

Stay At home 1871

Chapter 1871: But Little Amy's Capability Would Not Allow Me To Do So

"What is the fluster about?" Andre looked at Richard.

"My apologies for alarming Your Majesty." Richard quickly stood up. He hesitated for a while before deciding to come clean. "The 10th elder said that previously, Duke Abraham placed 20,000,000 copper coins on Amy becoming the champion with 100 folds on the winning bet. Now, the Magus Tower casino has to pay him two billion copper coins. I have overreacted."

"Two billion!"

"Duke Abraham plays really big..."

"Now, not only have we of the Magus Tower lost our face, we've also lost our money."

The courtiers all had a strange expression. Duke Abraham did not appear at the elevated platform today, but he was somehow watching the matches somewhere, and actually placed such a heavy bet. That caused the president of the Magus Tower to panic.

Meanwhile, the Magus Tower's elders were slightly flustered. Two billion. Would they have to give up their bonus as well?

This Abraham is rather interesting. He was even more confident about Amy winning than I was. Krassu raised his brow.

This Abraham... Andre did not know whether to laugh or to cry upon hearing that. He also knew that two billion copper coins was not a small sum to the Magus Tower. The preparation, building, and setup for this Magic Caster Tournament took up almost half a year of effort, and all the profit would end up going to Abraham.

The triennial Magic Caster Tournament funded the Magus Tower for years so that it would not require support from the national treasury, and in some years, they might even have a surplus.

This year, they were totally wrecked.

"Go, find Duke Abraham for me," Andre instructed.

"Yes." Two guards followed the 10th elder to the casino quickly.

"Say, don't tell me the casino is not going to pay up?" Abraham frowned as he questioned the lackey, who was stopping him from entering, with his betting ticket in his hand.

"My Lord, you must be joking. How would we dare to not pay you? It's really because our elders aren't around, and we can't possibly come up with two billion to pay you. Please wait for a while for the elders to return and settle your large reward," the lackey said with a smile as his calves shook with fear.

Who was this person?

He was the king's younger brother. He had been the king's right-hand man when the monarch had just ascended the throne. He was one of the four dukes in the Roth Empire.

Although he did not have any role in court anymore, that did not mean that he had fallen out of favor. It was because he had resigned from his duties to relax at home.

Everyone knew that he was the king's most trusted duke. Even if he might appear kind and friendly, he was still one of the most powerful people in the Roth Empire, or even on the entire Norland Continent.

On top of that, right now, he was here to collect his winnings, a 20,000,000 bet with a two-billion winning. There was not enough to pay him even if the casino emptied its treasury.

They did not dare to trifle with this lord, but the 10th elder had gone to look for the president, and so they could only hold him back for a while.

"Is the Magus Tower so poor?" Abraham frowned. It was just two billion. He thought that the Magus Tower was rather well-to-do, but why was it so stingy now?

However, Abraham did not make things difficult for these lackeys. In any case, he had the betting ticket with him, and no one had ever dared not to pay him. Not even the Magus Tower.

"Lord Abraham, His Majesty invites you over." Two guards came up to Abraham and bowed deeply to him.

"His Majesty invites me?" Abraham was a little shocked. He glanced at the 10th elder, who was behind the guards, and said disdainfully, "Don't tell me the Magus Tower is trying to use His Majesty to get off the payment."

"My Lord, please do not misunderstand. We would not dare to do such things. It's just because the sum is too huge, and according to our rules, we would have to report it to the president, and His Majesty happened to overhear, and asked about it. His Majesty invites you over to discuss the matter of the winnings." The 10th elder quickly pushed the responsibility off himself.

"Sure. Let's go get my money." Abraham nodded, and followed the two guards to the elevated platform.

"Well done, Abraham. You bet so heavily on the competition. I want to know how long your family fortune could last with your gambling habits," Andre rebuked the moment Abraham stepped on the platform.

Abraham looked at the stern-sounding Andre, who had a smile on his face, and said innocently, "Your Majesty, I was just betting a little for fun. I've only taken out a million copper coins and placed all my bets on Little Amy. I didn't think that she would continue her victory streak and end up as the champion. That was how one million became two billion.

"I wanted to keep a low profile about it, but Little Amy's capabilities would not allow me to do so."

The corners of all the courtiers' lips twitched. That was just... asking for a beating.

The Magus Tower elders could not really control their expressions. Who knew that Amy would clinch the championship? No one would even expect that somebody would bet on Amy to win right from the start.

Upon hearing that, Andre could not help but laugh, and he teased, "In that case, you earned that two billion out of pure luck?"

“You also know that I have always been quite lucky.” Abraham nodded with a smile. He glanced at Richard at the side, and said, “Is it because the Magus Tower is not intending to hand out my winnings, so they came all the way to Your Majesty for help? That’s being a bully.”

Richard, who was just about to speak, was stumped for words. A victim who could stump the bully wasn’t a victim at all.

“Nonsense. Since the Magus Tower was able to put that multiplier out there, we will naturally not go back on our words and refuse to pay.” Andre had a solemn expression as he looked at Richard. “Am I right, President Richard?”

Richard’s eyelid twitched. But in this situation, he had no choice but to nod in agreement. “Your Majesty is absolutely right. The Magus Tower must of course pay Duke Abraham whatever he has won. Please allow us three days to prepare the sum, and the Magus Tower will send someone over with the winnings to your residence.”

“Since I have President Richard’s word in front of His Majesty, I guess there’s no more issue.” Abraham nodded with a smile.

The people at the elevated platform finally understood. That was what brothers were. The king was not trying to help the Magus Tower escape the payment at all. Instead, he was supporting his brother to ensure that the Magus Tower would arrange the payment.

“Since you’re up here, come and take a seat here. Follow me back to the palace after the award ceremony,” Andre told Abraham.

“Yes, Your Majesty.” Abraham nodded. Andre arranged an extra chair for Abraham to sit, and even Josh had to shift to the side to make space for Abraham.

Amy was moving to the elevated platform with the guidance of a staff member. The audience quieted down as they awaited the moment the king would hand the award to Amy.

“Master, I’ve won first place!” Amy told Krassu happily the moment she reached the elevated platform.

“Mm-hm, not bad, not bad.” Krassu stroked his beard and nodded meaningfully, as though everything was within his expectations.

The emcee guided Amy to stand at the center of the elevated platform, and Jasper could only wait at the side.

“May we invite His Majesty to present the award to the champion,” the emcee said respectfully.

Chapter 1872: Pretty Good

After the peak afternoon period, Mag put out a rest notice to take a short one-hour break before reopening.

Mag brought the ladies back to the restaurant, and treated them to a delicious meal. After that, he let them rest in the restaurant for a while so that they could be prepared for the hustle that was coming up.

“I didn’t know that it’s so tiring setting up a stall. It’s even more tiring than working in a restaurant.” Yabemiya, who was holding a cup of herbal tea, was sprawled on the table. Her voice was a little hoarse.

“That’s right. There are so many people. I feel like the entire Chaos City was there.” Firis nodded. She felt that her hands had gone jelly from just packing the octopus for customers.

“It’s been hard on all of you. After today, I’ll give all of you a break tomorrow.” Mag smiled as he looked at the ladies. He did underestimate the crowd. Today was indeed too tiring.

“Hooray!” Yabemiya cheered. No matter how tiring today would be, they’d all be able to sleep in tomorrow.

The other ladies also smiled.

“But, Boss, you said that we didn’t have to go to the stall again tomorrow. However, the octopus tentacle still has to be sold. Who’s going to tend to the stall?” Yabemiya asked.

“You don’t have to worry about that. I’ll get the workers from the seafood shop to send some people over to help.” The training for the seafood shop workers had been completed, and this would be a chance to give them some hands-on experience.

On top of that, he was intending to double the manpower at the seafood shop. The seafood shop’s business was soon to face a sharp rise. If all went on smoothly, he would be able to open another branch soon too.

Meanwhile, at the entrance of the Delicacy Extravaganza, customers who came over for the extravaganza were stunned when they saw the temporary resting notice at the stall.

When did the Delicacy Extravaganza stalls start having break time?

The screen was still playing a pre-recorded video of all the delicious food that came out from Mag’s hands, and that made some people stop to watch.

The stall owners around had mixed feelings when they saw the resentful customers.

It was inevitable that they would feel envious. They had participated in so many Delicacy Extravaganzas, and they had never seen a stall owner who made rules for the customers. Neither had they seen a stall owner who could cause such an uproar after starting for just half a day.

Of course, none of them had ever seen a stall owner who would leave a large crowd of customers behind to bring his employee out for a lunch break.

Other stall owners would grab a cane, and watch behind their employees to see who wasn’t serious at work.

“I guess Mamy Restaurant will be dominating the charts for the Delicacy Extravaganza Delicious Cuisine Rankings.”

“Well-deserved. Just take a look. None of us can defeat them. We can’t be too jealous of that.”

“Luckily they are only doing four octopus tentacle series dishes. Otherwise, I don’t think we can compete with them.”

A few stall owners gathered together, and their topic of discussion was inevitably a little sour.

“They’re only joining the Delicacy Extravaganza for one day. A few days later, the customers will forget their taste. Let’s work a little harder. There’s still hope,” Alva said as he forced out a smile.

“They have such a good spot, so many customers, a long list of customers buying their product, and fast serving speed, but they are only participating for one day?” Everyone was shocked. That was a little unimaginable for them.

However, this piece of news quickly got everyone thinking. The Delicacy Extravaganza would be going on for seven days, and although they could not win against Mamy Restaurant today, no one would know for sure seven days later.

After the short break, everyone returned to the stall.

Before they even reached the stall, Mag was already faced with several death stares.

“Why is there a line?” Mag was shocked at the long line in front of the stall. He did not expect that people would still line up after the notice was placed. After all, this was not Mamy Restaurant, and the customers were not his regulars.

However, Mag was not new to this. He brought the ladies to the stall without feeling sorry, and quickly prepared for operation.

Mag made all the food on the spot. He switched the screen to live-stream his cooking. He held Fat Head Fish in his hand, and the ingredients were cut into equal pieces in the air with a wave of the cleaver, falling into their respective baskets for side ingredients.

The expressions of the customers, who were deeply resentful, slowly started to look better upon watching the scene.

They did not think that the chef who appeared quite young was actually so good with his cutting skills. He was able to cut the ingredients up into equal sizes despite holding a large and bulky cleaver. His actions were so swift they made housewives look bad.

Just watching the ingredients getting prepared was a performance to behold. That made the customers not so angry anymore. At the same time, they were already looking forward to the delicacies that had explosive reviews.

Of course, the biggest reason was that while lining up, they were already forced to watch the four dishes that were on repeat umpteen times. All they wanted to do now was to quickly try them so that they could satisfy their angry stomachs.

“Boss Mag, I heard that Little Boss had advanced to the top 32 in the Magic Caster Tournament yesterday. On top of that, she was in the magic caster category. What a young talent,” Dicus congratulated Mag when he came over with his child for the Delicacy Extravaganza.

The Roth Empire's Magic Caster Tournament was the most prestigious magic caster competition on the Norland Continent. Even though it was limited to only those under the 8th-tier, there would still be magic casters who displayed their flair during every competition, thus becoming a name to behold in the magic caster world.

Amy was able to enter the top 32 at the age of four in the magic caster category, and this achievement itself was undefeatable. When the city lord heard the news of that yesterday, he was equally stunned.

Upon hearing that, the customers standing in front were all in for the gossip.

They did not expect the chef, who looked rather young, to already have a child. On top of that, his child was also a talented magic caster?

"I see, that's pretty good." Mag nodded with a calm expression, but his hands had never stopped.

"Amy joined the magic caster category, not the youth category," Dicus emphasized again, thinking that Mag did not hear him clearly.

"I guess it's very embarrassing for those magic casters who lost to her?" Mag asked with a smile, as though he had just realized.

"Err..." Dicus was stunned. That was quite a novel perspective. However, after thinking for a while, he nodded, and said, "I guess it's pretty awkward."

"Amy is good at everything except acting. Otherwise, she could let them lose with more dignity," Mag said regretfully with a sigh.

"I..." Dicus glanced at his son, who was munching happily on a pastry, and suddenly felt that his son was very disobedient.

"Father, I want to eat this cute little ball," Dicus's son said as he pointed his plump little finger at the octopus ball.

"Er..." Dicus glanced at his watch, and then at the long line behind, and was conflicted. He had to go back for a meeting later, and might not have time to line up.

"Wait for a while, and get the child an octopus ball," Mag said with a smile. "It's going to be break time in a few minutes. I'll make a serving for him separately."

Chapter 1873: Do Not Look Down On The Poor Youth!

The customers in the line all looked at the little boy enviously. They had been lining up for so long, but they did not expect that the first person to get to try the octopus ball would be this little boy.

"Boss, I don't think that's very appropriate. Didn't you say that you have to line up to purchase the food?" an orc at the back asked impatiently.

"That's right. We're all lining up. You're the one who set the rule. How could you make food for someone else just like that?" a few others chimed in.

"Let's forget it. We'll come over and try it another time." Dicus did not want to put Mag on the spot. He held his son's hand, and turned to leave.

However, Mag stopped him, raised his hand with a smile, and told the customers, “The break ends at 2 pm sharp. I still have six minutes of my personal time to make a serving of octopus balls for the child. I’ll be sure to start operations at 2 pm sharp. I am a punctual person, and I hope all of you are too.”

The crowd looked at his expensive watch. It was indeed not 2 pm yet, and they complained less.

“Hold on, kid.” Mag smiled at Dicus’s child, Udyr. He scooped a spoonful of batter, and poured it into the preheated grill.

Dicus was a regular at Mamy Restaurant, and was also Mag’s old friend. He was basically in charge of things regarding the city lord’s castle. Udyr and Amy were of similar age, and there was still time, so Mag would naturally be more than happy to make one serving for him.

In less than three minutes, a large serving of octopus balls was placed in a wooden box. Mag squeezed out the sauce, and sprinkled some bonito flakes and shredded seaweed. After that, he passed it to Udyr, who was already swallowing his saliva. “Be careful, it’s hot. Wait for a while before eating.”

“Thanks, Uncle.” Udyr received the octopus balls with both hands and thanked Mag courteously.

“Thank you, Boss Mag.” Dicus passed Mag a silver coin.

“It’s alright. It’s for the child.” Mag shook his head with a smile without receiving it.

“Alright. I’ll host Little Boss at my house to play next time. This little doesn’t have much except for toys. I think Little Boss would like it too.” Dicus kept his coin, and bade Mag farewell with Udyr.

Mag cleaned up the grill, scooped up a large spoonful of batter, and began his performance.

The octopus ball grill had not been empty since the morning, so it was impossible that Mag was unable to finish his stock. It would, therefore, probably be the case in the afternoon as well.

Meanwhile, the customers who had been waiting for a long time finally got to enjoy the display of techniques. With a thin bamboo stick, Mag morphed into a swordsman with exceptional sword techniques as he made the octopus balls dance on the tip of his bamboo skewer.

At 2 pm sharp, the stall was open for business, and the first batch of octopus balls was completed. It was served the moment it was ordered, and that made the line that had been stalled for a long time start moving again.

On the solemn award-giving ceremony, having the king personally hand over the award was an honor that called for envy.

“Thank you.” Amy received the trophy Andre presented to her with both hands. Her smiling face and glittering eyes were reflected on the shining trophy.

“Little Amy, you are very talented. If you like the Roth Empire, you can join us any time.” Andre smiled amiably at Amy.

“Er, I’ll have to think about that and ask my father.” Amy blinked as she avoided giving him a direct reply.

The magic caster contestants downstage all looked at Amy enviously. With the trophy in her hand, it was akin to holding a direct pass to the upper class of the Roth Empire.

On top of that, the king even personally offered her a place in the Magus Tower. What an honor.

However, even if she was not the champion, with just her talent and the status of being Master Krassu's disciple, she was already in the upper class.

Jasper, who was standing at the side, had a complicated expression.

He was supposed to be the one standing in the center. However, he was defeated today by a little four-year-old magic caster. She crushed his ego, and reduced him to a cafare.

Andre smiled. He did not mind that Amy did not agree, and turned to walk towards Jasper.

Jasper quickly stood up tall. He looked at the king as the latter walked towards him. His heart raced. Could His Majesty be presenting him with his award too? According to tradition, the first runner-up would not get such treatment. Why...

"Jasper, right? You're an excellent magic caster. Very young and capable. Don't give up easily. You have excellent talent and capabilities, and are the role model for the younger generation of magic casters. I have high expectations of you, and I hope you can become the pillar of support for our nation." Andre praised Jasper as he passed him the silver trophy.

"Thank you, Your Majesty." Jasper quickly received the trophy, and bowed deeply. His voice trembled uncontrollably with agitation, but he held the trophy extra carefully.

His Majesty had presented him with the trophy. What an honor that was for Jasper, who was only the first runner-up.

On top of that, the king's words to him ignited his passion once again.

"Hm?"

"His Majesty actually presented the award personally to Senior Jasper. It seems like even though he lost to Amy, His Majesty still has high expectations for him."

"The little girl is after all from a different race. It's impossible to get her to be loyal to the empire. Therefore, His Majesty chose Jasper."

The disciples from the Magus Tower and the magic caster contestants were all shocked. At the same time, they could guess what Andre had in mind.

"This must be worth a lot of money, right? Is this made of real gold? I heard from the uncle next door that if you bite on it and there are teeth marks, it is real gold." Amy seemed to be oblivious to whatever was happening around her as she stared at the trophy in her hands. She thought seriously for a while before opening her mouth and biting on the trophy.

She opened her mouth again, and saw that there were two rows of faint teeth marks on the golden trophy. Her eyes lit up as she exclaimed, "It's real gold!"

Many people saw that, and although they did not know what she was doing, they were struck by her adorableness.

After the award ceremony for the magic caster category, Amy returned to Krassu's side with her trophy. She inched close to Krassu, and whispered, "Master, this is made of real gold."

"Hm?" Krassu glanced at the golden trophy Amy was hugging tightly. "Did they start to cut costs even on the trophies now?"

"Look, I bit on it secretly, and there are marks." Amy turned the trophy to show Krassu the two faint rows of teeth marks.

Krassu reached for the trophy and flicked it. A soft "ting" echoed within the trophy before disappearing.

Children's teeth are good indeed. She could even bite into a dragon's humming stone. Krassu could not help but lament to himself with a strange expression.

The youth category award ceremony took place after. Kassadin received his trophy from Richard as whispers filled the arena, and walked downstage with his face red with embarrassment.

Things will change with time, do not look down on the poor youth! I, Kassadin, will definitely be back three years later! Kassadin made a promise to himself as he walked down the stage with his fists clenched.

He had to take back double of what he lost today!

"Master, are all the champion trophies for the Magic Caster Tournament made of gold? Can I come again next time?"

Just then, a little girl walked past Kassadin with a golden trophy in her arms.

Thud.

Kassadin knelt to the ground.

Chapter 1874: Free Things Are The Most Expensive

"Boss, this time we have better food than last year, but the crowd has gone to Mamy Restaurant. On top of that, these customers were all holding the food bought there, eating and walking, and completely ignoring us. This won't do," the worker at a pancake shop, which was diagonally in front of Mamy Restaurant's stall, said depressedly.

A middle-aged man with a big, round belly stroked his bare head, and felt like pulling his hair off.

Smore Pancakes managed to emerge as one of the popular stalls in last year's Delicacy Extravaganza due to its crispy pancakes, affordable price, and acceptable texture.

On top of that, they made a name for themselves with their popularity at the Delicacy Extravaganza last year. Within a short span of a year, they turned from a street stall to a shop with 10 branches in Chaos City. They could be considered a legend of Chaos City's world of delicacies.

They obtained an even better spot in this year's Delicacy Extravaganza, close to the entrance. Smore was already prepared to make it big, and deployed all the outstanding employees from the various branches. On top of that, he prepared a lot of ingredients, with the hope that they could make a miracle happen again.

Despite opening up many branches within a year, only Smore knew that behind all the glory, the fried pancakes were not sustainable. After the hype from the Delicacy Extravaganza died down, the income of the branches started declining, and some of the branches were even starting to make a loss.

Therefore, Smore had to make Smore Pancakes big again in this year's Delicacy Extravaganza. His ultimate goal was naturally to make it into the Delicious Cuisine Rankings.

As long as they managed to get into the top five, Smore Pancakes would not have to worry about business for the coming year, and might even be able to open another 10 branches. In any case, copying another shop was a brainless thing, and he was adept at it.

However, Mamy Restaurant had dashed all his hopes and dreams.

The lining-up rule that was unheard of and the live stream on the screen were thought to be means that would chase customers away, but Smore did not expect customers to flood in wave after wave.

From morning until now, there would be at least 2000 customers who had lined up in front of Mamy Restaurant's stall. As for those who stood by to watch out of curiosity, the numbers even reached tens of thousands.

As for Smore... From morning until now, the total number of fried pancakes they sold in total was less than 1,000.

This was not 1,000 servings of octopus balls which cost 40 copper coins per serving, but 1,000 fried pancakes which cost three copper coins per pancake.

The dozens of employees were standing around with nothing to do, and they were so bored they actually started watching the live stream.

If this went on, not only would they be unable to recoup their losses at this year's Delicacy Extravaganza, they would also have no hope of making it into the rankings, and bringing Smore Pancakes back to life. Their goal of getting bigger and stronger would also end up as just a dream.

*This won't do. I must think of a way to bring the crowd over. Even if it's sh*t, as long as it looks like many people are eating it, we'll still be able to make it into the rankings.* Smore started racking his brains. He had employed several underhand means during last year's Delicacy Extravaganza to make the fried pancakes shoot to fame.

To make it to the rankings, having capabilities was one thing, but technique was equally important.

The fried pancake tasted better than the street pancakes texture-wise. However, the cost of making it was no different from that of street pancakes. It was just deep-fried to become golden brown, and therefore looked way better than the regular pancake. With a paper bag to carry it around, the price of three copper coins actually made it seem too cheap to be true.

The oil for deep frying did not cost a lot, either, and there was no issue using it for a good half a year. All they had to do was filter the oil every night, and then throw a few bleaching stones in. On the next day, it would be a new pot of oil.

In the previous Delicacy Extravaganza, the street food all around was sold at tens of copper coins per item. Even the cheapest steamed potato with a dash of salt cost around eight copper coins. Smore made the decisive move to change the price of the fried pancake to two copper coins, and that made the fried pancake the superstar it became.

Actually, there was not much technique involved. It was just a comparison between stalls.

However, this year, despite a better location, they were faced with the popular Mamy Restaurant's octopus series. The three-copper-coin price was more than 10 times cheaper than the octopus balls, but they still could not fight with it.

Has the world changed? These fellows would rather spend money on good food, and not buy a three-copper-coin fried pancake? Smore's brows were tightly knit together. In terms of taste, the fried pancake was actually not that good. However, it was cheap, satisfied the urge to chew, and filled the stomach.

Why don't we play something bigger? Smore's eyes suddenly lit up. He quickly clenched his fists tightly, and turned to tell his worker, "Go find that signboard shop that we always work with, and get a signboard that says 'free fried pancakes'. Make it big and obvious."

"Huh?" The worker and the others behind him were all stunned upon hearing that.

"You mean... free?" the worker clarified.

"Yes, free. These fellows are too stingy. They would rather watch than eat our three-copper-coin fried pancake. If we can't earn money or popularity, we will be making a wasted trip in this Delicacy Extravaganza." Smore waved his hand, and continued, "We'll just give it out for free. We'll make a loss for the publicity, and open up the market first!"

"In that case, will the fried pancakes in our shop still be sold for money? Are we... still paid?" the worker asked softly.

The rest of the workers also looked at Smore.

"Don't worry. I will not take advantage of you guys. Just do as I've said. In the future, whether these fried pancakes are sold for money, we can still sell the other things. For example, this bag. Three copper coins for this bag. That would be equivalent to selling the fried pancake for three copper coins," Smore comforted with a smile.

"But we did not make the bag," another worker mumbled.

"So what..." Smore frowned. With a stern face, he said, "Get to work quickly, why do you have so much to say?"

Everyone shuddered.

Very quickly, the signboard was in place.

“Here, here, take a look, take a look. Smore Pancakes’ treasure: fried pancake is out for free. Come and get yours, first come, first serve.” Smore started shouting into a bullhorn while standing on a stool.

“Free?”

Gazes started turning towards Smore Pancakes.

After a slight hesitation, a group of people rushed over, and many of them were from the crowd standing around Mamy Restaurant and watching.

This was the first time there was free food in Delicacy Extravaganza. No matter what, since it was on a first-come-first-serve basis, getting there fast would be crucial.

Very quickly, the Smore Pancakes stall was crowded with people. There were shouts, curses, and shrieks. It was even more crowded than outside Mamy Restaurant’s stall.

The housewives standing in the line glanced at the crazy mob, and continued watching Mag cook. There probably wasn’t a second stall with such a comfortable waiting environment.

“They are actually giving food out for free. Isn’t that too much just to snatch customers?” Yabemiya said indignantly as she glanced at the spectating crowd that had decreased by half.

Mag glanced at the crowded stall, and smiled mockingly. “It’s alright. It’s just some underhand means. These people don’t know that free things are the most expensive. Free junk food can fill their stomachs, but once they miss today, they’ll never get to have the stir-fried octopus in XO sauce again.”

Chapter 1875: How’s Your Fat Eagle?

The free strategy of Smore Pancakes had indeed caused quite a commotion. The customers crowded all over the stall, and created a messy scene.

Looking at the crowd, Smore’s smile slowly widened. This was the scene and effect that he wanted.

In sharp contrast with it was the Mamy Restaurant’s booth across it.

Half of the customers watching had gone away, and the booth was less crowded.

The customers who were lining up weren’t affected, because many of them had been lining up for a while, and after being brainwashed repeatedly by octopus series dishes’ recordings, they just wanted to try the taste of the octopus balls.

Besides, lining up here felt good. There was a comfortable distance between people, and the line was moving forward in an orderly manner.

Even though the line was long, it was moving at a very balanced and steady pace. It made people calm down miraculously, and enjoy the process of waiting for good food.

A young girl turned to look towards the Smore Pancakes, and curiously asked, “Mama, why are they all going over there? Is there something even nicer there?”

“No, Baby. They simply thought they got a good bargain.” The young mother shook her head with a smile before meaningfully saying, “But look at their behavior and manners, Baby. They are fighting like barbarians just for a greasy pancake that only costs three copper coins.”

“Three copper coins...” The little girl touched her pocket, and took out five copper coins. “Even I have them.”

The mother smiled, and touched the little girl’s head. “Yes. Even you can fork out that money, so why do we have to forgo our respectability to fight for a free one. If you really want to eat it, we can use money to buy one when it is less crowded, and eat it respectfully.”

“What about the octopus balls?” The little girl retracted her gaze, and turned to look at the giant screen.

“A small helping of octopus balls costs 40 copper coins.”

“It costs so much... I don’t have enough money.” The little girl felt a little bothered, and looked at her dejectedly. “Why can’t he make it free?”

“Ptui! What the heck is this?! It almost broke my teeth. There’s indeed nothing good when it’s free!” Right then, an orc threw the pancake that he had only taken one bite of into the trash can, and spat disdainfully before walking away.

“I feel that this pancake isn’t as nice as it usually is? Neither the texture nor the taste is good.”

“It’s free anyway. As long as it is edible. There’s no way to make us pay for it.”

Two people who just received the pancakes ate them disdainfully while walking ahead.

The mother gently said to the little girl, “Look, a free thing may not be good, and it usually won’t be treasured, and will be attacked by those people just because it is free. Do you think it will affect the mood of those people who like pancakes?”

The little girl nodded, slightly confused.

“In fact, accepting payment is a two-way choice. See how interesting this uncle is. He set the rules so we can line up leisurely without having to fight like barbarians, and at the same time, we can watch him cook. We use a reasonable price to exchange for delicious food. I suppose this is what the Delicacy Extravaganza should be like,” the young mother continued.

“Mm-hmm. I got it now. If this uncle’s octopus balls are nice, I will return to buy them again.” The little girl nodded.

“Even if you don’t have the money now, you can come back to buy them when you have the money in the future. Good food will never be eliminated.” The mother held the little girl’s hands, looked into her eyes, and seriously said, “But you have to remember to never become people like them. You will definitely miss out on something precious if your gaze is attracted by that free stuff. You might never be able to find the precious stuff again when you go back to look for it.”

“Yup.” The little girl nodded. She looked at Mag, who was frying the stir-fried octopus in XO sauce, and gulped before asking, “Then, can we have a helping of that too? Will we ever have a chance to eat it again if we miss it?”

“Erm...” The mother was stunned before she smiled. “Alright, let’s order a small helping of that too.”

Mag actually didn’t mind the opposite booth giving away the free pancakes. The pancake was the first food he tasted after coming to this world. This thing... was perhaps suitable for grinding his teeth?

As for whether it would be better for grinding teeth after the Smore Pancakes deep-fried it, it would have to be proven by those customers who fought hard for it.

After those burly men, who were watching for fun, left, it instead gave his target audience, the housewives, more space to watch the recordings and learn.

Mag only cared to implement his rules and let his customers eat delicious food, and then exchange for matching rewards.

Of course, he had been very fair about his rewards.

The tentacle of a Great Old One was an existence that was even more valuable than giant dragon’s meat. It was fair enough that his customers could eat them for only 40 copper coins.

“President, do we have to interfere with Smore Pancakes?” the staff member asked Robert.

“Get a few staff members to maintain order. We can’t allow any accidents to happen,” Robert said with a frown. He knew that the Smore Pancakes’ behavior harmed the other vendors to a certain extent, but the Food Association wouldn’t interfere with the vendors’ operation modes.

“This bastard is so shameless. He actually made them free of charge!”

“Yes. He’s even more shameless than Mamy Restaurant. At least Mamy Restaurant wins with its flavor.”

“Are we going to follow suit?”

“Follow your a*s. The cost price of one roast pig is 800, and yet you want me to make them for free? Do you know how expensive pork is right now?!”

Smore’s smile got brighter, but the neighboring booths’ bosses were miserable.

Although Mamy Restaurant attracted many customers, there were still many other customers who went to the other booths.

Now, the Smore Pancakes’ operation was very devastating to the other booths as the customers left without looking at them after getting a big pancake.

However, the bosses were also tempted when they looked at the crowd in front of the Smore Pancakes’ booth.

Amy, who was about to go have a good meal with Krassu, was stopped by Abraham.

Amy looked at Abraham, and curiously asked, “It’s you, Fat Uncle; how’s your fat eagle?”

“Erm... Although it was a little difficult on it, it managed to fly back.” Abraham was a little embarrassed. That fat eagle of his was very embarrassing. But, he soon smiled. “Little Boss, are you going to have your meal? I know where the best food in Rodu is. Should I bring you there?”

“Really?” Amy’s eyes lit up, and she immediately nodded. “Alright, we will let you bring us there.”

With a smile, Abraham continued, “Hehe. Furthermore, Little Boss has performed spectacularly in the past two days, and made me earn two billion copper coins. I have decided to give you half of them.”

Chapter 1876: Are You Saying That I’m A Tigress?

“Half of two billion...” Amy blinked and pondered for quite some time. “How much is that?”

Abraham looked at Amy smilingly, feeling so enchanted by the little one’s adorable looks. He laughingly said, “One billion.”

“Is one billion a lot?” Amy continued to ask. She didn’t know what a billion was, but as long as it was money, and someone was going to give it to her, she could accept it.

“Errr...” Abraham just realized that the little girl was only four years old, and might not have a very strong concept of money. After a brief thought, he said, ‘Anyway, it means that you can have delicious food for the rest of your life.’

“Wow!” Amy’s eyes lit up suddenly, and an image instantly appeared in her mind. “That means it’s countless big chicken drumsticks, countless roast ducks, and countless pig trotters...”

“Yes. You can do whatever you want when you have one billion.” Abraham chuckled too.

Suddenly, he felt a hostile gaze. He slowly lifted his head up, and met Krassu’s judging gaze.

“Congratulations, Master Krassu.” Abraham immediately smiled.

Krassu frowned. He couldn’t let Amy be blinded by money and neglect her magical cultivation, so he well-meaningly said to Amy, “Little Amy, money isn’t all powerful...”

“But we can’t do without money, either. We can’t buy good food in that case,” Amy said seriously.

Krassu stared at Amy for a while, and then revealed a smile. He took out a gunny sack that was filled with dragon coins from his magical ring. “See, Master has a lot of money too. As long as you cultivate obediently, Master will buy you whatever you want.”

“Alright, alright!” Amy nodded before she kept that gunny sack of dragon coins in her staff[1], and said, “Master has worked very hard. Let me carry this for you.”

“...” Krassu.

“...” Abraham.

There were still many people at the Delicacy Extravaganza at 8 pm, but Mag decided to close his booth.

The reason was, of course, the depletion of the ingredients.

The Mamy Restaurant's booth had been popular for the entire day, apart from the one hour of rest. All of them were already very tired. Even Mag was sick of turning the octopus balls in the grilling pan.

"Thank you for all your support. We'll see you again at next year's Delicacy Extravaganza. Of course, you can come to Mamy Restaurant if you want to eat the octopus balls," Mag smilingly said to the customers who were still unwilling to leave.

"Mr. Chef, are you not coming back tomorrow?" A maiden with big eyes looked at Mag with shock.

The other customers were also perplexed when they heard that.

The Delicacy Extravaganza would span seven days, and today was only the first day.

"Yes. Mamy Restaurant is only participating for one day." Mag nodded smilingly.

"I haven't learned how to make the stir-fried octopus in XO sauce, what should I do now?" a woman asked nervously.

The people who wanted to try making the octopus tentacle series at home were also looking at Mag.

Although they had seen how to do it, they weren't sure that they could actually follow in action. They planned to return for reinforcement tomorrow again.

"Although we're not coming back tomorrow, the giant screen will not be removed. It will play the teaching videos of the four dishes on a loop. If you all have any doubts, just come back to watch it a few more times," Mag explained.

"That's great."

Everyone was relieved to hear that.

"But... I still like the way Chef looks when cooking. You look so gentle." A maiden looked at Mag with a lingering gaze and stars in her eyes.

Mag smiled as he removed the apron, and led the ladies away.

He had collected a lot of fangirls today. However, they were not necessarily a good thing for a married man with a kid.

After bidding farewell with the ladies at the ice cream shop's entrance, Mag returned to the restaurant alone. He picked up Annie, who was learning magic at Xixi's place, and Ugly Duckling, which was staring and salivating at Black Coal, along the way.

Annie was very happy. She told Mag with sign language that Xixi taught her many amazing magic spells, and gave her a lot of delicious food.

When they reached the door, Annie opened her palm, and a tiny bean sprouted and grew in her palm rapidly. It soon turned into a bean sprout.

Mag looked at that little bean sprout with surprise, and said, "Yes. Our Annie is improving very fast."

Annie looked around her, and then planted the bean sprout in a small flower pot at the side. The smile on her face widened.

Irina came out. After flicking a glance at that bean sprout, she smilingly said, "Nature magic is indeed most suitable for Annie. It's an extremely good fit, and it's also easier for her to cultivate."

The three people and one cat entered the restaurant. Smiling, Mag said, "Do you all want to eat anything? I'll make it for you."

"Meow~" Ugly Duckling dashed into the kitchen, and soon came out with a long fish in its mouth.

Mag looked at Ugly Duckling, which had its head and paws soaked, and made the kitchen sopping wet, and gravely said, "Ugly Duckling, if Amy sees you like this, you will end up in the oven."

Splat.

The big fish landed on the floor, and instantly splattered around.

The shocked Ugly Duckling didn't forget to press down on the fish with its paw, but it was still looking at Mag with a slightly gaping mouth as if it couldn't recover from Mag's words.

"Do you think it's fat enough?" Irina was also sizing Ugly Duckling up smilingly.

Ugly Duckling's eyes widened a bit more. It pushed that fish out a little before retracting its paws, and took two steps backwards. It pressed itself against the wall and shivered.

This whole family was simply too scary!

"I'm just joking with you." Mag walked over, and picked up that fish. He tossed it back into the tank, and was prepared to make a pot of fish soup for Ugly Duckling.

Annie went up to pick up Ugly Duckling gently. She cuddled it in her arms, and caressed its head gently.

Purr, purr~ Ugly Duckling soon made comfortable purring sounds as it lay comfortably in Annie's arms.

Annie smiled too.

"She's such a kind child." Irina retracted her gaze from Annie, and went to the kitchen's entrance. She looked at Mag, who was processing the fish. "Oh, yes. Amy won the tournament."

"Huh?"

Mag turned around. He only reacted after a short while. "You said Amy won the tournament?"

"Yes. She broke my record of the youngest magic caster to ever win the Magic Caster Tournament." Irina nodded with a smile. "Furthermore, she's the youngest advanced magic caster in history now."

"She's indeed my daughter." Mag nodded. He couldn't hide the pride in his smile.

"She inherited the magical talent from me." Irina tilted her head up a little.

"Indeed. A tigress mom would never have a puppy daughter. She's a chip off the old block." Mag nodded in agreement.

“Are you saying that I’m a tigress?” Irina looked at Mag with an increasingly dangerous look.

“...” Mag.

Chapter 1877: Flying Restaurant

The three of them had a sumptuous supper.

They were taking it as celebrating Amy winning the Magic Caster Tournament

Of course, they were going to celebrate for Amy again when she returned tomorrow.

It was indeed beyond Mag’s expectations that Amy could advance all the way, and finally win the Magic Caster Tournament.

As for her becoming an advanced magic caster, it even made him feel a little ashamed as her dad.

If he hadn’t had all kinds of amazing encounters, squeezing every tiny bit out from the system, he would have become Amy’s protectee.

Meanwhile, that poor little thing in the past had become the most eye-catching champion now. It made him feel gratified and proud.

Mag put his wine glass, and said to Irina, “Tomorrow is our off day. Let’s go out for a vacation as a family after Amy comes back.”

Irina popped a piece of fish into her mouth, and casually asked, “Where are we going?”

“We have been to the seaside, snow mountain, and grassland...” Mag murmured. He couldn’t think of anywhere interesting to go at that moment.

“Why don’t we go to the Firefly Valley? Amy and Annie would like it,” Irina suggested. “At this time of the year, the fireflies should have come out under Dragon Island.”

“Alright. We’ll do as you said.” Mag nodded. The land under Dragon Island was an unexplored area. There were many interesting places hidden there. It was indeed worth making a trip.

After eating supper and washing up, Mag lay down on his bed. The system’s voice sounded as soon as Mag closed his eyes.

“Ding!

“Congratulations, Host. You’ve received the title of “Gourmet Enlightener”. The number of gourmet believers: 3652!

“Given that the Host has taken one big step in changing the Norland Continent’s food and beverage industry, you have triggered the system’s hidden reward: the recipe of Mapo Tofu[1]!

“The restaurant’s current level and the Host’s power have a great discrepancy, and the restaurant has plenty of upgrade points. Do you want to spend 10,000,000 points to upgrade the restaurant?”

“Gourmet Enlightener? This title sounds good.” Mag nodded. Those 3000 believers should’ve been obtained during the on-the-spot teaching today. It was only one day, so this influence was already rather good.

However, Mag cared more about the Mapo Tofu’s recipe reward. This was one of his favorite Sichuan Cuisine dishes. The spicy and refreshing Mapo Tofu was an excellent dish to eat with rice. Mag felt that giving away two dishes but getting the Mapo Tofu in return was completely worth it.

Mag was also rather interested in upgrading the restaurant.

“What upgrades can we do to the restaurant for 10,000,000 points?” Mag asked. It had already been months since the last restaurant’s upgrade.

“With 10,000,000 points, you can upgrade the restaurant into a flying fortress. The restaurant will receive the complete flight movement ability, and its speed can reach Mach 1. The restaurant will also receive a level nine anti-strike ability,” the system replied.

Mach 1 was even faster than a commercial flight cruising speed. Although it couldn’t compete with a modern-day fighter jet, it was already very over the top for a restaurant.

A restaurant that could fly was naturally full of gimmicks.

To Mag, the existence of Mamy Restaurant had already elevated from the initial stage of survival to the stage of ideals—bringing scrumptious food to the Norland Continent.

The ice cream shop and Mana Hot Pot Restaurant were extensions of Mamy Restaurant.

When he was fighting with that octopus monster in that underground cavern, and almost died in the tribulation lightning, his deepest and biggest regret was that he hadn’t watched Amy grow up, bringing her to see the different parts of this world and experience different ways of life.

Although Mamy Restaurant was already the name card of Chaos City, it was only famous in a small circle. Its influence couldn’t even compare to the pancakes that could be found everywhere on the street.

This was incongruent with his God of Cookery’s ideal to bring changes to this world’s delicacies, and let more people have a chance to try scrumptious food.

The live-stream tutorial at the Delicacy Extravaganza today was a kind of new attempt for him. The effect was not bad, but its influence still wasn’t enough.

But now, the restaurant gaining the ability to fly seemed to have given wings to his thoughts.

Why restrict himself to one city?

The world was so big, so why not bring the restaurant out to take a look?

Although it was comfortable to let the Mamy Restaurant’s regular customers enjoy the familiar and constantly tasty food daily, his experience and culinary skills could hardly improve in this manner.

“System, you said you want to make me the God of Cookery, but how am I going to become the God of Cookery? If it is just polishing my culinary skills, then my level should have already exceeded the vast majority of the chefs, right?” Mag asked inwardly.

The 10th-tier was already the end of a knight’s cultivation path. He had already been through the test of tribulation lightning with the octopus monster’s help, and entered into the realm of the demigods. However, he was still just a demigod.

He had already reached the end of this path. It was obviously very difficult for him to become a god through cultivation as it had already involved the level of gods.

Hence, what he wanted to know now was whether the God of Cookery that the system talked about was a real god, or it was simply the highest form of flattery for the culinary skills.

“The Host has indeed displayed a very serious and enthusiastic attitude for culinary skills in the past few months. Your culinary skills have also exited the novice’s level, and you have gradually developed your own style. You’re already not far from being a real chef.

“To become a God of Cookery, cultivating culinary skills alone isn’t enough. You have to walk the path of becoming a god of a religion. The believers that the system has collected today are the seeds. They will soon contribute endless religious points to the Host.

“The Host has inherited the Earth’s delicacies. You should make appropriate modifications specifically for this world, and make them food that the people in this world would like. You should promote them, and make more people of this alternate world become your believers!

“The power of religion that is constantly accumulated will become the Host’s foundation, and eventually make you the one and only God of Cookery in this world!” the system replied gravely.

“You mean that the more believers I have, the stronger I will be?” Mag pondered. This was similar to the ideals of the common religions, and it was more suitable for the relatively weaker chef.

According to this theory, his cultivation path as a knight had already reached the end, but he had only just taken the first step on his path to become the God of Cookery?

“How many believers are needed approximately to become the God of Cookery?” Mag asked probingly.

“The Host will need to accumulate two billion believers to become the God of Cookery through the power of religion!” the system quickly answered.

“How many?”

“Two billion.”

“Are you crazy, System?! The Roth Empire only has four billion humans, and there are only eight billion if we add up all the intelligent races on the Norland Continent. You want me to accumulate two billion believers?

“Have you lost your mind?!”

Mag rolled his eyes.

“There’s no internet in this world, and I cannot do a live-stream... Even if I go streaking every day, there’s no way I can collect so many believers!”

“There are always more solutions than problems. The best way to face a problem is to solve it! Go for it, fighting!”

The system’s positive voice appeared in Mag’s mind.

Chapter 1878: Father! I Am Back!

Mag didn’t sleep well that night. Apart from learning how to make Mapo Tofu, he was thinking about how to gain more fans for the rest of the time.

Weren’t those so-called believers fans if one used the more modern term for it?

Mag couldn’t help suspecting: if a belief could create a god, were those entertainment companies actually making gods secretly?

“The path to become a god on Earth has already been sealed. It’s no longer feasible, or else any Tom, Dick, or Harry can become one after practicing for two and a half years.” The system’s mocking voice rang out.

“However, their thinking is correct. In order to attract fans quickly, they need to have enough exposure. But the biggest problem in this world is there are no methods for high exposure...” Mag furrowed his brows tightly. He wouldn’t mind singing, dancing, rapping, and then debuting if there were TV and internet in this world.

However, it was barely the age of steam currently, and he could easily fall if he took too big a step.

The steam engine was still in the testing stage, so Mag couldn’t bring the TV and internet over haphazardly.

However, today’s live-stream teaching had given him some new ideas. Even though the alternate world’s technological advancements were behind the times, the magical developments sort of made up for the technological inadequacies. If used correctly, magic could even achieve the same effects as technology.

It was generations of hard work to get from video recorder to projector.

Add a transformation spell formation in between a photostone and a projectorstone, and a short-distance broadcast could be done. This was also the wisdom of the alternate world’s people.

However, the problem of long-distance transmitting wasn’t solved. Because of its huge size, it couldn’t be a family entertainment project.

If we put the projectorstone and photostone into a box, and shrink the transformation spell formation, the photostone could be a DVD... This project seems to be doable? Mag rubbed his chin as he thought hard. Then, we can insert a three-minute culinary teaching video advertisement in the opening scene...

Mag had already drawn three design plans for the magicvision before dawn, and started to build models for each one of them.

Because the images transformation system was already very advanced, Mag only needed to do an integrated optimization design to make the original gigantic system fit into a flat box.

Of course, he couldn't do the optimization for the spell formation. What he had done was designing. He would leave the optimization to professional formation masters.

Let the professionals do what they were good at. This was the rationale that his dad taught him since he was young.

Mag already had a candidate to handle the magical optimization.

"Done!"

Mag happened to get the blueprint that was just printed out when the 6 am alarm clock rang.

Mag racked his brain with all he knew to come out with this system to let the people in the alternate world skip over the black and white film and TV, and step straight into the age of color TV.

Currently, he still couldn't overcome the problem of broadcasting, so the first generation of magicvision could only be called a photostone projector. A specially made photostone could be placed in the reading slot, and the images recorded in the photostone could be played immediately.

This was nothing new. Many organizations and well-to-do families had that.

Therefore, Mag's objective was to make every family have a magicvision, making it a common commodity.

Hence, he had to break through the price's bottom line, and at the same time lower its threshold of operation, making the photostone DVD popular in the alternate world.

However, he wondered how would the people feel—many years into the future when everyone had a magicvision—when they discovered that the person who designed this wanted to make them watch a three-minute pre-installed commercial?

After keeping the blueprint, Mag washed up, and went downstairs to make breakfast.

Coming up with the magicvision couldn't be done in one day. Popularizing it and making it a necessity in every home was even a long-term affair.

Mag already had an idea on how to increase his influence in a short time to gain more fans after a night of thinking.

Today was a rest day, so he had told Irina and Annie last night to sleep in and wake up at 8 am.

Meanwhile, he went out on his bicycle, and rode straight to the Little Sys Seafood Shop.

"Boss Mag." The Little Sys Seafood Shop was already open, and Alia greeted Mag with a smile when he walked in. The other shop assistants quickly greeted him too.

“Please do your thing and don’t bother with me.” Mag nodded with a smile before asking Alia, “How was business yesterday?”

“The number of customers buying octopus tentacles suddenly increased yesterday. We sold 1000 kg of octopus tentacles.” Alia couldn’t hide the excitement on her face. Compared to the first day’s business, yesterday’s business was fantastic.

“Hmm, it’s not bad.” Mag nodded. The booth at the Delicacy Extravaganza had sold over 2500 kg of octopus tentacles yesterday. He didn’t expect the seafood shop would get such great results too. He continued, “The restaurant won’t operate its booth today, but the seafood shop’s booth will go on. You will bring five employees to take over the seafood shop’s booth, and the rest in the shop will guide their new colleagues. Will there be any problem?”

“No. I have already briefed them yesterday. There will be no problem with the current customer volume.” Alia nodded in agreement.

Mag had asked Alia to get the 10 backup elves that day to the seafood shop and train them, making sure that Alia could take over the seafood shop’s booth while ensuring the seafood shop had enough manpower.

The Delicacy Extravaganza was still the Little Sys Seafood Shop’s greatest customers’ source. The seafood series dishes had to become dishes that everyone knew, and even become Chaos City’s famous dishes before the Little Sys Seafood Shop could achieve the spectacular achievements of everyone eating the Great Old One in Mag’s expectation.

Mag nodded slightly, and gravely said, “There are about 5000 kg of octopus tentacles in the refrigerator under the seafood shop’s booth. It should be enough for today. You just need to bring our people over.

“The human traffic at the Delicacy Extravaganza will be tremendous, and you will be very busy. You all need to anticipate that you will be working from 8am to 8pm. You will arrange the shifts for the next seven days.”

“Yes. I will make the arrangements.” Alia nodded seriously.

Mag left a few instructions before returning to the restaurant. He trusted Alia’s ability.

Irina and Annie came downstairs just as he finished making breakfast.

“I was about to go wake you two up.” Mag smiled at the two of them.

“We wake naturally when we smell the aroma.” Irina looked at the breakfast on the table. There was youtiao, soybean milk, and tofu pudding.

Annie showed a pure smile.

After breakfast, the door rang when Mag was preparing the home cinema system, and Amy’s cute voice could be heard. “Father! I am back!”

Chapter 1879: We’ll Only Have The Strength To Argue After We Are Full

“Meow~”

Ugly Duckling, which was lying on the counter lazily, stood up immediately and pricked its ears up. Then, it leaped down the counter, and dashed to the door. It jumped up to grab the handle, and bumped the door open with its eight kg weight and skills.

Outside of the door, Amy was carrying a big trophy. She caught Ugly Duckling, which threw itself into her arms, and held it under her armpits. While rubbing its head, she said disdainfully, “Ugly Duckling, you’ve got fat again! Also, don’t damage my trophy. This is pure gold, which is much more expensive than you.”

Mag came to the door before Amy, who was wearing a brand-new magician robe, and smilingly said, “Our Little Amy is home so early.”

“Father!”

Amy dumped Ugly Duckling aside, and raised the trophy up high. “See! I got the championship and a big trophy!”

Mag’s smile got even bigger when he saw that the little one had a “praise me” expression written all over her face. He said smilingly, “Little Amy is awesome.”

“Teehee.” Amy instantly smiled happily. Then, she rubbed her little tummy, and aggrievedly said, “Can you make delicious food for Little Amy, please? Little Amy’s tummy is growling.”

“Of course. What do you want to eat? Father will make it for you.” Mag nodded smilingly before taking the big trophy from her. The heavy trophy wasn’t made of pure gold, but it had to be made from an even more precious material than gold. Looking at the two rows of tiny bite marks, Mag was stunned for a moment before he realized what happened to the trophy.

“Oh, yes, where’s Teacher Krassu? Didn’t he come back with you?” Mag asked.

“He went to look for Teacher Urien. He went next door after he sent me to the door.” Amy pointed to the magic potion shop.

“He shouldn’t have eaten breakfast, either, right?” Mag asked.

“Yes. He hasn’t had breakfast yet, since I woke him up to send me home.” Amy nodded.

“Alright, come in.” Mag nodded with a smile.

“Mm-hmm.” Amy skipped in. She rushed forward happily when she saw Irina and Annie. “Mother! Big Sister Annie! I missed you guys~”

Irina put Amy on her lap after she hugged Annie and smiled at her. “Little Amy is so awesome. You have broken all of Mother’s previous records.”

“I heard from Teacher Krassu that you were the champion in the past too.” Amy nodded.

“Yes. I thought nobody could break my records, but I didn’t expect my daughter to break my records eventually. It proves that I am really outstanding.” Irina nodded with pride on her face.

“I think I also have half of the credit.” Mag interrupted.

“Mm-hmm. Your back office support is indeed not bad.” Irina nodded.

Mag looked at Amy, and smilingly asked, “Tell me, Little Amy, did you use the close combat magic or long-range offensive magic more frequently at the Magic Caster Tournament?”

As the close combat magic’s actual combat instructor for Amy, Mag modified and improved the close combat magic that Amy learned from Krassu. He made it more practical while ensuring the close combat magic’s explosive power at the same time.

Krassu’s close combat magic was simple and violent as it depended on the powerful suppressive magic that was exerted during the melee.

Meanwhile, Amy was more like a magic swordsman. She would search for an opportunity to strike effectively. At the same time, she could maintain the high explosive power during a melee while she attacked precisely.

“About half each,” Amy pondered seriously. “But most of the time I used close combat magic to conclude the battle.”

“Father will make you fried rice now. Then, our family of four will go out for a vacation.” Mag went into the kitchen, feeling rather smug.

Irina wasn’t annoyed. She looked at Amy smilingly, and continued, “Let our champion tell us what other interesting incidents happened.”

“A big guy appeared in the children’s category. He defeated all the children, and then got the championship in the children’s category. I defeated all the adults, and got the championship in the adults’ category. Then, he got laughed at,” Amy said with a smile.

“That is really one miserable youth category’s champion.” Irina also laughed after she heard that. She remembered that the youth category’s champion when she won the tournament also looked older than her. It was really funny when he looked ashamed standing next to her.

Mag carried a bowl of Yangzhou fried rice and savory tofu pudding out before he packed a few dishes and a bottle of 50 years old rum, and sent them to the magic potion shop next door.

Before Mag entered, he already heard Krassu and Urien talking loudly. Although their decibels were as high as usual, the ambiance of their conversation sounded friendly for the first time.

Krassu laughed loudly as he said, “You didn’t see Richard’s face. It was bloody red when our precious disciple sent his disciple out of the arena. He couldn’t speak for a long time...”

“That old chap always thought he had taken in a few precious disciples. Amy has really done us proud.” Urien’s slightly hoarse voice also sounded rather excited.

“Isn’t it so? Even both of us old chaps couldn’t match Amy’s talents. She has only just broken through the 7th-tier, and she can already easily deploy the Frost Domain and her self-invented fire magic. Her fighting style is completely unpredictable. No one was her match at the Magic Caster Tournament. It’s extremely like my style.”

“Ptui! That is obviously my style! If it weren’t for the Frost Domain, Amy wouldn’t have disarmed Richard’s disciple’s magic so easily.”

“Rubbish! If Amy had used the Flame Domain, that kid would have been roasted long ago. How could he have hidden himself for so long?”

Mag quickly went in with the takeaway box when he heard the two of them start to argue. He looked at the two masters who were arguing over the counter with a smile. “Both of you masters are indeed here.”

Krassu and Urien turned to look at Mag together, and restrained their emotions.

“It’s due to both your teachings that Amy was able to get the championship. I have fried a few dishes, and brought along a 50 years old rum to show my appreciation.” Mag put the takeaway box and rum on the counter, and then took the dishes one by one out from the box.

The cut-up beggar’s chicken was still steaming. The spicy crayfish still had its pincers up. The red oil was drizzled over the plate of sliced beef and ox tongue in chili sauce. Finally, there was a little pot of congee with pork and century egg at the very bottom.

Gulp.

The Adam’s apples of both masters moved at the same time. Although it was still early in the morning, they couldn’t control themselves when the aromas tickled their noses.

“Please enjoy your meal, Masters. I will bring Amy out for a trip later, so I have to go now.” Mag smilingly went away after pouring out the rum for them.

Krassu and Urien looked at each other, and then at the dishes and rum in front of them.

“Let’s eat first before we argue. We’ll only have the strength to argue after we are full.” Krassu gave in first. He scooped a bowl of congee for himself first, and started eating.

Urien, too, picked up a beggar’s chicken drumstick after hesitating for a moment. After taking a bite, the crispy skin and tender chicken meat instantly woke up the morning’s lazy taste buds!

The tense atmosphere was eased by the food and drinks.

Chapter 1880: Gegegege

“Father, look at this.” Amy finished her Yangzhou fried rice and placed her spoon down, she pulled out a silver ticket from her magic caster’s staff, and passed it to Mag.

“What’s this?” Mag received the silver ticket that had a Buffett Bank VVIP stamp, and glanced at the 1 followed by a series of zeros.

“Hm? One billion copper coins?” Mag’s eyes grew large. That was a large sum.

“Has the prize money for the Magic Caster Tournament become so big? When I won back then, I only received a stupid trophy and a few stones,” Irina commented curiously as she looked over.

“This is not the prize money. This is given to me by Big Sister Vanessa’s Fat Uncle. He said I won the championship, and he won some money, so he would split half of his winnings with me. After that, he passed me this paper.” Amy shook her head with bewilderment, and said, “Is this a lot of money? I think it’s just a very light piece of paper.”

“If this was changed into copper coins, I reckon even 10 Amys wouldn’t be able to carry all of them,” Mag said with a smile. This little fellow had no concept of how much one billion copper coins were.

It seemed like Abraham gave Amy the money. That meant that he earned two billion copper coins from the Magus Tower. This time, the Magus Tower probably lost so much they didn’t even have a penny left.

That was one billion copper coins!

Mamy Restaurant had been open for several months, and Mag had been working hard every day, but he had not even earned a tiny fraction of that amount.

Amy had already become the first generation, self-made girl.

Meanwhile, he had become the previous generation of the self-made girl?

Look, life is full of ups and downs. That’s how wonderful it is.

“Wow, that must be a lot of money.” Upon hearing Mag’s words, Amy immediately had an idea of how much money that was. Her eyes grew brighter when she looked at the check again.

“Father will keep this check for you first, and I’ll give it to you again when you’re older, is that alright?” Mag asked Amy with a smile.

“Mm-hm. Alright.” Amy nodded without thinking or hesitating.

“In exchange, I’ll give you this bag of money.” Mag took out a large bag of money from behind the counter, and placed it in front of Amy.

The moment the money bag landed on the table, it made a loud and crisp cling.

Amy opened the bag, and saw that it was filled with copper coins, silver coins, gold coins, and dragon coins. Her eyes lit up as she exclaimed, “That’s a lot of money!

“In that case, I’ll accept this. Thank you, Father.” Amy kept the money bag happily. Compared to the check with an uncountable number of zeros, this bag of coins was more attractive to Amy.

She can still be so happy after exchanging one billion for 50,000 copper coins. I’m speechless. Irina sighed silently. After that, she looked at Mag, who was about to keep the check, and continued watching him with a smile, without saying anything.

Mag, who was about to keep the check in his pocket, paused in his actions. He looked at Irina, and then at the check in his hand. He hesitated for a while, and then presented the check with both hands as he said, “Your Highness, please keep this in your care.”

Small.

Weak.

Pitiful.

“How could I?” Irina took the check with a smile, and as she kept it, she said casually, “There seemed to be more money in the drawer.”

“Business at the Delicacy Extravaganza yesterday was not bad, so we did make some money,” Mag said honestly.

“That’s great.” Irina smiled delightedly.

Mag looked at Irina and smiled as well. Nothing beat seeing your loved one happy.

One billion copper coins were no small sum. Mag was worried that if Amy kept it with her, she would become the target of people with ill intentions. There was no difference whether the money was with him or with her mother.

As for the restaurant’s profits, it was only right to hand it over to the lady boss.

Thankfully, he still had assets other than the restaurant...

Mag washed up the bowls, and the four of them left the city.

“We aren’t playing with the big sisters this time?” Amy asked as she held Annie’s hand.

“Mm-hm. This time, it’s our family gathering. There’s just us.” Mag nodded with a smile.

“Oh.” Amy nodded. She glanced at Ugly Duckling, which was in Annie’s arms, and said, “Ugly Duckling, do you want to go home first?”

“Meow, meow?” Ugly Duckling looked at her with bewilderment.

“Forget it. You’re thick-skinned. I’ll bring you along.” Amy pressed her lips together.

Irina teleported them straight to the peak of the mountain.

“Howl~” Ah Zi could sense them, and it flew out of the cave. When it saw Mag, it quickly went up, and used its head to rub against his hand.

“Ah Zi, do you still remember me?” Amy went up, and reached out her little hand.

Ah Zi crouched lower, licked Amy’s little hand, and shook its tail. After that, it glanced at Irina, and took two steps back, towards Mag.

“Little Ah Zi, why are you afraid of me?” Irina looked at it with a smile. “Did I treat you badly?”

Ah Zi quickly shook its head, but took another step back.

“Meow!”

Ugly Duckling peeked its head out from Annie’s embrace, and meowed provocatively at Ah Zi.

Ah Zi looked at Ugly Duckling, and lowered its head to size Ugly Duckling up before using its nose to poke it.

“Tsk!” Ugly Duckling let out a hiss. It arched its back, and all its fur stood on its ends.

“Gegegege...”

However, Ah Zi suddenly started laughing, and started breathing out at Ugly Duckling.

Ugly Duckling’s fur was messed up immediately, and it was dazed from the heavy breaths of air coming at it.

Just then, Annie reached her hand out, and placed it on Ah Zi’s head as she shook her head slightly.

Ah Zi rubbed its head against her hand, and retracted its head as a sign that it would not tease Ugly Duckling anymore.

“Meow, meow.” Ugly Duckling calmed down gradually under Annie’s soothing caress. It found a nice angle to position itself, and closed its eyes comfortably.

“Let’s go. Time to set off.” Mag smiled and patted Ah Zi’s wings. Ah Zi crouched down obediently.

With a flap of its purple wings, Ah Zi disappeared on the horizon with a flash of purple lightning.

On Ah Zi’s back, Ugly Duckling crawled from Annie’s embrace into Amy’s embrace. It tugged onto Amy’s shirt as it shivered with fear.

“Ugly Duckling, don’t you have wings too? Why are you afraid of heights?” Amy pointed at the two faint winglet markings on Ugly Duckling’s back in disdain.

“Meow.” Ugly Duckling peeked its head out, saw the rivers and mountains passing by in a flash, and retracted its head quickly, burying it even deeper in Amy’s embrace.

“This won’t do. Although I can fly with my wind fire wheels and wings now, I will still need a flying ride if I want to go somewhere far away. If you can’t do it, I’ll have to find something else,” Amy said seriously.

Upon hearing that, Ugly Duckling quickly lifted its head, and looked at Amy nervously. It blinked its large eyes, and hesitated for a while before forcing out a short paw. It pawed the air a few times, and after feeling the hurling wind against its paw, Ugly Duckling quickly retracted its paw.

“Hoo!”

Ah Zi, which was flying very seriously, suddenly turned its head around, and blew at Ugly Duckling.

Ugly Duckling, which was lying on Amy’s lap, suddenly felt the strong air current, and flew away immediately.