

Stay At home 161

Chapter 161: Sweet Or Savory?

"I'm told Mamy Restaurant has launched a new dish called tofu pudding, and two powerful magic casters have literally fought over the flavors!" a man said.

"Really? Then I must try it. I still remember the taste of his Yangzhou fried rice. But, I have to spend my secret stash of money again."

The first man said, "Yeah. We can only afford to eat in that restaurant several times a month. My kid will start school soon, so I have to save money for him. But, it's too difficult to quit his food."

"Magic casters have fought over a dish?! Where's this restaurant you're talking about? The food there is as good as you say?" a third voice asked.

Mamy Restaurant was a hot topic these days. The fight in the morning was serving as a catalyst to promote the new dish. Many people who had never been to the restaurant were intrigued, wondering what kind of food would make two powerful magic casters fight.

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People were waiting in line before Mag's restaurant.

Strangely, there were two lines. At the head were Krassu and Urien. They stood more than one meter apart, but clearly the distance was not far enough.

Under Urien's feet was a big ice flower, delicate and elegant, rotating slowly.

Meanwhile, by Krassu's feet flew a flaming bird, which was staring at the ice flower with vigilance.

Obviously, they were combat-ready, but neither would make the first move.

They had confined their magic since there were innocent people around.

"The sweet one is the one true flavor of tofu pudding," Krassu said gravely, banging his staff on the ground.

"To hell with the sweet one. I love the savory one," said Urien, his voice harsh to the ear.

They were staring at each other. For an instant, it seemed they were on the brink of fighting, but then they looked away.

The other customers let out a sigh of relief. They might have been killed if they had fought so close to them. Waiting in line could be very dangerous sometimes.

The customer who stood the closest to them was two meters away, but the other people didn't complain. They could totally understand. The Frost Dragon had struck fear into their hearts.

They hadn't tried tofu pudding before, but somehow they had chosen their sides.

The door wouldn't open for another half hour. Dozens were waiting. One line was as long as the other.

The hostility between Krassu and Urien might have affected the others. The air seemed to be getting tense.

“Hey man, why are there two lines?” Moyoshi asked a guy waiting in the line. He had come with his friend Andreas.

“Sweet and savory. Take your pick.”

Moyoshi understood immediately as he saw Urien and Krassu. “I like the savory one too,” he said, holding out his hand.

“Oh, hello.” The man shook his hand.

“He prefers the sweet one,” Moyoshi said, pointing at his friend.

The savory tofu pudding guys all looked to Andreas.

“Easy, guys.” Andreas flinched in fright.

“Hey, you don’t need to be afraid of them,” said a strong man in the other line. The other people in the same line looked at him encouragingly.

Andreas felt secure now. He joined the line.

More people were coming by the minute. Some wanted to try both, but no one was courageous enough to start a third waiting line beside the two old magic casters.

Sally was startled when she espied the people lined up. She had veiled her face with a silk scarf. *It has become so popular after only a few days?*

Sally stopped, hesitant. *I have to wait with so many humans, dwarves, orcs, and maybe I have to share a table with them...* She had dined with a dwarf in this restaurant, but this was a different matter entirely.

So many are waiting, and there are bound to be more when it opens. Will I be able to eat with a dwarf and an orc by my side? Sally thought to herself.

“The restaurant seems to be very busy. Beautiful things never go unnoticed,” Luna said as she stopped to look at the lines. Apparently, her worries that the restaurant might not attract many customers because of the prices had turned out to be groundless.

I can always take out. Sally couldn’t resist the delicious Yangzhou fried rice. She clenched her fist, and walked towards the lines.

Maybe they have new dishes now. Luna smiled, and made for the restaurant.

“Ladies, sweet or savory?” a young man asked as he looked at Luna and Sally.

Chapter 162: Go On. Don’t Mind Us

Other people saw the two girls too, and they liked what they were seeing.

Luna was in her light gray linen-cotton dress with long black hair, as beautiful as the lily flower embroidered on her scarf.

Sally was wearing a silver dress with a golden hem, tall and slender. She had beautiful collarbones and nice calves. Her face was covered, but one could tell from her eyes and ears that she was a pretty elf.

They were wondering which side the two young ladies would choose.

Luna and Sally exchanged a confused glance. They didn't understand.

"What do you mean? I'm here to eat," Luna said. She had planned to have a plate of Yangzhou fried rice here and then order a roujiamo to go to eat in her quarters where no one could see her.

Sally was also lost, but she didn't say anything. She didn't want any unnecessary attention. With so many people here, there was a high chance that she might be recognized, which was the last thing she wanted.

"Oh, you didn't know?" the young man said. "They're selling a new dish tonight: tofu pudding, and it comes in two flavors: sweet and savory. See the two magic casters at the head of the lines? They fought in the morning over the flavors."

Now they understood why there were two waiting lines.

Luna recognized the old man with white hair who had a white robe on at once. *Lord Krassu! Why is he here?* Her grandfather visited Krassu every year, and he had brought her with him once when she was little.

Sally saw the flaming bird and ice flower, and sensed the two old men's formidable strength. *Such strong magic waves! I don't think Father is as powerful as them.*

She had never met anyone so powerful besides the elf queen. She was a 7th-tier magic caster herself, but she let her bow talk most of the time.

"I don't know what tofu pudding is, but I think I'll choose the savory one." Luna nodded at Sally, and walked to her waiting line.

Sally obviously liked the sweet one better as she picked the other line.

Mag is really a great cook, Luna thought as she watched the two lines growing. She smiled. She didn't mind sharing a table with other species.

She was a teacher, and teachers had to treat all students equally, no matter the species. Novan never allowed prejudice in his school.

Once, a teacher had been fired because she had called one of her dwarf students a shorty. She was the granddaughter of an official who occupied a high position in the Gray Temple. Later, this official had come to the principal's office to press him to rehire his granddaughter.

Then, the office exploded! People from the Gray Temple came and found the official in the rubble. They carried him back, and he never attended the get-together banquet again. He was still angry, or perhaps he got scared.

The Chaos School was running smoothly, and it was largely because of Novan, who had always been strict with teachers and kind and generous to students.

That was why Luna went to that school in the first place. She liked it there. She liked having children from different species and different classes sitting in the same classroom. She cherished their innocent laughter and carefree smiles.

She would love to see schools like that grow everywhere. She would gladly dedicate her life to make it happen.

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People in the waiting lines were chatting since there was nothing better to do. Conversations were friendly between people in the same line, but not so friendly between people in the different lines.

"Why do you like the sweet one, Andreas? Only kids like sweet stuff," Moyoshi said, smiling a sarcastic smile.

Instantly, he felt so many unkind eyes on him. Even Krassu had turned to give him a cold glance.

"Sorry..." Moyoshi withdrew in fright. He had only wanted to tease his friend, but his bad joke got himself in trouble with everybody in the other line. Krassu's eyes scared the hell out of him.

"Well said! Too much sweet stuff will make you fat."

"Yes, and saltiness is the most important taste. You can't live without salt."

Other voices echoed his sentiment. The savory tofu pudding people were looking at Moyoshi with admiration.

"Sweetness makes you feel happy, and saltiness... I'm sure you know the expression 'rub salt in the wound'," a middle-aged man said. He was wearing a black long gown, and looked like a bookkeeper.

"Yeah!"

"People who have a sweet tooth are blessed!"

"Salty tofu pudding? Yuck!"

The atmosphere was getting more and more tense as they bickered.

"Ting!"

The bell over the door rang.

They fell silent and looked to the door, wondering. *Were we too loud? Or does it open earlier tonight?*

Out of the door came a little stool first, and then they saw Amy and Ugly Duckling.

They were all staring at the two little things, puzzled.

Amy put the stool down, sat on it with the kitten in her arms, and looked up at the two lines of people.

She froze for an instant when she noticed so many people were gazing at her. “Go on. Don’t mind us. We’re just here to watch,” she said, beckoning them to continue.

Chapter 163: Eat Your Meal After They Come In

The looks on their faces became strange.

They had never seen that coming. They were so surprised by this turn of events that they didn’t know how to continue.

“A half-elf girl?” a man asked.

“She’s the owner’s daughter. Isn’t she cute?”

The first man nodded. “I don’t like hybrids, but, to be fair, she is really cute.”

Many other customers nodded their agreement. They were a little irritated, but Amy’s big blue eyes quelled their anger.

Luna smiled, her eyes full of love as she looked at Amy. *She has become happier and more confident. Mag is doing a great job taking care of her.*

Amy was only four, but she hadn’t acted like a child before, since she had had to take care of her father as well as herself. She had been timid and a pitiful sight.

Everything about her was different now. She was clean and wore good clothes, but more importantly, her eyes were lively and full of hope. Luna was happy to see she was now as naughty and innocent as children her age should be.

What’s this strange feeling? Sally wondered as she looked at Amy. *The way she talks seems so familiar to me.*

Amy took a look at the flaming bird and ice flower. “Master Half-beard, Master Turtle, are you going to fight again?”

“No!” the two old men said.

The bird turned into a little flame and then vanished, while the ice flower cracked, leaving nothing but a puddle of water on the ground.

The tension in the air was gone. Every other customer was relieved and grateful to the little girl.

“Actually, I don’t mind if you fight,” Amy said disappointedly.

The two old men gave a wry smile.

“Anyway, I think I will get my chance since you see each other very often.”

Krassu allowed himself a dry smile. *This girl has as vile a tongue as Irina. But, Irina has no girl that I know of.*

Amy reminded Urien of Irina too. She had loved to encourage them to fight more than anything, and she had even cheered them on while sitting on a little stool.

“Teacher Luna!” Amy said when she spotted Luna, waving at her.

Luna waved back with a smile. She always maintained a cold manner except in school or towards children.

“Big sister elf!” She noticed Sally too. Although she had only seen her once, she still remembered her since she was the first elf she had ever met, and the first to tell her that she would become as beautiful as her.

Sally nodded. She had worried that Amy might shout out her name, but it seemed Amy had probably forgotten.

After she said hello to everyone she knew, Amy sat back on her little stool, resting her chin in her hands. The kitten stuck out its little head from between Amy’s arms, regarding the crowd with curiosity. It had got used to seeing so many strange faces since it watched them come and go every day.

Some people decided the silence had lasted long enough. They resumed the topic. Soon, they started bickering enthusiastically again, even though they hadn’t got the slightest clue what tofu pudding was.

“Whoa...” Amy clapped her hands. She didn’t know what they were talking about, but she still found them amusing.

Ugly Duckling looked around curiously, clapping its paws.

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“Boss, I think they’re having a quarrel. Should we intervene?” Yabemiya said as Mag was eating his fried rice unhurriedly.

Mag shook his head with a smile. “Don’t worry. You should look at this as a little entertainment during work.” He took a look at his customers through the window. *The foodies here are really interesting. They’re quarrelling over something they haven’t even tried.*

After finishing his meal, Mag took a look at the time. He still had five minutes. He cleared the table, and turned to Yabemiya. “Tell Amy dinner is ready. And remember, one person can only order one bowl of tofu pudding.”

Yabemiya nodded. “Yes, Boss.” She didn’t know why, but she trusted Mag.

Amy walked back in with Ugly Duckling and the stool, her eyes shining with excitement when she saw two bowls of tofu pudding and a roujiamo.

“Go wash your hands. Eat your meal after they come in,” said Mag, smiling.

“Okay!” Amy put the kitten on the floor, trotted into the kitchen, stepped on the stool, and washed her hands. Then she ran back to her table and picked up the spoon excitedly.

Mag opened the door. “Welcome to Mamy Restaurant!” he said with a smile, looking at the two long lines which extended into the square.

Chapter 164: It's Really Very Good

There were over a hundred people, and they were still bickering. Some seemed quite irritated by the look of their faces.

The good part was they never went beyond exchanging words, or else there would be a pandemonium.

Krassu and Urien were standing in the front, motionless and expressionless.

The noise made Mag frown. Squabbling online was nothing compared to this.

There were magic casters, demons, knights, and orcs. If they started fighting, it would be a disaster.

Maybe I should set up a ring for them to settle their disputes. Mag turned to look at his daughter who was waiting expectantly. At least Amy would like that.

The noise of bickering dwindled. The reason they started quarrelling in the first place was because it was boring waiting in the line. They stopped now that the restaurant was open.

Perhaps they would start again after they tried the food and collected enough evidence to back up their opinions.

"Please come in." Mag held the door open. He wanted no part in their argument, and he wouldn't let them blame him for offering two different flavors.

Krassu and Urien exchanged a glance and walked in side by side. Neither would let the other walk in front of him. After they entered, they made for their usual tables.

"Good evening, Master Half-beard, Master Turtle," said Amy.

"Good evening," they replied. Then they were immediately attracted by the two bowls of tofu pudding.

The bowls were bigger than the ones in the morning. A delicious smell was floating out of the kitchen.

The other customers walked in the same way the two old men had done.

Luna put her foot back down when she noticed Sally had lifted hers at the same time. "After you," she said, beckoning her to go first.

"Thank you," Sally said, casting a surprised glance at Luna, and entered the restaurant.

Mag recognized her at first glance even with her scarf over her face. Seeing that she said nothing, Mag just nodded.

"Good evening, Mag," Luna said.

"Good evening, Luna." Mag nodded with a smile. He hadn't expected to see her here tonight.

"I'll have two plates of Yangzhou fried rice and one roujiamo, Mag," Vicennio said weakly, leaning on the door.

Mag nodded. "Sure. Come on in." His woman sure knows how to drain a man, Mag thought to himself as he looked at Vicennio's pale face.

Vicennio moved in slowly and took a seat. Even walking was a difficult task for him now.

All of the customers had entered. Some would rather stand than share a table with others. After a short while, no seat was left vacant. They had to form a new line before the counter, which had extended well out of the door. Fortunately, the aisle was wide; they wouldn't disturb other people.

Luna took a seat opposite to Sally, and soon two more women came and sat at their table.

Sally was relieved, since Luna seemed well-mannered. She could enjoy her meal here after all.

"I'd like a bowl of sweet tofu pudding and a roujiamo."

"I'll have a bowl of savory tofu pudding and a plate of Yangzhou fried rice."

"I'd like a savory one and a sweet one. I want to know which is better."

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Yabemiya started taking orders.

"Sorry. Each person can only order one bowl of tofu pudding," the young waitress said.

"Oh, I see." A man opened the menu and saw the note. He was surprised when he noticed it was cheaper than roujiamo. "I'll have the savory one, then."

They spotted Amy and the two bowls while they were waiting for their orders.

Tofu pudding was lying in the two white bowls, white as jade, looking elastic. One had syrup on it, and the other was sprinkled with chopped sides. The delicious smells were making their mouths water.

"This must be the tofu pudding," a bald man said.

Amy nodded. "Yes."

"Is it good?" he asked curiously.

Other customers craned their necks to listen. Some didn't want to spend 200 copper coins on something they practically knew nothing about.

"You want to know?" Amy asked, waving the spoon as if inviting him to try the food.

He nodded. "Yes."

"Then I'll tell you after I try it." Amy scooped a spoonful of savory tofu pudding. It was decorated with orange-red sauce and chopped zha cai, and kept shaking. It melted right away when she brought it into her mouth. She didn't even need to chew. Her blue eyes went wide as she savored the delicious taste.

She gave a blissful look after she swallowed. Then she nodded at the bald man. "It's really very good."

There were loud sounds of people swallowing saliva.

Chapter 165: Your Tofu Pudding, Please Enjoy

Then, Amy dropped her gaze back to the food, and spooned another spoonful into her mouth, her body swinging in delight. She put down the spoon, picked up the roujiamo, and ate it. She took a bite of tofu pudding, and then a bite of roujiamo, smiling all the while.

The bald man had never seen that coming. Amy was killing him with that delicious tofu pudding.

Some people were starting to suspect that Mag was making Amy eat here on purpose. Nonetheless, they were unable to tear their eyes away from her or keep their mouths from watering.

“Looks like tofu pudding goes great with roujiamo.”

“Excuse me. I’ll have a roujiamo.”

“Me too!”

Mag’s little trick worked.

The sight of Amy eating her food was enough to raise their expectations. Many people began ordering roujiamo.

“See? Little owner likes the savory one too! Because it is much better!”

“And it goes well with roujiamo. I’ll bet the sweet one will make roujiamo taste awful,” a young man said.

“I like the sweet one, and I think no one forces you to eat it with roujiamo,” a demon said coldly, looking at the young man with his red eyes.

“Okay...” the young man said, frightened.

Waiting for their orders was kind of boring. They started arguing again now that they knew what the food looked like.

It looks good, Sally thought as she stared at Amy and the two bowls before her. The one with syrup must be the sweet one. He made the syrup with honey? It looks even more viscous than the honey from the Wind Forest.

The sweet one must be very tasty! Sally became expectant. She liked sweets. Sadly, the female cook hired by her family only knew how to cook several kinds of sweets, and she liked honey better than the sweets she made.

Then she saw the roujiamo in Amy’s hands. *I don’t think I can eat anything that greasy.* She opened the menu and frowned as she saw the price of tofu pudding.

She had to work a month to earn enough money to buy a plate of Yangzhou fried rice. And now, there was this tofu pudding.

She was blessed with a long life since she was an elf, but a decent meal every month wasn’t quite the life she had expected when she left home.

She had made a promise to herself that she would travel the whole continent with a dozen dragon coins like the elf princess had done.

She had arrived at her first stop, Chaos City, and she had worked hard for over 10 days, but the money she had earned was not even enough for a plate of Yangzhou fried rice.

She was unable to resist the food. She was stuck here.

She could feel her dreams drifting away. She thought she could hear a voice in her head saying, "Work, work, work..."

Luna watched with a smile as Amy ate. *Seems like the savory one is good. But what if I make that sound again if I eat it with roujiamo?*

"May I take your orders?" Yabemiya said, gazing at Luna and Sally in admiration. She had never seen even one customer as beautiful as them.

Growing up in a greasy kitchen, all she ever wanted was to become a pretty lady with slender and beautiful hands like them. She looked down and hid her coarse hands behind the menu.

"I'd like a plate of Yangzhou fried rice..." Sally said, looking up at Yabemiya with envy. *This half-dragon girl wasn't here when I last came. How lucky of her to work here! She can have at least one plate of Yangzhou fried rice for free every day, I think.*

But I have to work for a month to buy her work lunch. I eat noodles with vegetables every day. Life is so unfair!

Sally raised her voice. "And a bowl of sweet tofu pudding!" she added as if she was making a hard decision.

Yabemiya nodded. "Sure." Then she turned to face Luna. "Are you ready to order, Miss?"

"Yes. I'll have a bowl of savory tofu pudding, and..." Luna remembered the feeling of when she first ate roujiamo as she looked at the almost finished roujiamo in Amy's hands. "... and a roujiamo."

Yabemiya nodded. "Okay." Then she went on taking orders.

I'll make more money if I work harder, Sally thought, clenching her fist. Then she looked toward the kitchen. I wonder if he needs more waitresses here.

Mag took a look at the people who were watching Amy eat. *She would be very popular if she could eat live online.* He smiled and poured the hot syrup on the tofu pudding. He was very pleased with his little trick.

"Two savory ones and two sweet ones. Do not recommend the flavor to them," Mag said to the young waitress.

She nodded obediently. "Yes, Boss." She picked up the tray and walked out of the kitchen.

Amy gave a burp, and put down the bowl, which had been licked clean. She stuck out her tongue to try to lick the syrup off her nose, but failed. She raised her eyes, and found they were still staring at her.

"The savory one is delicious, and so is the sweet one!"

However, most of them were so stubborn. A child's opinion would never sway their decision.

“Be quiet in our restaurant and don’t disturb others,” she said. “I’ll set you on fire if you don’t follow the rules here.” She held out her little hand, and then a bluish violet flame rose up, dwindled, and turned into a little fireball.

“Your tofu pudding, please enjoy,” Yabemiya said, putting down the food.

Chapter 166: Can You Teach Me How To Cook, Father?

Amy’s fireball was screaming danger; they could feel its heat even from a distance.

Cute as she was, she had burned Krassu’s beard and defeated Sargerias.

They didn’t want to mess with her.

They didn’t want to get themselves banned at this restaurant.

They lowered their voices. Now they could hear the soft sound dishes made when they touched the table and Yabemiya’s energetic voice. The smells in the air became stronger.

Luna looked at Amy and smiled. *She’s very helpful.* Then she glanced through the menu and saw the rules. *Looks like he has something in common with Novan. They might become friends.*

Then there was a sound of swallowing saliva, too loud in this quiet atmosphere.

They turned to look, and felt envious when they saw Habeng and his savory tofu pudding.

Habeng gave a smile. “Time to eat.” He picked up the spoon. He had got the fourth bowl of tofu pudding since he was the fourth one in.

Krassu spooned some tofu pudding into his mouth. “Mmm, the sweet tofu pudding goes perfectly with Yangzhou fried rice,” he exclaimed, savoring the wonderful taste.

Urien took a bite of roujiamo, and then a bite of savory tofu pudding. “This combination tastes real great.” The roujiamo was working its magic on him, making him feel less hunched.

How did he make it so watery?! a rich-looking middle-aged man thought to himself, surprised. He brought another spoonful into his mouth. The intoxicating sweetness made him forget about everything else.

“I like this!” Habeng said. His spoon went up and down as he gave a blissful smile.

The customers stopped arguing, waiting patiently for their orders.

They were too preoccupied with the food and expectant right now to argue.

Those who had already had their food served were purring like kittens as they ate. Others were looking excitedly in the direction of the kitchen. Peace and quiet had been restored again.

“Thank you,” Amy said as the fireball vanished. She patted Ugly Duckling on its head, and the little thing understood and slid down along her leg right away. She climbed off the chair, stood on tips of her toes to pick up the two bowls, and walked towards the kitchen.

“Where should I put them, Father?” Amy asked, holding them securely in her hands.

“Here, let me have them.” Mag put the bowls in the sink and smiled. *She has helped keep the order here, and she has done it without offending them. I don't think anyone could do such a fantastic job other than she.*

“Can you teach me how to cook, Father?” Amy asked as she looked at the kitchenware, expectant.

Mag was taken by surprise. “You want to learn to cook?”

Amy nodded solemnly. “Yes. Father's food has made many people like you. I want to be liked by many people too.”

“Silly girl. Many people like you even if you know nothing about cooking,” Mag said, smiling. “You're not tall enough to work the wok now. I will teach you when you're taller than the cooking bench, so try to eat more and get taller!”

Amy was a little disappointed for a while, but then she got over it quickly. She walked up to the cooking bench and looked up. It was about 10 centimeters taller than her. “Just you wait. I'll become taller than you in no time.”

Mag shook his head with a smile as he looked at his cute little girl.

Amy stayed and watched for a while before getting back to her usual chair again.

“Please enjoy,” Yabemiya said as she put down a bowl of sweet tofu pudding and a bowl of savory tofu pudding before Sally and Luna, respectively. The soft thing shook a little, but maintained its shape.

The two girls were attracted by the food. A smile touched the corners of their mouths as they breathed in the delicious smells.

Luna picked up her spoon and gave Sally a curious glance. *She'll surely remove her veil.*

A middle-aged elf in the waiting line was also looking at Sally, squinting as if thinking about something of importance.

Sally was too engrossed in the food to notice anything else. She removed her scarf and put it away. Then, she scooped some in her spoon and gazed at it with surprise.

She's so beautiful! Luna thought to herself.

The middle-aged elf's eyes went wide. “She's here!” Then he covered his mouth hurriedly and lowered his head, hiding behind an orc in front of him.

Chapter 167: She Is Just As Vicious-tongued As Her

Luna dropped her gaze back to her food. Her manners told her not to stare at other people when they were eating. She sank her spoon into the tofu pudding, and it cut through the pudding like it was nothing but water. The white and soft tofu pudding was shaking in her spoon, with a little zha cai and a dried shrimp on top.

Luna's eyes were shining with surprise. *It's beautiful.* The dried shrimp looked almost transparent. The pleasant smell made her mouth water.

"Please try it, Teacher Luna. It's very good," Amy said with Ugly Duckling in her arms.

Luna nodded. "All right." She brought the food into her mouth gracefully, and then her eyes widened.

It liquefied as soon as she took a bite. It was much tenderer than the eggs in Yangzhou fried rice. It was very watery, and went through her teeth like milk. The savory zha cai and shrimp really added fullness to the taste.

She felt like she was in heaven. She felt as if she were a child again, as if she were playing in the soft cloud and then a wave came and splashed some cool water on her face.

She swallowed, and her eyes were still closed. Savoring the taste lingering in her mouth, she smiled.

The taste brought her back to her childhood.

My childhood friends, how are they doing? Maybe I should go home this Peace Memorial Festival. I haven't seen them for three years. Luna opened her eyes and took another bite, lost in her memories.

Sally took a look at Luna, and then focused her eyes on the food before her. It was like steamed egg custard, only more elastic. She scooped some. The spoon left a white hole in the tofu pudding, and then the red syrup slid right into it. The tofu pudding covered by syrup shook a little in her spoon, delicate like a piece of art.

It smells of flowers! This syrup may have honey in it. Sally was a little surprised. She brought the spoon into her mouth quickly.

It was so soft and watery. The sweetness of the syrup and the delicious taste of the tofu pudding blended perfectly in her mouth, bringing a smile to her face.

I was right! It has honey in it, and sugar too. It's sweet, but not too sweet. I like it!

The Valley of Flowers was located in the Wind Forest. It was warm there, with a lot of flowers and bees. She liked searching for honeycombs there because they were much sweeter than elsewhere.

It was Irina who had taught her how to find honeycombs. When she was little, she had always tagged along wherever the princess went. In her eyes, the princess could do anything, and was the prettiest and the most powerful. She would take her searching for honeycombs and stealing spirit fruits.

When the princess left for Rodu, she said she would scribble a little something on the wall of the famous Magus Tower. After she came back, she got grounded for 15 days. It was said she had written: "The elf princess was here!"

It was really an impressive deed. Although the Tower was in Rodu, the elf magic casters also held it in high regard. After all, not every magic caster had a chance to enter that place.

Several years later, the princess packed up and left home with a dozen dragon coins, leaving a letter on her table. She had been gone for over 10 years. She had travelled to the Twilight Forest, the Demon

Islands, and the Dragon Islands. She had left her footprints all over the continent. Many young elves looked up to her as their role model.

And Sally was one of them. She envied her her way of living.

Three years ago, she was told the princess had been brought back by the queen herself. Then she stayed in the cave with the Tree of Life, and Sally had never seen her again.

She had no idea what had happened to her. The princess was like a changed person, and would talk to no one but her maid, Firis.

She had spent a lot of time with the Tree of Life when she was little, and the tree had been nice only to her since she was born.

Sally hadn't seen her for a long while, but she had followed in her footsteps, which was why she had only had a dozen dragon coins on her and left all her valuable jewelry home.

It turned out she might have overestimated herself since she had got stuck here, in Chaos City.

Why does the honey in this syrup taste familiar? Sally wondered.

Very few elves would look for honey in the Valley of Flowers, and even less would sell it.

Maybe I'm wrong. Anyway, he certainly has chosen the ingredients carefully. The tastes are wonderful. Sally took another bite, savoring the food slowly. This was the second time she was this happy after she left home, and the first was when she had Yangzhou fried rice.

Good food could indeed make people happy.

"Big sister elf, it's very tasty, isn't it?" Amy asked, smiling.

Sally turned to look at her. For an instant, she froze. She now realized why she would have had that strange feeling of familiarity. The little girl was just as vicious-tongued as Irina, who had liked to nickname other people when she was little.

And she had nicknamed her "Slug".

To be fair, it had been nowhere near accurate.

Chapter 168: Big Sister, Hugs!

"Such a classy restaurant! But it was not here last time I came here," Parmer said, surprised.

"Big sister! Rainbow fried rice!" Parbor exclaimed. Clapping his hands, he trotted towards the glass window and bumped into it. He took two steps back, looking puzzled.

Gjergj hurried over to his boy. "Oh, sweetheart, are you hurt?" Part of him was worried, while the other part wanted to laugh at his kid's adorable stupidity.

The customers by the window got startled at first, but then they couldn't help but smile when they saw the cute little boy.

“Why can’t I get in, Father?” Parbor asked.

“Cause you’re standing in front of a large sheet of crystal glass,” Gjergj replied, smiling. He picked up his small hand and put it on the crystal glass. “You can feel it, right? It’s transparent. Everything can be easily seen through it.”

Parbor touched and patted the cool glass, and then smiled. “Crystal glass! Crystal glass! Big sister!”

“Seems like he can’t wait to get in and play with the big sister,” Harrison said, smiling. Then he turned to Parmer, and wrapped his arm around his shoulder. “What about you, Math Genius? Are you excited?”

“Why would I be excited? But I don’t mind teaching her a little math if she’s cute,” Parmer said with his arms crossed.

Harrison gave a nod, and patted him on the shoulder. “Oh, you’re so generous! Come on! Time for dinner! Mag’s business is really booming!”

“With his cooking skills, I don’t think there are still seats available right now,” said Gjergj. He took Parbor’s hand in his and entered.

No sooner had Gjergj walked in than he noticed the new dish in front of almost every customer. It was white and soft with different toppings, and he liked the new smell floating in the air.

“Hey, man, what is this dish that you’re eating?” Harrison asked a guy sitting by the door.

“It’s called tofu pudding. Amazing food! You should try the savory one. It’s just unbelievable!” the guy said, giving a thumbs-up.

“No, try the sweet one! Trust me, you won’t regret it!” another guy said.

Harrison turned to the kids and smiled. “You’re very lucky, kids. You get to try a new dish tonight!” Then, he and Gjergj took the two boys to the end of the waiting line.

Parmer’s attention was attracted by the paintings on the wall. Marvelous Rodu, majestic Dragon Islands, dreamy Wind Forest, knights on horses, flying dragons, magic casters... Every painting was so strange yet riveting.

“Rainbow fried rice! Big sister!” Parbor said, looking around as if looking for something.

The two adorable kids attracted many eyes, especially the smaller one with hair in a mushroom bowl. Mere sight of him was enough to make people smile.

“Big sister! Big sister!” Parbor exclaimed merrily, eyes shining in delight.

When Parmer turned to look where his brother was looking, he saw Amy. He froze, his eyes wide. Finally, he said, “Why are you here?!”

Amy was also a little surprised, but apparently she was calmer. “This is my father’s restaurant.”

“Why is this your father’s restaurant?”

“Because he is the owner, I guess.”

Parmer felt insulted. He swallowed to calm himself down.

He had been very upset since the day they competed in class. The riding today had helped a lot, but now he found himself feeling nervous.

“So you have met?” Gjergj asked, surprised. He had planned to introduce her.

“She is the one who beat me in math the other day,” Parmer admitted reluctantly.

Gjergj and Harrison exchanged a wry look.

They had never seen this coming. It was all they could do not to laugh.

Mag took a look at them. *So he’s Gjergj’s son. No wonder I found his face familiar. Thankfully, he’s not as fat as his old man. The smaller one must be his second son.*

“Big sister, hugs!” Parbor said in his childish voice, extending his arms, walking towards the counter.

“Sorry, but you’re too heavy,” Amy said, looking down at him from her chair.

Chapter 169: I’m Just Chubby, Not Fat!

Parbor stood there, frozen. He looked up at Amy in confusion.

The customers couldn’t help but laugh.

Mag shook his head with a smile. Amy’s only four, and not much taller than him. There’s no way she can pick him up. But, maybe she should have said that less bluntly.

At last, the little boy understood. He turned to his father, aggrieved, as if about to cry. “The big sister said no hugs.”

Gjergj opened his mouth, but didn’t know what to say to comfort his little boy. Now, his two sons were both in a bad mood.

“Shouldn’t you say something?” Harrison asked in a whisper.

“I’m afraid I’ll only make it worse...”

“My brother isn’t heavy!” Parmer said angrily, stepping between Amy and Parbor.

“Brother...” Parbor cowered behind Parmer.

“Yeah, right. Then why don’t you go ahead and pick him up?” Amy said coolly.

“I will!” He turned to look at his brother.

“Brother, hugs! Hugs!” Parbor said, extending his arms, excited and happy again.

The customers were all looking at Parmer now, wondering what he would do.

Parmer looked older than Amy, and was handsome in his horse-riding clothes; he must have inherited his looks from his mother. They were all looking forward to witnessing the sweet scene of him holding his brother.

“Sorry, Parbor. Maybe another time,” Parmer said, frowning. “You’ve got fat recently.”

The little boy looked like he was on the brink of crying. “I hate you, Brother. How can you say I’m fat?!” He pouted.

A girl burst out laughing. Luckily, she wasn’t eating. She covered her mouth and continued laughing.

Parmer felt abashed and aggrieved. He had intended to speak up for his little brother, but ended up getting disliked. Parbor had really got fat. Parmer used to be able to carry him on his back, but now, he was not sure his back was strong enough to carry him again.

Amy looked at Parbor, and then at Parmer. “He’s only a child. He’s just chubby, not fat.”

Why is she accusing me? She should be blamed as much as me! But when he saw his brother’s watery eyes, his face softened right away. He patted Parbor on the head. “Sorry, Parbor. I’ll be able to carry you when I’m taller and stronger.”

Parbor’s smile returned immediately.

Amy nodded, relieved. “You’re both good kids.”

Parmer turned to look at Amy strangely. Aren’t you a kid yourself?

“Go wait in the line. Don’t talk loud or run in the restaurant. You’ll be spanked if you disturb other people,” Amy said solemnly.

“Spanked?” Worried, Parbor looked around nervously.

“You can’t spank me!” Parmer said, clenching his fists.

“Maybe I can’t, but Blue Fatty can.” Amy looked at Gjergj.

Parmer raised an eyebrow. “Blue Fatty? My father?” He looked to his father for support.

“She’s talking about basic manners you should know,” Gjergj said gravely to his sons. “If you behave badly, I will spank you.” Then he gave Amy a kind smile. Girls are better than boys.

The two brothers exchanged a glance, suddenly afraid.

“Big sister. I like big sisters,” Parbor said, looking at Amy.

“But I like little sisters,” said Amy.

Parbor cried after all; tears welled in his eyes. “She doesn’t like me. I want to become a girl, and then she’ll like me...”

“Don’t be such a crybaby. You’ll become a man one day, and men never cry,” Amy said.

Parbor stopped crying right away. There were still tears in his eyes, though.

“Come on, Parbor.” His brother picked up his little hand.

“It seems your plan of making them become friends has failed,” Harrison said.

Gjergj nodded, and managed a wry smile. "Mag's daughter is so smart. When I have a daughter, I'll teach her to stay away from boys too."

"Meow!" Ugly Duckling woke up and gave a cry.

Parbor's eyes went wide. "An orange cat!" He trotted up to Amy, and looked up at her with longing. "Big sister, can I hold it?"

"She'll never let you hold it," Parmer said with certainty.

The customers were all looking at Amy. They had never seen anyone else hold the kitten before, so they thought the little boy might get disappointed again.

Amy paused a moment as she looked at Parbor, who still had streaks of tears on his face. She handed the kitten over. "Here. Be careful not to drop it. It has got fat too."

I'm just chubby, not fat! Ugly Duckling thought sullenly to itself.

"Is it just me, or can this tofu pudding make scars fade?" a woman said delightedly.

Chapter 170: He Might Be A Doctor Or Something

Parbor nodded. "Fat kitten..." He extended his arms to take it.

The customers were astonished. They had thought she would say something hurtful and never let him touch the kitten, but she was acting like a sweet big sister now.

It was the first time they had seen the softer side of her. Parbor smiled happily, holding the kitten in his arms.

I knew that deep down she's kind and nice. Mag smiled. He had worried that Amy might have trouble making friends because of her acid tongue, but it had turned out she was doing just fine.

Looks like Parmer still hasn't got over the frustration from the other day. He is so competitive, Luna thought, looking at Parmer. Then she smiled when she turned to look at Amy and Parbor. *Attagirl! You're still that same kind child who used to share pancakes with others.*

"Seems like we don't need to intervene, after all. Sometimes, it's best for the kids to work out their own problems," Gjergj said in a low voice, relieved.

Parmer stood frozen. *She gave the kitten to Parbor?! Didn't she just say mean things to us?!* He blushed; he had just said so confidently that she would never let Parbor hold it.

"Meow! Meow!" Ugly Duckling cried unhappily, trying to get away.

"Stop squirming, Ugly Duckling!" Amy called.

The kitten looked up, and when it saw Amy's angry eyes, it lowered its head right away and stopped struggling.

“Look! My scars are really fading!” the woman from before exclaimed delightedly, her cheeks a little red from excitement.

She was around 30, brown-haired, wearing a purplish green dress and an emerald necklace, looking plain but rich.

She had rolled up her sleeves, baring her horrible scars, which were very unpleasant to look at, but she was staring at them excitedly.

“Oh, are they, Lucia?” said the woman opposite her, surprised.

Lucia nodded, all smiles. “Yes. I check them every single day. My arms felt cool when I was eating this tofu pudding. Then I rolled up my sleeves, and found the scars are fading and shrinking!”

She was born into a rich family. Her arms and chest had got burnt by a bronze kettle when she was little.

Although her husband had been chosen by her parents, she loved him. It was a good thing he loved her too, but she was worried that he would get fed up with her ugly body and go find another girl, so she had been attempting every way possible to try to get rid of those hideous scars.

However, nothing had lived up to her expectations at all. She had almost given up hope.

She had come here today on the recommendation of her friend. She liked the food, of course, but more importantly, she might have found a way to rid herself of the nightmare.

Sally and Luna took a look at Lucia, surprised. They were sitting at the same table.

“I think she’s right,” Luna said, looking at her left hand. She had accidentally cut her finger while chopping vegetables the day before last. A scab had formed over the wound, and now it had come right off. The skin had healed so well that no one could believe that it had been cut just two days ago.

“This tofu pudding can make scars fade?”

“I think it’s good for the skin too. My face feels smoother.”

“This dish will become popular among women in no time!”

“Oh boy! I’ve had this scar since I was three, and now it’s half gone!”

Many started checking their old scars. A happy atmosphere spread across the whole room.

“I think I’ll bring my wife here tomorrow. She has been going on about that scar on her hand for years,” Gjergj said.

“Mag is a real genius,” said Harrison. “Yangzhou fried rice can relieve fatigue, roujiamo can make you stronger, and this tofu pudding can make scars fade. Furthermore, they are all very delicious! This place is practically a hospital. He might be a doctor or something.”

“What? This thing can erase scars?!” said a middle-aged man with stubble on his face. He rose quickly to his feet and torn open his shirt nervously.

On his strong chest were so many scars, old and new, big and small. There was even one near his heart. They were telling stories of how he had defied death over and over again.

“These scars are my pride. I need them to impress the rookies!” Yeoll said anxiously.