?” Rolan looked at the report Borg passed him, and thought for a while before nodding, and saying, “Go ahead with the investigation. I also want to take a look at how much filth and dirt is hidden beneath the glorious facade of the four major families.”

Borg nodded. He took the report back and exited the room.

*Has this couple's temper improved? They even learned how to use the official way to solve problems. That's really not like Alex.* Rolan smiled. He tapped on the table gently. *That's fine too. This is a critical period. We should first get rid of all the unstable factors in the city, and while we're at that, we can even confiscate some illegal assets to add on to the city's treasury.*

The Gray Temple's intelligence department quickly became busy. The investigators left the Gray Temple one by one, and started going to their dedicated area to investigate. Most of them were Gray Temple's most experienced and most capable investigators.

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Mag had prepared a table full of food for lunch.

He looked at everyone who was already seated and ready to eat with a smile, and said, “Before we begin, I would like to announce two things.”

“Huh?”

Everyone looked at Mag curiously.

“Firstly, due to the restaurant's profits, everyone's basic salary will be increased to 20,000 copper coins per month from today onwards. For those who have yet to pass their probation, you will be converted to our permanent staff immediately. At the same time, we will set up a system for employees' salary with a 20% increase every year,” Mag said with a smile.

Everyone was stunned; afterward, they quickly smiled with delight and surprise.

“Wow, our salary is going to increase by five folds all of a sudden!!!” Miya exclaimed with joy.

“20,000 copper coins can buy a lot of beggar's chicken.” Gina started calculating very seriously.

20,000. Rena's eyes lit up a little, but her gaze soon became dim. To her, the amount of salary she received no longer held any meaning.

“20,000... that's a lot of money.” Jane swallowed. She was a little in disbelief that she would be able to receive such a hefty amount as her salary every month. She hesitated for a while before softly asking Mag, “Boss, I don't think I should be getting the same amount as the other big sisters? I can't do anything well right now.”

“I also think that my current salary is enough. It's a lot more than in my previous job. I am merely doing something that everyone can do well in. I shouldn't be taking so much money.” Yabemiya also looked at Mag, and smilingly said, “I like this job, and I also like the restaurant.”

Before anyone else could say anything, Mag seriously said, "As all of you can see, it is because of you all that the restaurant could operate so efficiently, and at the same time gain quite some profit, so this is what all of you deserve. If you were to reject my offer, it would make me seem a little too capitalistic."

This was something that Mag had been considering for a long time. The employees' efficiency allowed the restaurant to remain highly efficient despite the limited manpower.

A restaurant of a similar scale would need to increase the manpower alone by 10 times if they had to serve customers of such high volume, and deal with all the complicated matters that came along with having so many people on top of that.

Mag was really very satisfied with this group of ladies, and their low wages made him feel a little embarrassed about himself.

Rena's matter could be considered the trigger. An outstanding, talented, and capable employee should be receiving a salary on par with their abilities and efforts. Otherwise, they would not feel happy. He did not want to paint a beautiful picture to his employees, and expect them to continue slogging their guts out for him.

Even though they did not really understand what being capitalistic meant, they could see Mag's attitude towards this matter from his seriousness. Although they were still a little hesitant, they no longer rejected the offer.

"As for the second matter." Mag looked at Rena with a smile, and said, "I've decided to officially make Rena the supervisor for the designated hot pot area. She will be completely in charge of all operations in regard to the restaurant's hot pot business."

"Me?" Rena, who had a lot going on in her mind, was stunned. She looked up and met Mag's gentle gaze. She was a little hesitant and troubled. If it had been in the past, she would have definitely been elated. However, right now, she didn't even know how she could protect her mother, much less if she could carry on working in the restaurant. She hesitated as she shook her head, and said, "I think my abilities are limited. I might not be able to take on such a heavy responsibility..."

"It doesn't matter what you think. You can do it if I think you can do it. Listen to me." Mag looked into Rena's eyes, and seriously and sincerely said, "Remember who you are. You belong with Mamy Restaurant. You will forever have a strong restaurant as your backing. A restaurant stronger than anyone can imagine. Here, take a look at our list of members."

Mag pulled out a small notebook and passed it to Rena. "These are all our salon... restaurant's paying members."