

Stay At home 2251

Chapter 2251: "The Ugly Duckling"

In the end, Mag completed his procurement mission at the price of 889.

Mm. Fabulous.

"I want this peeler." Mag passed the dwarf blacksmith a silver coin. He took the shiny peeler and whistled a merry tune as he walked out of the blacksmith's shop.

"I thought he would be a big customer," the blacksmith grumbled. He put the silver coin in his pocket and pulled his book out again to read by the fireplace.

Mag had no intention to custom-make his kitchenware at the blacksmith. The products were not well-done and could not even be compared to Mobai and Lulu's skills, much less the System.

The System's kitchen set was completely sufficient for a professional chef to use, much less to teach with.

As for the other furniture like tables and chairs, Mag also completed his procurement from the System.

Right now, he only had to wait for the building's construction to be completed, to put everything in, and wait for the students to arrive.

Mag was in a good mood, so when he returned to the restaurant, he glanced at the little blackboard hanging by the restaurant's door and brought it in. After a while, he came out again with the blackboard with the following words written on it: Today's new product: Spicy Escargots!

The weather was cold and there were fewer customers drinking beer. Rum had become a rather suitable replacement.

However, few restaurants had dedicated side dishes to go with the drinks and that was the reason for the launch of the Spicy Escargots. It was a dedicated side dish to go with the drinks.

Mag returned to the restaurant and watched Annie draw as she sat by the window. He walked up to her with a smile and looked over to see what she was drawing.

It was a simple drawing with blue skies and white clouds. There was also a corner of Aden Square. There was not much technique involved and so it was a comfortable drawing to look at. It did not even have a clear subject, it was just everything one could see seated from here.

But Mag felt that the drawing was very enjoyable to look at. It was as though the scenery was all in the picture.

Annie added the last stroke and placed her pen down. Only then did she turn back to look at Mag with a smile.

"It's a very beautiful drawing." Mag praised her with a smile.

Annie took a picture book that was on the table at the side and passed it to Mag as she signed, "New picture book."

Mag received the picture book and saw a giant orange swan drawn on the cover.

The name of the picture book was: "The Ugly Duckling"

"..." Mag.

Mag flipped through the picture book with a complex feeling. After a while, he looked at the grill rack over a fire on the last page. There was a roast goose dripping with golden oil on it. He gulped and could not contain his laughter.

This must be a demonized version of Amy's 'The Ugly Duckling'. What a sad ending...

However, the story still had a moral. Did you think that life had lied to you? It did not. Your life was already predestined. No matter how hard the Ugly Duckling worked, it would still end up as a roast goose.

Oh yes.

The Ugly Duckling did not turn into a roast goose at the end of the story.

It escaped and the duck who bullied the Ugly Duckling since young became a roast duck, while the latter became an orange swan.

Mag looked at Ugly Duckling, who was laying on the counter sleeping as he wondered what it would feel if it were to see this story.

"It's... pretty good." Mag nodded. If one were to cast that preconceived notion out, this version of The Ugly Duckling was way more exciting and magical. It was also rather interesting in its sense.

After all, he did not understand how a four-limbed animal that was hatched from an egg at first could end up becoming an orange swan flying in the sky.

The two little ones, together with imagination, made the story even more interesting and fun. The story of a little orange cat striving hard to grow up, defeating the bad duck, and chasing its dream to fly was even more encouraging.

"Can it not be printed?" Annie looked at Mag with a little disappointment.

Mag replied with a smile, "It can, let's try printing 5000 copies after the mermaid picture book is sold out."

Annie's eyes lit up as she nodded eagerly.

Mag sat in front of Annie and reread the picture book that he browsed through quickly just now.

Annie's drawing skills were still improving. Although it was not an obvious improvement compared to Miss Black Cat, the details had made the drawings come to life even more.

The protagonist of this story is the Ugly Duckling and some other small animals. Compared to the complex characters and costumes in Miss Black Cat, the characters in The Ugly Duckling were much simpler but the details were done better, and that would make the reader more absorbed in reading the picture book. The reader would be easily touched by the cuteness of the little animals.

In particular, the Ugly Duckling's cuteness and clumsiness were brought out perfectly in the picture book. That showed how meticulous and observant Annie was usually.

"I think we can print 10,000 copies." Mag changed his mind. This was a picture book targeted at toddlers. There might be an unexpected result once it enters the market.

There were more and more customers buying The Little Mermaid in the recent couple of days and many even queued just for the picture book.

Annie had also become the idol of many young children. Mag would often hear Annie being mentioned by children who were trying to catch a glimpse of her.

The little one had truly become an illustrator and was loved by many.

"Young Mistress, we're all sold out for the 1000 copies today! There were even customers asking to buy the remaining stocks we have at 3000 copper coins each," Mala told Eiffie excitedly as she ran into the tavern.

"Sold out?" Eiffie was stunned. That was 1000 picture books sold at 2000 copper coins a copy and they were sold out.

She just received the picture books that Mag got someone to send over last night and sold them outside Titan Tavern this morning according to Mag's arrangement.

She did not expect that the picture book, which was limited to two per customer, would be sold out in just half a day.

That was 2 million copper coins earned!

"Yes, there weren't many who bought it at first but after one customer bought it and advertised it around, suddenly a group of people came running over to buy them, and in no time at all, 1000 copies were sold out." Mala nodded. Her fingers were still a little limp from counting all that money.

"I see." Eiffie thought. It seemed that the picture book's value was way higher than its selling price. otherwise, no one would request to buy everything at a 50% price increase.

Mala urged Eiffie. "Young Mistress, the customer is still waiting outside. Should we just sell our remaining stocks to him and earn 900,000 copper coins more for Master?"

Although Mala was not good at calculations, she was very clear about the math for this one.

Not only could they earn more money selling the picture books to this customer, but they could also save the trouble of having to sell them themselves.

"Tell him that we will not be selling the rest to him and we will also not increase the price of the picture book. From tomorrow onwards, each customer is only limited to one picture book and priority will go to customers who spend time in the tavern," Eiffie replied with a shake of her head.

Mag had already foreseen this situation in his letter and even instructed Eiffie not to sell them all to any one person. He would prefer to sell the books to as many people as possible because this was not just a very outstanding picture book, it was also an advertisement for the Black Cat Opera Troupe.

Chapter 2252: Brute Force Will Create a Miracle

“Wow! It’s so beautifully drawn!”

“Boss Hades’s daughter is indeed a genius illustrator! She made me look so good.”

“This picture book is definitely going to be popular. Seems like our opera house is going to be popular too.”

The Black Cat Opera’s actors gathered together to read the picture book. Mala sent it over to the maestro in the morning but they only got to read it during their break time and they were all impressed.

It felt amazing to see the opera that they performed daily appear in the form of a picture book and completely exceed their expectations.

Moreover, they had already found out that Mr. Hades had bought the exclusive right to use the picture book format of ‘Miss Black Cat’ with 5,000,000 copper coins.

The theater was closed and was being upgraded for the past few days. They had been rehearsing in the backyard and would welcome their audience with a brand new look, after the theater had completed its upgrade.

At first, they were still worried that the frequent closing of the theater after it opened would cause a loss of their audience.

However, after reading this picture book, their worry was diminished. Instead, they began to look forward to the scene whereby the theater was filled with an audience again.

“However, this picture book cost 2,000 copper coins per copy and Mala said that we have to sell 1,000 copies today, which means, it will earn 2,000,000 copper coins by today.”

“Wow... Doesn’t this mean that this picture book could earn us tens of millions of copper coins?”

“It seems that the maestro has made a not-very-smart choice,” all the actors murmured.

Vicki walked over as she scolded them, “Why are you all gathering here?! Don’t you need to practice? The opera house is going to reopen in two days time and I’ll punish you if you fail to perform and disgrace me by then!”

All of them quickly put down the picture book and dispersed.

Vicki picked up the picture book and the corner of her mouth twitched.

She knew even more information. Mr. Hades had sent a total of 10,000 picture books over to Eiffie. He priced them at 2,000 copper coins per copy and limited its sale to 1,000 copies per day.

She saw that Mala had already finished her work when she was resting on the second floor earlier.

The 1,000 copies of picture books were all snatched up in half a day. Its demand had far exceeded its supply.

Which also meant...

These 10,000 copies would be completely sold out in 10 days and earn Mr. Hades 20,000,000 copper coins.

Without any publicity and with a steep price, 'Miss Black Cat' suddenly became famous just like that.

It would be fake if she said she had no regrets. Right now, Vicki's heart... was bleeding!

Her initial anticipation was that Hades would release the ink version of the picture book in a few months time and with Annie's excellent drawing skills and great storyline, 'Miss Black Cat' would have rather good sales.

However, after deducting all the costs, given the black-and-white print's meager profit, the annual earnings wouldn't be too high.

However, she had never expected that Hades was so efficient and finished the printing in just a few short days.

What she even less expected was that he actually released a color printed version with a high resolution!

She had read the original book and she actually couldn't see that the picture book that she received in the morning was a copy.

What she knew was that the Norland Continent's printing technology was still in the black-and-white stage. Not to mention the advanced color printing technique, they hadn't even figured out the basic theory of color printing.

What Hades did was no different from cheating!

"Perhaps someone has smuggled the color printing machine out from Underground City?" Vicki murmured to herself, feeling that it was rather unbelievable.

That was the only plausible explanation.

However, no matter what, the color printing had made the 'Miss Black Cat' book into a source of wealth.

The picture book's intricate drawing style and outstanding colors were perfectly preserved by the color printing, and the exciting story was much better than the majority of the picture books on the market.

Vicki had already ascertained that 'Miss Black Cat' would definitely become immensely popular and bring Hades great rewards.

And, she had the right to share those profits initially.

"On the bright side, if the 'Miss Black Cat' picture book becomes very popular, more people will be willing to step into Black Cat Opera House to listen to the opera's version of 'Miss Black Cat'." A smile appeared on Vicki's lips.

Mr. Hades' 5,000,000 copper coins wasn't a bad deal for her. She used that sum of money to do a complete makeover for the theater and transformed it from a circus to a real professional opera house.

The opera house could accommodate 1,000 audience members and huge opera productions could be performed on the stage. She even hired a few new staff members for the theater.

She didn't dare to think about all these things before but now she had achieved them all in one shot.

All she needed to do was to remember Mr. Hades' kindness to her.

Meanwhile, the success of the 'Miss Black Cat' picture book was mainly due to his excellent mind in business and operation.

She even decided not to ask Xi to investigate the color printing.

If the printing machine indeed came from Underground City, to conceal any traces of Underground City, Xi would most probably kill Hades right away.

"However, I could still find out more when I meet Mr. Hades again. After all, it's better to keep a low profile with this thing," Vicki mumbled to herself.

Mag didn't expect that someone would link the color printing to Underground City. However, he was indeed much more relieved after making the Night Elves his scapegoat.

As long as someone asked about the matter of color printing, he would get them to go out and turn left to look for the Night Elves.

At the dinner table, Babla held onto an escargot with furrowed brows. "Is it impossible to suck out the escargots if we don't drink alcoholic beverages?"

The other maidens had similar facial expressions too. They looked at the escargots in their hands helplessly.

It was today's new product and Mag fried a helping for all of them during dinner.

However, after smelling the spicy escargots and sipping a mouthful of the spicy soup, the ladies were stumped.

"Slurp!"

"Slurp!"

"Slurp..."

After sucking out three escargots in a row, Amy put down the shells, chewed on the meat and said to everyone as she shook her head, "No. You can still suck it out even if you don't drink. Escargots are so delicious."

Everyone looked at one another, feeling their faces heat up.

“At a moment like this, brute force will create a miracle.” Irina took out a hammer and a chopping block out of the blue. She put the escargot on the chopping block and slammed the hammer on it.

The shell shattered and a complete escargot flesh was left behind.

Irina smashed a few more times before eating them with chopsticks.

Mag smiled as though he expected their predicament. He picked up an escargot, sipped a mouthful of gravy first before holding the escargot with two fingers and demonstrated as he explained, “Actually, there is a technique when it comes to sucking the escargot. Put the escargot in your mouth and cover it with your lips. Take a deep breath and when the escargot isn’t paying attention, suck gently. The escargot will naturally end up in your mouth. The escargot will only have a soul like this.”

“The escargot’s tail is already processed, so only the head is left. Everything inside is edible, so you can suck them without any worries.” Mag reminded them.

Chapter 2253: She Was 18 Years Old Back Then

Sucking the escargot required technique, so even after Mag provided the technique, the maidens still couldn’t grasp it.

At a time like this, the toothpick was put to use.

Mag didn’t want to use the toothpick. To him, the escargot flesh that was picked out by a toothpick had no soul.

However, he had to admit that compared to Irina’s way of smashing the escargots with a hammer, using a toothpick was indeed more refined.

Miya picked out an escargot, bit it gently and revealed a smile. “This escargot flesh is so bouncy and spicy. It’s so scrumptious.”

“Yes. It gets tastier the more we chew on it. It’s spicy and crunchy. It’s a pity that we can’t drink now. It’s a perfect match to go with alcoholic beverages.” Angela already had a few empty shells next to her. She picked up an escargot with her pinky pointed up. The escargot flesh ended up in her mouth with just a gentle suck.

Mag looked at her glistening red lips. This was perhaps the so-called racial advantage. She mastered it immediately.

“I intend to bring all of you to a vacation at the Demon Islands when we go on leave a few days later. Do any one of you have any issues regarding that?” Mag asked everyone.

Miya’s eyes lit up and she happily said, “Can we go to the beach to swim?”

Mag nodded smilingly. “Yes. You may bring your swimwear.”

“I like the beach. We’ll get to eat a lot of seafood.” Amy’s eyes were also glistening as she thought of the time that she stayed at the Demon Islands briefly.

“Yes. There are many seafood merchants¹.” Angela said smilingly.

Mag flicked a glance at her. He could sense that she was making a dirty joke, but he had no evidence to prove it.

After dinner and a brief rest, Mag opened the restaurant door and began their daily operations.

“Welcome to Mamy Restaurant.” Mag stood at the door with a smile. His gaze swept across all those familiar faces in the long lines in front of the door and stopped briefly on a middle-aged man with a square face. However, his gaze quickly went over him naturally.

“He has indeed come.” Mag’s lips curved slightly.

Rankster, the man who was as strong as him.

Even though he had disguised himself simply and restrained his aura, Mag still saw through him instantly.

The giant dragons weren’t good at such matters but it was enough to fool most people when he restrained himself to such an extent.

At least, he looked just like a normal rich merchant in opulent clothes when he stood in the line now. There was nothing special about him.

What made Mag surprised was that Elizabeth didn’t come with him. He wondered if she had come to Chaos City.

The restaurant hadn’t got any new employees ever since she left and they were short in manpower, so they were rather busy.

It naturally would be best if she was willing to come back.

However, Rankster, the king of the dragons, had returned. If he saw his daughter working in the restaurant and being given an order...

Mag wondered if there would be 10,000 warriors coming to demolish his restaurant. Just thinking about it was a little terrifying.

Mag was having wild thoughts as Rankster moved forward with the line. He was also sizing up Mag.

Initially, he thought that Miya was cheated and imprisoned by the restaurant when he found out that she was working as a server. He wanted to avenge his daughter.

However, after Elizabeth explained everything to him, he realized that the restaurant’s boss named Mag had taken Miya in when she almost starved to death and he treated her very well. That made him decide not to demolish the restaurant.

The name ‘Mag’ sounded rather familiar. He suddenly recalled that Alex’s first name was Mag when he was lining up. He began to feel suspicious and couldn’t help sizing up this young boss carefully now.

Their ages matched. They were both in their early thirties.

However, be it their looks, heights and figures, they both had distinct differences.

Humans were different from the other races. They couldn’t change how they looked so easily.

Moreover, a proud chap like Alex would never change his looks to become the boss and chef of a restaurant in Chaos City secretly.

With his culinary skills...

Rankster had tried his charred pheasant back then before.

He quickly retracted his gaze and gave Mag a basic judgment inwardly.

He was a normal human, but his physical strength was not bad. He was likely a 2nd-tier knight, but there weren't many traces of combat on him, so his actual combat ability was probably below the 2nd-tier.

Then, his gaze moved into the restaurant with anticipation and a tinge of nervousness.

His daughter, the one who was separated from him when she was still in the womb, the one whom he hadn't met yet, was going to meet him.

Rankster, who was afraid of nothing, was actually feeling scared right now.

He was scared that she would ask him why he didn't come to look for her all these years.

He was afraid that she would ask him why he abandoned her and her mother, and made them suffer humiliation and pain.

He was a terrible husband and a terrible father.

Yabemiya. This name was chosen by him back then, but he only mentioned it casually. He didn't expect her to remember it and name their daughter that.

Rankster walked past Mag calmly as he stepped into the restaurant, but he was stunned and his footsteps faltered when his gaze landed on Yabemiya, who was smiling at the side.

Yabemiya was standing there with smiling eyes, but he was instantly reminded of that maiden that he met among the flowers back then.

She was 18 years old back then and her life was ruined after she met him.

Countless memories flashed across his mind. He thought he was already emotionless and wouldn't be affected by emotions anymore, but he only realized he was lying to himself right at that moment.

"This way please, Sir. The customers behind you need to come in too." Miya's voice interrupted his memories.

"Y-yes." Rankster nodded and smiled at Yabemiya unnaturally before sitting down at an empty seat at the side.

"This man is so weird," Miya glanced at Rankster and murmured inwardly, but she soon retracted her thoughts and continued to welcome the customers into the restaurant and take their orders.

Rankster swiftly regained his calmness after sitting down. He seemed to be sizing up Yabemiya inconspicuously. Watching her move around familiarly, he felt a little heartache and a little relief.

She must have had a hard time all these years.

However, the Golden Dragon's bloodline in her had been completely activated. She was already a pure Golden Dragon and her royal blood was extremely pure.

And according to Elizabeth, Yabemiya had only activated her bloodline for less than six months and she had already reached the 5th-tier. Her natural talent was even above Elizabeth's back then.

She was indeed his daughter. With such a talent, only she could sit on the Golden Throne in the future.

Very soon, he began to plan the route for Yabemiya's advancement in his mind, including the techniques and cultivation methods to teach at her current tier, gaining experience at some secret locations and catching a magic beast to be her guardian.

"Sir, may I ask what would you like to have?" A familiar voice spoke up.

Chapter 2254: The Princess Collector

Rankster looked up and met Yabemiya's eyes. He instantly stood like a child who had made a mistake and said to Miya with an unnatural expression, "I-I want to order..."

Miya felt amused by his reaction. He was already so old, so he couldn't be ordering food for himself in a restaurant for the first time, right? However, she still gently said, "The menu is here. You can order whatever dishes you'd like to have."

Rankster looked at the menu and calmed down as he said, "Then, I'll have one helping of every single dish."

"You won't be able to finish all this food by yourself. Wastage is not permitted in Mamy Restaurant, so I cannot order all the dishes for you." Miya put down her notebook and seriously said to Rankster, "Food is very precious and my boss' time is even more precious. Many more customers are waiting for their turn to eat."

Rankster looked at the way Miya was trying to lecture him and felt rather amused and exasperated. Did this lass think that her boss is the most important person? Couldn't he, the King of the Frost Dragons order a table full of dishes?

Rankster sat down again and smilingly asked Miya, "Then, could you tell me what I should order, young lady? This is my first time here, so I'm not very sure."

In principle, Mag didn't allow them to recommend dishes to the customers.

It was to give the customers more freedom to choose and reduce their workload.

However, this mister gave her a special feeling. Perhaps, it was because he looked lonely, because he had come to eat alone? Or perhaps it was because she was amused and yet felt bad for him at the same time when he stood up in a fluster?

After pondering for a while, she pointed at the 'Buddha Jumps Over the Wall' and said, "If you want to nourish your body, you can order a helping of 'Buddha Jumps Over the Wall'. It's super delicious and it'll run out later."

Rankster's mouth couldn't help but twitch when he saw that 10,000 copper coins price tag, which was much higher than the other dishes.

This was indeed his dear daughter.

However, he still nodded smilingly. "Alright, I'll order a helping of 'Buddha Jumps Over the Wall'. What else, then?"

"Is your taste light, or do you like spicy food?" Miya asked again.

"I'm fine with either."

"Then, you can order a helping of sweet and savory red braised pork, a helping of the eggplant with garlic sauce that goes well with rice, and one helping of crispy and tender beggar's chicken. That should be quite enough." Miya asked Rankster, "Would it be too much for you?"

Rankster nodded and said, "It's fine. I can order more if it's not enough."

To a giant dragon, this amount of food wasn't much.

"Alright. Please wait for a moment." Miya nodded and moved onto the next customer.

Rankster looked at Miya's busy figure with an increasingly gentle gaze and a fatherly smile.

Amy propped her head on Ugly Duckling's head, pointed her little finger at Rankster and whispered, "Big Sister Annie, do you see that mister looking at Big Sister Miya with a weird intention?"

"An old lecher?" Angela happened to walk by and saw Rankster when she looked at where Amy was pointing.

It was still alright. He looked like a prim and proper mister. His gaze wasn't improper, instead it looked rather gentle like an elder.

Harrison chuckled and said to Gjerj, "The Spicy Escargots look quite good. Georgina went to visit her grandma today, so we can have a few drinks. The rum is a good thing."

"You can have more. I have to put my little princess Christy to bed tonight, so I can't drink too much," Gjerj shook his head and replied, but his tone of voice was rather smug.

Harrison patted his chest and said, "Tsk. I'll go put the little princess to bed tonight too. I'll guard her."

"You're not worthy." Gjerj rejected him without any hesitation.

"Hmph. I'll have one myself in two years," Harrison said angrily. It was true that he was envious.

He wasn't envious when he saw his boys previously. Instead, he was even feeling a hint of schadenfreude.

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However, ever since little Christy was born, Harrison watched her grow up, become cuter and call Gjerj 'daddy' adorably, he was indeed getting jealous.

"When do you and Georgina intend to get married?" Gjerj asked.

“We have to wait till next year. She said she will bring me to meet her father some time later. I’m feeling a little scared. What should I do?” Harrison was feeling uneasy.

“Are you afraid her father will call you bro?” Gjerj teased.

“Scram! Am I that old?!”

“Hehe. You have found yourself a young wife. Indeed, as long as a man works hard enough, his wife could still be underage.”

“Georgina has come of age! She just had her birthday two days ago,” Harrison said gravely.

“Yo, can you guys do the deed now?”

“Scram!”

Rankster looked at the two human fatties sitting next to him. He thought he could have his meal alone leisurely. He didn’t expect to share the table with three other people, two of them were even very talkative.

“I, Rankster, have never shared tables with anyone...”

He didn’t voice out his thoughts eventually because the fourth person was brought to the table by Miya.

The rules of Mamy Restaurant was that the customers allowed the sharing of tables by default.

The elves were sitting at the same table with the demons, so it didn’t seem to be such a big deal for him to share a table with the humans.

“What magic does this restaurant have? How did it make so many customers so obedient? That boss’ power was only so-so,” Rankster murmured inwardly. His gaze swept across the service staff in the restaurant and he seemed taken aback.

That maiden of an unknown race over there was actually a 9th-tier water magic caster. With that kind of power at her age, she was definitely an excellent outlier on the Norland Continent.

The maiden standing next to the counter and using spatial magic to serve the dishes, was an 8th-tier magic caster, and she was an extremely rare spatial magic caster.

That naturally seductive little succubus also had an 8th-tier power.

And that little half-elf girl holding an orange cat behind the counter was... 7th-tier?!

Rankster’s eyes almost popped out of his eye sockets.

That little girl was only about three or four years old and yet she was already a 7th-tier magic caster!

No. Judging from the magic waves in her body, she was about to break through the threshold to an 8th-tier magic caster.

What terrible natural gift was that?!

A 9th-tier water magic caster, an 8th-tier spatial magic caster and an 8th-tier succubus were working as service staff in this tiny restaurant, and there was also this gifted half-elf magic caster. He couldn't help sizing up Mag again.

Who exactly was he? How did he gather them here and make them work as a humble server willingly?"

Mag didn't know what Rankster was thinking now, otherwise he would tell Rankster that what he saw only scratched the surface.

There were also Sally the current leader of the Wind Forest, Connie the chieftain of the orcs, Camilla the new chief of the vampires, Babla the princess of the Moon Nation, Gina the princess of the merfolk and Elizabeth and Yabemiya, your precious daughters...

The princess collector. He had indeed lived up to his name.

Chapter 2255: I Will Take One Bite

Rankster was still immersed in the shock brought by the exceedingly powerful potential of the service staff and the little girl in this restaurant, when a voice interrupted his thoughts.

"Your 'Buddha Jumps Over the Wall', red braised pork, beggar's chicken and the eggplant with garlic sauce." Miya placed the dishes on her tray in front of Rankster and opened the cover of the little urn that contained the 'Buddha Jumps Over the Wall'.

A rich meaty aroma surged out instantly.

This was the first 'Buddha Jumps Over the Wall' that was ordered that night. The meaty aroma spread instantly and many customers looked over.

Meanwhile, Rankster who was sitting in front of the 'Buddha Jumps Over the Wall', looked dazed right now.

This smells so good!

There was a mesmerizing liquor aroma in the midst of the meaty aroma. He simply couldn't imagine what kind of ingredients were used and how it was cooked to make such an aromatic and rich soup.

"I'm afraid that even the gods and buddhas would climb over the wall when they smell this..." Rankster murmured as he instantly understood the meaning behind the dish's name.

There were all kinds of ingredients floating in the thick brown soup. They were visually soft but they still maintained their shapes. They didn't break apart due to the long cooking process.

Rankster wasn't particular towards food. Becoming stronger constantly was his goal. As for food, as long as it was edible.

However, he felt a craving for this soup right now.

“Thud.” Miya knocked on the beggar’s chicken’s mud casing gently with a small wooden hammer and cracks appeared all over it. Then, it opened up like a lotus flower and revealed the golden beggar’s chicken inside it.

The roast chicken’s aroma spread after the mud casing was removed and Rankster couldn’t help shifting his gaze over.

“This roast chicken looks great too!” Rankster’s eyes lit up. The golden roast chicken that was glistening had an enticing smell. It still maintained its unique aroma even under the suppression of the ‘Buddha Jumps Over the Wall’.

“Please enjoy.” Miya put away the hammer and walked to the kitchen.

Rankster brought the little pot over and scooped a spoonful of soup into his mouth.

The liquor aroma had seeped into the soup and it filled his taste buds gradually. He couldn’t differentiate if that mesmerizing taste was liquor or soup at that moment.

How did the taste of so many scrumptious ingredients get into this tiny mouthful of soup? Not only was it not abrupt, the rich layers were intoxicating. This was a master level’s cooking technique.

He ate another mouthful of meat. The soft and tender chicken had a rich meaty aroma. It was soft but not mushy when chewed, and there was an endless aftertaste.

He scooped up a piece of shark’s fin and the smooth shark’s fin glided into his mouth immediately. The shark’s fin that was soaked by the soup had a very special texture and beautiful taste. It brought a completely different experience from the chicken.

Rankster felt a mild numbness on his scalp and sweat appeared on his forehead. He had never experienced such extreme tastiness before.

The whole small pot of ‘Buddha Jumps Over the Wall’ ended up in his stomach very quickly.

He put down the clean little soup pot and licked his lips, wishing for more.

Looking at the clean pot, he felt surprised and amused at the same time.

Harrison and Gjerj raised their eyebrows in shock.

This mister gulped down the 10,000-copper coins-per-helping ‘Buddha Jumps Over the Wall’ as if he was just drinking a bowl of hot soup before his main course.

Unfortunately, they had no idea that to Rankster, this was already a very refined way of eating. After all, he was using a spoon for the first time in his life.

“Could it be that I have been alone for too long?” Rankster thought as he picked up that golden roast chicken.

The roast chicken wasn’t small. If they measured the food portion for humans, it was just enough for one meal for an adult.

Rankster tore a chicken thigh off and then bit off half of it with a single bite.

The crispy chicken skin broke off easily and the tender chicken meat dissolved in his mouth. The fattiness and freshness that belonged to a chicken blossomed instantaneously on the taste buds on the tip of his tongue immediately.

Before he could chew, the chicken slid down his throat like a naughty little chick.

It was tender and tasted unique. This unexpected scrumptiousness stumped Rankster.

Different from the chicken in the 'Buddha Jumps Over the Wall', this chicken had a roasted fragrance which elevated the meat into the main character.

"Amazing!" Rankster relaxed his eyebrows, feeling captivated by this chicken.

He ate the remaining half chicken drumstick. He even chewed and swallowed the crispy chicken bone.

"Gulp." Harrison's Adam apple moved; he was just casually looking at this mister who looked righteous but ate ravenously.

However, the way that he ate... looked rather appetizing. It made them feel hungry.

Gjerj gave him a look, hinting to him not to stare at Rankster.

Judging from the way he ate, this gentleman shouldn't be a human.

The orcs retained certain orcs' characteristics even when they resembled humans, like the kitten ears of the kitten-eared woman and the bushy tail of the vixen lady.

The majority of the demons didn't bother to look like humans. They had a proud sense of racial superiority.

Therefore, this gentleman most likely came from Dragon Island and was a giant dragon.

A giant dragon wasn't to be messed around with. They shouldn't try to antagonize a giant dragon even when they were in Chaos City.

Harrison retracted his gaze and turned to look at the kitchen, wondering when his dishes would be served.

Rankster finished the whole beggar's chicken before gulping down the entire glass of water at the side. He felt rather sated.

He seemed to understand why these maidens chose to stay on in this restaurant now. He deemed this boss' culinary skills to be the strongest that he had ever encountered.

As for his earlier thoughts, he had completely forgotten about them.

A chef with such extraordinary culinary skills must have spent the majority of his efforts on improving his culinary skills, so he couldn't be Alex.

Since he wasn't Alex, it didn't matter who he was. He was just an ordinary man to him.

Then, he turned his gaze to the remaining red braised pork and the eggplant with garlic sauce.

The eggplant with garlic sauce looked just like a fish, but if he looked closer, he would realize that it wasn't a fish but a whole eggplant that was carved out to look like a fish.

"A vegetarian dish?" Rankster frowned.

He killed, drank alcohol and ate meat from the time that he was born. He had never eaten vegetarian food before.

He had never eaten any vegetarian food even during his worst time at the bottom of the ravine.

He looked up and saw the busy Yabemiya. When he thought that this was the dish that she had highly recommended, he picked up the chopsticks with hesitation.

"For Miya's sake, I will take one bite." He picked up a bit of eggplant and popped it into his mouth.

Chapter 2256: I-is That Him?

Sour, spicy, sweet, savory, these four tastes exploded almost simultaneously in his mouth. Each taste was so distinct but they actually blended together in such harmony.

The soft eggplant melted almost immediately in Rankster's mouth. After the wild palate feast experienced by his taste buds, Rankster swallowed it and there was a lingering fragrance in his mouth.

"This taste... is so meaty! Even a real fish couldn't match its taste!" Rankster narrowed his eyes. Staring at that eggplant with garlic sauce, he couldn't help reaching out with his chopsticks with a hesitant and resistant expression.

"Just one bite? Just one more bite!"

"Mmm... it's so good!"

"One more bite."

"It's a little salty?"

"How about a mouthful of rice? Just one bite!"

"They are so compatible. Let's finish them both."

"This red braised pork is also so delicious. It's soft and mushy and the sauce is a little sweet."

The three meat dishes, one vegetarian dish and one big pot of rice in front of Rankster were all finished when Harrison's dishes were served.

Rankster rubbed his stomach, feeling only 30% full.

Therefore, he raised his hands again.

"Sir... You're already done?" Yabemiya walked over and looked at the empty plates in front of Rankster with shock.

Rankster nodded with a smile. "Yes. I would like to order another round of the dishes again."

Miya shook her head and said, "You can reorder the other dishes except 'Buddha Jumps Over the Wall', which is limited to one helping per customer. You can switch to another dish, like the Peking Duck."

"Alright. I will have that then." Rankster nodded. After some pondering, he said again, "Then, I'll change the other three dishes too..."

Rankster eventually ordered all the dishes on the menu and finished all of them for this meal.

"Mister, you're so awesome. You did the feat that I want to do but cannot achieve." Harrison, who was watching the whole time, gave a thumbs-up to Rankster, who was rubbing his stomach in satisfaction.

Rankster smiled and got up suavely to settle his bill. He held onto his takeaway fried rice and glanced at Yabemiya before leaving the restaurant.

"That's the first customer who has finished all the items on our menu, right?" Babla said with amazement.

"Yes. His appetite is astonishing. It isn't an easy feat to support himself." Angela nodded. She would have starved to death on the Demon Islands if she had his appetite.

"This mister... is quite interesting," Miya murmured to herself with a smile.

However, their busy work soon made them forget about this little episode.

Rankster smilingly asked Elizabeth, who was nibbling on the fried rice, "So, those maidens stayed to work in the restaurant because they get to eat the boss' dishes for free daily?"

Elizabeth paused and looked at Rankster with a funny expression. After thinking seriously for a moment, she answered, "Yes, and no. Although the scrumptious food is one of the reasons that they stayed on for, the main reason which made them willing to let go of their original identities and stay on in the restaurant, to do that seemingly simple job, is the restaurant's ambiance that feels like a home."

"The ambiance that feels like a home." Rankster was thoughtful. He looked at Elizabeth quietly for a while. "Have you worked in Mamy Restaurant before?"

"Cough, cough, cough..." Elizabeth suddenly choked and coughed.

Rankster quickly conjured up a glass of ice water and gave it to her.

Elizabeth took a few sips and calmed down. Looking at the glass of ice water, she calmly said, "This would be a glass of warm water if it was Boss Mag."

Rankster scratched his head and embarrassedly chuckled. "I've learnt that now."

Elizabeth finished all the fried rice on the plate. She put down the spoon and asked Rankster, "Father, when do you intend to acknowledge Miya?"

Rankster's eyes became smiley when Miya was mentioned. "I just met her. She looks very well-behaved and a little like you, but her temper is milder."

"Do you think that I have a bad temper?" Elizabeth asked.

“N-no.” Rankster’s expression froze. “I’m just saying that life’s hardships didn’t make her dejected. That made me rather gratified.”

“So, when do you intend to acknowledge her?”

“Today. Let’s wait for her on her way back after work,” Rankster replied.

“Alright.” Elizabeth nodded.

“See you guys tomorrow.” Mag stood at the door and waved goodbye to all the ladies. He watched the young and energetic maidens leave.

Irina stood behind Mag, holding a glass of milk and smilingly asked, “Do you think Rankster will acknowledge Miya today?”

Mag turned around and saw the milk mustache on her upper lip. He nodded with a smile. “I guess he will. He isn’t a patient fellow.”

“What about you?” Irina licked her lips and revealed an attractive smile.

“I’m not, either.” Mag closed the door and then picked up Irina.

“I’m only toying with you. I haven’t finished the milk yet,” Irina said coyly.

“Don’t worry. There will be plenty of it later.”

3

There were two figures standing against the moonlight in the middle of the street, making the ladies, who were returning to the dormitory, put their guard up.

Yabemiya halted her steps and her eyes lit up when she saw those two figures. However, she became a little panicked when her gaze landed on that strapping figure.

“It’s Elizabeth?!” Gina exclaimed and let down her guard.

“It’s indeed Elizabeth!” Everyone quickly ascertained who the maiden on the side was.

However, Babla narrowed her eyes when she saw the man standing next to Elizabeth.

It was a familiar aura. She had seen that man on the battle front at the extreme north.

Rankster, the frost dragon that created a big problem for the allied forces, who was also Elizabeth’s father.

What was he doing here in Chaos City? Why was he blocking their way?

“Ladies... please go back first. I would like to be alone with Elizabeth for a while,” Miya said.

Although the ladies were a little perplexed when they heard Miya’s words, they still returned to the dormitory after they greeted Elizabeth.

Only three people were left on the street.

“Miya!” Elizabeth strode forward and hugged Miya.

When she was on the brink of death at the frontline on the ice sheets, she had thought of Miya, her little sister, who was one of the few people that still loved and cared for her in this world.

“Big Sister.” Yabemiya also hugged her tightly. Her constant worries and longing finally had a perfect ending now. It was naturally best that her big sister was fine.

Then, her gaze landed on that strapping figure. There were already tears glistening in her eyes when she softly asked, “I-is that him?”

Chapter 2257: This Is My Decision

“Father.” What a strange and yet desired form of address.

She had once huddled in her mother’s arms and asked what kind of person her father was.

She said he was a tall and mighty man, and a hero. He would return one day, riding on a colorful cloud and bring them away for a good life.

Mother didn’t survive that cold winter and would never get to see her hero again.

Now, she saw him.

He was indeed tall and mighty, but there was no colorful cloud and he wasn’t the hero in her heart.

Elizabeth let go of Miya, looked at Rankster and said, “Yes, Miya. This is our father.”

“Miya...” Rankster took a step forward.

Miya teared up and sobbingly said, “W-why... did you only appear now...”

She had once thought she would be very happy, but when she really met this man, all she could think of was her mother who had died on that cold winter night.

It was only a small ailment, but how could her frail body have pulled through hunger and coldness?

Where was her hero at that time?

Rankster’s footsteps halted suddenly. He felt guilt and self-reproach when he saw the crying Yabemiya.

Elizabeth stood at the side and pursed her lips in silence, watching Miya with a pained gaze.

“She... Your mother. Did she talk to you about me?” Rankster asked softly.

“She said that you are her hero and will come back to fetch us on a colorful cloud one day.” Miya shook her head at Rankster and sobbed. “But you lied to her. Do you know how difficult it is for a human woman to live in Chaos City with a half-dragon child?”

“You told her to wait for you and she did, year after year. All her best years were pinned on your ethereal promise.”

Rankster clenched his fists tightly subconsciously and said with deep self-reproach, "I'm sorry, Miya. I've let you and your mother down."

An outstanding woman like her would have had a bright future if she hadn't met him back then, but she had spent the rest of her life in misery because of him.

Miya looked at Rankster and walked forward slowly. His stoic and handsome face was filled with self-reproach and pain right now.

She stood still and looked at the man in front of her. The man whom her mother loved to death and waited for her whole life.

Just like that, all the grievances and blame suddenly dissipated.

"Mother, have you forgiven him? Or, have you never blamed him before?" She stared at the glowing ring hanging on the necklace around her neck and was dazed for a while.

The ring seemed to have a spirit. It floated away from Miya's chest, got away from the string and flew towards Rankster.

"This is..." Rankster looked at the ring hovering in front of him, stunned. He reached out with his right hand and gently grasped that ring.

The silver ring had an ice crystal embedded in it. This was their token of love and the only thing that he had given her back then.

Although it wasn't exceedingly expensive, it would be enough to let the mother-and-daughter duo survive in Chaos City if she had sold it.

The white glow on the silver ring got dimmer gradually until it disappeared.

Rankster felt something in his heart disappear along with it too. He felt an emptiness.

Yabemiya also looked at the sky with tears in her eyes, but she blinked the tears away. Mother hated to see her cry when she was small. She shouldn't cry at this final moment either.

After a long time, Rankster put down his hand and walked to Yabemiya. He crouched down and hugged her gently.

Miya's emotions finally exploded at this moment.

She hugged Rankster tightly, as though she was afraid to lose him again, or perhaps, she wanted to express all her longing.

So, this was how a father's embrace felt like. It was indeed very warm, secure and safe.

Miya let go and took two steps back. She looked up at Rankster with an energetic smile and clearly said, "Father, I am Miya, Yabemiya."

Rankster looked at Yabemiya's smile in a daze before smiling too. He placed his right hand on top of Miya's head and gently said, "From today on, you are Yabemiya Cleveland, the princess of the Frost Dragons."

“Yabemiya Cleveland...” Yabemiya repeated her name gently and the smile on her face became even brighter.

“Miya, come back with us to Frost Dragon Island. Father wants to live with your sister and you,” Rankster said to Miya. He owed the two sisters a lot, so he wanted to spend more time and care for them. He also wanted to teach them how to cultivate and grow.

Miya shook her head and said to Rankster with a convicted gaze, “Father, I don’t want to return to Dragon Island. I want to stay in Chaos City.”

“Why?” Rankster frowned slightly. “Don’t you want to return with me?”

“No. I just don’t want to leave Chaos City and the restaurant.” Miya shook her head and smilingly said to Rankster, “As for the reason, Father should have the answer after tasting all the dishes on the menu.”

Rankster was embarrassed as he looked at the amused smile on Miya’s face. He didn’t expect this girl to recognize him.

“Although Mamy Restaurant’s food is indeed very delicious, as a giant dragon, gaining a greater power and seeing the bigger world and sky out there, are what we should be doing. We can’t stay in a comfortable place for too long,” Rankster said gravely.

“So, that’s why you left back then? For a bigger sky?” Miya asked him in return instead.

“...” Rankster.

“I don’t want unparalleled power and I don’t like the vast and strange sky and world out there, I like Mamy Restaurant. I like everyone here. I like the dishes that Boss makes and every child who comes to the ice cream shop,” Miya said with a serious and convincing expression. “This is the life I want to have. I want to stay here. This is my decision.”

Rankster looked at Miya, as though he had seen that stubborn maiden again.

The past events surged in his mind and his heart wavered too.

Yes. What was the point of getting stronger?

The women he loved were all gone. He was left all alone.

There was no one else to drink with him even when he was invincible.

Boring, boring.

“Father, you can stay in Chaos City for some time. I guess you will like it here too and we can get to see each other every day,” Miya smilingly said.

“Alright, I will stay here for some time.” Rankster nodded in agreement.

Chapter 2258: Boss Would Want To Hit Someone If He Heard That

Elizabeth watched this scene smilingly. She looked at Miya with a consoled and respectful gaze.

Miya said out what she wanted bravely and insisted on it.

She didn't have that kind of courage.

She had been pinned with great hopes ever since she was young.

They all wanted her to become somebody, but nobody asked if she would like to become that somebody.

"I-I want to stay behind too," Elizabeth said.

Miya and Rankster turned to look at her at the same time.

Miya's eyes lit up as if she already knew something.

Meanwhile, Rankster was a little perplexed. He said to Elizabeth, "Elizabeth, you want to stay in Chaos City too?"

Elizabeth looked into Rankster's eyes and gravely said, "No. I mean I want to stay in Mamy Restaurant too."

This time, she wanted to voice out her actual thoughts too.

It was Rankster's turn to be dumbfounded now.

Both his precious daughters were going to stay in Mamy Restaurant as servers?

The daughters of Rankster, the princesses of the Frost Dragons, were going to stay in Mamy Restaurant and be servers?

"Great, Sister. You'll continue to stay with me." Miya had already run over and hugged Elizabeth's arm happily with a bright smile.

Elizabeth patted Miya's hand, but her gaze was still fixed on Rankster.

She had already killed Fox and was the candidate for the next chief of the Frost Dragons.

On their way to Chaos City, Rankster had already discussed the matter of her taking over the Frost Dragons with her. He intended to groom her to take over the position of chief in the next two years.

Yes. Nobody cared if she was willing to do it again. They simply thought that she was suitable to take that position.

Hence, she wanted to tell her father that she wasn't willing today. At least, she wasn't willing now.

Compared to that icy Frost Throne, she much preferred Mamy Restaurant's comfortable and warm ambiance.

Those gazes that coveted that icy throne made her unable to eat and rest in peace, but here, she could open her heart and be herself.

This was the life that she looked forward to and missed.

Once, her goal was to find her father, and now this goal was achieved. She wanted to stop for some time and stay here with Miya and all the people who cared about her.

Rankster looked at Elizabeth, the daughter who made him proud, the daughter who inherited his powerful gift and combat ability. He seemed to have never understood her either.

“You may stay if you want to.” Rankster nodded, going along with her wishes.

He found out how much Elizabeth had suffered when she was looking for him after he returned from the ice sheets at the extreme north. He couldn’t make her carry on his ambition and will anymore.

Mamy Restaurant was really a weird place. It made both his daughters refuse to go home.

Miya hugged Elizabeth’s arm and said to Rankster, “Father, do you have a place to stay? If you do, I will go back to sleep first with Sister. See you tomorrow then.”

“I do.” Rankster nodded and wanted to continue speaking.

“See you tomorrow then...” However, before he could speak, the two maidens went away hand in hand and turned into an alley at the side.

“These two girls...” Rankster chuckled. He put down his hand slowly and gently murmured to himself as he looked at the ring in his hand, “Don’t worry. I will protect her for the rest of her life.”

“Mother left this ring to me, so I’m taking it with me.” Miya ran back and took the ring back from Rankster before hugging him gently and smilingly said, “Goodnight, Father.” Then, she ran away again.

Rankster looked at Miya’s back and chuckled. This girl’s character was livelier than Elizabeth. He couldn’t get used to it yet.

However, this feeling... was not bad. He felt he had just gained a mischievous sweetheart.

Miya hugged Elizabeth’s arm tightly and softly said, “Sister, I have been worried about you.”

“I’m fine. I simply went to look for Father.” Elizabeth shook her head with a smile, but she sensed Miya’s intention and felt warm inwardly.

Miya took out the key to open the dormitory’s door. After she pushed open the door, there was a loud bang and confetti burst out.

“Welcome home, Elizabeth!!!”

Elizabeth and Yabemiya stood at the door and looked at everyone standing in the living room with a cake smilingly, in a daze.

“Wow, it’s a surprise!” Miya’s eyes lit up.

“Everyone...” There was a faint gleam in Elizabeth’s eyes. She suddenly felt a little cold and her nose felt a little stuffy.

So, apart from Miya, there were still so many people who cared for her and doted on her.

"It's cold outside. Come on in." Gina stepped forward, took Elizabeth's hand and pulled her into the room.

Miya closed the door and there was only warmth in the living room.

"You have been gone for so long and I missed you." Gina gave her a hug first. Her body felt soft and comfortable.

Babla stepped forward and said with a blush, "Although I'm not good at expressing myself like this, I-I will still give you a hug."

Elizabeth hugged her back with a smile and softly replied in her ear, "Thank you."

Hannah went forward and said with a chuckle, "Big Sister Elizabeth. I'll treat you to some liquor later. I have the best rum."

"Sure." Elizabeth nodded.

"Big Sister Elizabeth, it's great that you are back." Jane went forward to hug Elizabeth with a sincere smile too.

"Good girl." Elizabeth patted Jane's head smilingly. Although Goldihorn didn't say much, she had always been well-behaved.

Angela was last to come forward. She gave Elizabeth a hug too. However, after hugging her, she softly mumbled, "She looks cold, but she feels soft and warm. It's so comfortable... Hmm... so big!"

Elizabeth's body stiffened slightly.

Angela took a step and smilingly said to Elizabeth and Miya, "Miya, I feel so scared sleeping alone at night. Can I sleep with both of you?"

"Sure." Miya nodded innocently.

"No way!" Elizabeth rejected her decisively.

"Alright. We'll sleep together when we get the chance." Angela shrugged. She didn't insist on it.

"Let's eat the cake now," Gina said.

"Where did this cake come from?" Miya asked with surprise.

She had been learning to bake cakes recently, but she wasn't successful yet. So, who made this cake?

"Me." Gina raised her hand and smilingly said, "I made it with ice cream. It's an ice cream cake."

"We only had very little time, so we came up with this idea." Angela interrupted.

"It looks delicious." Hannah swallowed her saliva.

Miya suppressed her laughter as she said, "Boss would want to hit someone if he heard that..."

Chapter 2259: Retirement Lifestyle

Early next morning, Mag heard someone knock on the door and he saw Miya and Elizabeth standing outside when he opened it. He showed shock and surprise on his face as he smilingly said to Elizabeth, "You're back?"

"Yes. I'm back." Elizabeth nodded and her cold face had a smile too.

There was no long speech or any exaggerated reaction. There was just a simple 'You're back' and it made Elizabeth choke up.

Yes. There was still a place that expected her to return and people who still missed her.

Mag let the two of them in and poured two glasses of warm water for them as he said, "You guys came early today, so take a seat first. You can look through the menu first. There are some new products released recently. Tell me if you have something you'd like to eat later."

"Mm-hm." Elizabeth nodded with a smile and sat down at a table close to the kitchen with Yabemiya.

She flipped open the menu and there were indeed a few more dishes added to it. There were soup dumplings and shaved noodles, which didn't look bad.

Miya recommended dishes to her. "You can have a steamer of soup dumplings and a bowl of shaved noodles. They taste great together."

Mag went into the kitchen and looked at the sisters through the glass window. He was thinking that there should have been a touching father-and-daughter reunion last night.

He had thought that Rankster would bring Miya away. After all, he was a proud fellow. How was he going to allow his daughters to work as servers in the restaurant?

However, not only did Miya stay, Elizabeth returned as well.

Even though he didn't know what happened, Mag could already imagine Rankster's angry expression.

To the restaurant that was short on manpower, Elizabeth's return was naturally a good thing.

Connie was busy with the restructuring of the Twilight Forest and Camilla went back to be the queen of the vampires. They were in need of people.

"Oh yes. Sister, do you know that Annie has become even more awesome recently? She has already become a very famous illustrator." Miya got up and took a Little Mermaid picture book from the counter.

Elizabeth looked at the exquisite picture book and said with amazement, "Annie drew this?"

Miya nodded and replied, "Yes. This is just one of them. She has drawn many of them and they are selling very well. They are in short supply every day."

Elizabeth flipped through the picture book and praised it. "It's awesome."

During breakfast, Mag announced Elizabeth's return officially.

"Let's stay for supper after tonight's dinner service to celebrate Elizabeth's return," Mag declared.

Amy munched on a bun and nodded as she said, "Sure. I'll try not to sleep after supper."

Mag said to all of them, "There's something else. You guys said you wanted to register to be part-time teachers at Hope School previously. Have you guys thought it through? Who among you wants to register? I'm going to check on the school's construction process after the breakfast service, so I can hand in the list then as well."

"I do." Gina was the first to register.

"I'm afraid I will spank those disobedient little ones uncontrollably, so I can give one to two lessons per week. I need to use the rest of the time to calm my emotions down." Babla raised her hand up.

Hannah said she wanted to teach the children how to brew rum. This was a very professional skill, even Mag hadn't learnt everything yet and had to ask Hannah to confirm.

Shirley wanted to be the teacher of archery. As an outstanding elven archer, she was very happy to impart her archery skills to the children.

Miya was very enthusiastic, but she couldn't figure out what she could teach the children, even after thinking for a long time. Hence, she could only give up.

"I think Annie could teach the children drawing. She can draw so well, so the children will definitely like her." Miya suggested.

Everyone's gaze landed on Annie who was munching on the soup dumpling.

Annie halted and looked up at all of them with an agape mouth and a befuddled expression.

"Annie, do you want to be a little teacher?" Mag asked her smilingly.

With Annie's current drawing techniques and skills, it was more than enough for her to be an arts teacher.

Annie was taken back before she shook her head and replied with sign language, "I-I don't know how to teach others to draw."

"Mmm. Forget it then. Let's wait till Annie wants to teach others how to draw." Mag nodded with a smile and didn't insist.

Annie still couldn't talk now, so this was a great obstacle to teaching.

During breakfast service, Mag saw Rankster again. He was dressed like the rich merchant from yesterday.

Mag could sense a faint hostility from him. Obviously, he minded that Mag got his two daughters to work as his service staff.

However, even though he was a little hostile, he kept eating the soup dumplings. It didn't affect his appetite at all.

“Seems like I need to go get a house first. It needs to be big to accommodate both the children. Of course, I stayed here for the kids and not for the food.” Rankster walked out of Mamy Restaurant and narrowed his eyes comfortably when the sunlight fell on his face.

Line up, eat breakfast, watch his children work.

He never seemed to have such an easy life before.

“What should I do next? Mmm... Let’s go chat with an old friend. Urien seems to live over there? He was merciless the last time we fought...” Rankster mumbled as he walked towards the magic potion shop.

He needed some time to get used to this retirement lifestyle.

1

Mag made a trip to Hope School. The four storey teaching building was already being built. The Night Elves construction team had demonstrated their professionalism.

Hundreds of elves with specific jobs worked energetically and rapidly builded.

Many teachers on their break were watching from afar and they made amazed sounds every now and then.

The elves were elegant and sophisticated in many people’s impression, but it was easy to neglect their gift in construction. If they had gone to see those exquisite buildings behind the textile factory’s walls, they would be shocked beyond words.

Mag confirmed the construction’s process with the construction team’s leader and ascertained the time to move all the kitchenware and furniture. He also made sure that the construction team could evacuate in time and wouldn’t affect the school’s reopening.

Then, Mag asked a teacher about the location of the principal’s office.

“Please come in.” Mag heard a familiar voice as soon as he finished knocking. He pushed open the door and entered.

Luna looked up from a pile of documents and showed an expression of surprise when she saw Mag come in. She put down the pen and stood up. “Mr. Mag, what brings you here?”

“I came to check on the construction’s progress and discuss some matters with you. Did I bother you?” Mag asked smilingly.

“It’s fine. I’m just ascertaining some construction items. Please have a seat here.”

Luna asked Mag to take a seat while she made a cup of tea for him.

Chapter 2260: The Double-Flavored Hot Pot Is My Bottom Line

“The ladies from the restaurant would like to be part-time teachers as well? Of course I would welcome them. They are all very outstanding ladies that are all good at something.”

Luna, who was sitting opposite Mag, was surprised and delighted to hear the reason for Mag's visit.

Luna had taken part in a few of Mamy Restaurant's gatherings so she knew the ladies of the restaurant and knew them well.

"Babla said that she wanted to be a tutor for spatial magic. However, she can only have two classes a week. Oh right, she is an 8th-tier spatial magic caster.

"Gina says she wants to be a music teacher. She is fine as long as the lesson timing doesn't clash with the working hours of the restaurant.

"Shirley wants to teach the children archery. Is there an archery class in the school?

"Hannah wants to teach the children how to brew wine but wine brewing is something even more difficult than cooking. On top of that, brewing rum requires a very large area and the process is also very complicated. I find it a little unsuitable for children."

Mag listed what the ladies said.

Luna replied with a smile, "We were still stressed about not being able to hire good magic casting teachers. If Babla is willing to come, there's no problem with two lessons a week. After all, spatial magic casters are very rare.

"Gina sings very well and if she could be a music teacher, I can arrange four large lectures for her each week. This way, I doubt it would affect her work arrangements.

"We do have archery classes but we are indeed short of teachers. It would be great if Shirley could come.

"However, we don't have a wine brewing career on the campus. Hannah is an excellent brewer but I'm afraid we currently do not have the space and sufficient teaching capabilities to support this profession."

Mag nodded. It was just as he expected. He asked, "In that case, when can the ladies go for the test?"

"Tomorrow will be the last day for all the teachers' tests. Do you think nine in the morning would work?" Luna asked.

"Sure. I'll let them know to go over for the test tomorrow morning. I shall not disturb you at work." Mag stood up and left.

Luna stood in her office and watched as Mag disappeared into the long corridor, before closing the door and returning to her seat.

Now that the school was opening, many administrative matters had been stacking up and that made her hands full.

Thankfully, there were many outstanding experienced teachers among the teaching staff, so most of the school's opening matters were more or less settled. The name list for the first batch of students was also out.

There would be more than 2300 new students joining Hope School this semester.

“Teacher Luna looked rather tired. Should I send her a helping of the ‘Buddha Jumps Over the Wall’ later?” Mag thought to himself as he rode out from the campus.

She must have been exhausted as her face was pale and the dark circles under her eyes were quite bad.

Mag could see all the effort she put in running the operations of such a big school alone.

If it was not for her passion for children, how could such a weak lady complete such a complicated and difficult task?

Mag was grateful to Luna and respected her.

She once protected Amy’s young and pure heart in the most difficult times.

Therefore, he was willing to do many things for Luna, including helping her set up Hope School to give something else other than food to these children.

“I’m so bored... So this is what it feels like to be Queen. This is so boring.” Camilla sat at the tallest tower of her castle, enjoying the sea breeze as she swirled the red wine in her glass.

A long, black dress hugged her long legs, which were propped up on her rocking chair and as she rocked gently, her full blossoms swayed with her.

“It is rather boring. Therefore, I intend to go to Chaos City. I’ll leave everything here to you,” Dracula said with a smile as he appeared beside her.

“No! Uncle, please bring me along!” Camilla jumped up from her chair and looked at Dracula with pleading eyes.

“Are you thinking of leaving your throne behind to become a service staff member?” Dracula looked at Camilla with a strange expression.

Although she had not told him why she went to Mamy Restaurant to be a service staff member, this seemed like she was a little masochistic.

“In that case, are you intending to forgo the delicious blood to eat grass in Mamy Restaurant?” Camilla mocked.

Dracula was filled with awkwardness as he retorted, “It’s a fish!”

“Although it is shaped like a fish, it is still an eggplant and is in the same category as grass.” Camilla corrected him. “On top of that, I was the one who cut the eggplant!”

Dracula thought for a while and said with a nod, “Alright. Since the peace accord has been signed, I doubt anyone would cause any trouble right now. Let’s have some fun in Chaos City.”

“Let’s go! Right now!” Camilla said excitedly.

After staying in the Demon Islands for the past few days, Camilla had been drinking several lousy types of blood that were making her lose her taste. She was even starting to miss Mag's taste.

Oh, it's the taste of his cooking.

Besides, she should return to retrieve the Photostone that belonged to her.

After all, she was someone with status right now. As the Chief of the Vampires, how could she allow her dark history to be left in the hands of a human man?

The thought of that Photostone made Camilla blush all of a sudden.

"What are we having today? Let's have hot pot. Royal Mother. let's go eat." In the grand hall, Vanessa pulled Syndra's hand and said expectantly, "Mana Hot Pot Restaurant has pretty good hot pot too. It's opened by Boss Mag and Big Sister Rena. The food there is cheap and the place is spacious too. If we go there earlier, we might not have to queue and might even get a private room."

Syndra's face was no longer pale and she looked more energetic too. She held Vanessa's hand and said with a smile, "Alright, alright, alright. I'll leave it up to you. We can have whatever you want."

"Hehe. You have no idea how much I was craving for hot pot back then but my tooth issue was not resolved, so I could not eat it. Now that my teeth are fine, Uncle Abraham has eaten so many hot pots with me that he's sick of them," Vanessa said with a smile, "He happens to be arriving in Chaos City today too. We'll have hot pot together later."

Abraham, who just reached the door, was stunned. His expression changed and he wanted to retract the foot that had already taken a step into the hall.

"Uncle Abraham, you've arrived!" Vanessa had already seen him. She went up to him with a smile and said, "Tonight, we're having insanely spicy hot pot, let's go!"

"I can't do it." Abraham waved his hands quickly.

"Just super spicy then?"

"Her Majesty has just recovered. She cannot eat food that is too spicy. Why don't we order the clear soup?" Abraham suggested seriously.

"The double-flavored hot pot is my bottom line." Vanessa shook her head.