

Stay At home 2411

Chapter 2411: The First Test

“Have you guys mastered the hot and sour shredded potatoes?”

“I tried to make it twice at home. They stuck to the pot, but my father finished it and said that it was not bad.”

“I did it thrice. I was successful once, but the taste was still too sour.”

“Then, you have to put less vinegar and only add the oil in after the pot is hot. In this case, they won’t stick to the pot...”

At the training center’s entrance, the children who were waiting for class to start were discussing their cooking experiences.

“Farah, you must have done very well, right?” Beck walked towards Farah, who was staying in a corner by herself.

“No. I only learned how to make the hot and sour shredded potatoes. The salt & pepper potatoes weren’t well executed.” Farah smiled shyly.

“You already know how to make the salt & pepper potatoes? Teacher Mag only mentioned a few words about it!” Beck looked at Farah with shock.

Beck’s voice attracted the children’s attention and all of them looked at Farah.

Farah wasn’t used to being looked at by so many people. She nodded with a blush. “Mmm. I think that it sounded interesting, so I went back to try it out, but it didn’t turn out very well.”

There was an additional hint of admiration and envy in the children’s eyes. After all, most of them couldn’t even make good hot and sour shredded potatoes, and Farah was already starting to make the salt & pepper potatoes.

Mag stopped his bicycle with Miya, who was sitting on the backseat, and smilingly said to the children at the entrance, “Why are you children here so early today?”

“Good morning, Teacher Mag!”

“Good morning, Teacher Miya!”

The children greeted them enthusiastically with pure love and respect on their faces.

Perhaps before this, most of their love for culinary lessons came from being able to taste delicious food every time they came for classes. However, after cooking for their families, their attitude began to have an interesting change.

The affirmation and expectation from their family members made them want to improve themselves. It gave them a different idea about learning to cook.

Of course, it made them have a better understanding about the differences between them and Teacher Mag.

The food that Teacher Mag cooked was so scrumptious that they felt like crying, but the hot and sour shredded potatoes they cooked were so sour that they felt like crying.

“Let’s all go in.” Mag could sense the children’s interesting change too and his smile widened.

A source of motivation was required for doing anything. To children of their age, giving them a sense of mission was easy, but giving them the meaning of doing something wasn’t that easy.

This was also one of the reasons why he gave them homework.

Looking at it now, the effect of the homework was achieved.

Soon after, the bell for class rang, and it was time for classes to commence.

Mag looked at the children and said, “Before we start our lesson today, I want all of you to make a helping of hot and sour shredded potatoes. I will observe your cooking process and taste the hot and sour shredded potatoes that you made.”

The children immediately turned nervous when they heard that.

“Teacher, is this a test?” a child asked.

“To you guys, it’s a check, but you may call it a test too.” Mag nodded with a smile. “I will give you guys a score based on your work and rank all of you accordingly.”

Mag didn’t agree with the so-called ‘Happy Education’. That wouldn’t even work on the middle-class children, let alone on these children, who were struggling on the poverty line.

Thus, he wanted these children to know their standards clearly and do all they could to climb to the top of the ranking board.

The cruelty of the school’s rankings were much more gentle than starvation.

After hearing Mag, there was a hint of expectation in the children’s nervous expressions.

“Alright, the time frame for the test is 15 minutes. The potatoes and condiments are already prepared for you. Now, you may begin!” As soon as Mag finished talking, the clock on the wall started the 15 minutes countdown.

Every child received four big potatoes, which meant they had one chance to start again, but that was on the premise that they had to be fast enough.

Wash the potatoes before peeling and shredding them.

Peeling the potatoes’ skin was a test on their cutting skills. Steady hands were the crux to peel a continuous strip of potato skin.

Mag walked around the classroom with a checklist. His gaze scanned over the potatoes in the children’s hands.

The recent cutting skills practice enabled these children to grasp the knife firmly compared to being absolute noobs in the beginning. However, they would need to practice for a longer time to reach a certain degree of proficiency.

For example, that little demon fatty called Pete. The potato skins that he peeled were all shorter than one centimeter. He chose thinness between thinness and continuity, and so his efficiency was greatly decreased.

The classmate next to him chose continuity. The potato skins that he peeled were so thick that the potato became slimmer.

Mag walked past them without any expression and continued to observe the other students' performances.

Mag paused for a while when he passed by Beck.

This lad who was a head shorter than his classmates, had found a balance point between thinness and continuity. He wasn't fast, but he was steady. The potato's skin wasn't thin, but not too much potato was wasted. After peeling two potatoes, it was just nice for frying a plate of hot and sour shredded potato.

"Not bad. Seems like he has practiced seriously at home." Mag nodded slightly. Teachers indeed liked children who were hard working.

Going to the other side, Mag stood in front of Farah's cooking bench.

The potato spun deftly in Farah's hands and a thin potato skin spiraled downwards.

Yes, one potato, one piece of potato skin.

Her peeled potato was golden, smooth and without any fingerprints.

She could already go to work at Mamy Restaurant with her standard.

"So, this is a natural talent? It's indeed enviable." Mag secretly lamented inwardly.

After placing the peeled potato on the cutting board, Farah took out the chinese cleaver from the knife rack and started to shred the potatoes.

Tok, tok, tok!

A light and rhythmic sound appeared and the two potatoes soon became a plate of shredded potatoes and were soaked in a plate of clear water.

Mag continued to walk by her. This lass' cutting skills were getting better. He didn't meet her last weekend due to the elves' incidents and wasted a free laborer.

The shredded potatoes were soon all done. Although their standards were different, they all began to turn on the fire.

Mag returned to the lectern and after the shredded potatoes were placed in the pot, an aroma began to drift over.

However, a situation began to happen.

A burnt and sourish smell began to spread. The smell slowly started to get complicated.

Mag frowned as he looked at the shredded potatoes that were slowly turning to charcoals in Pete's pot. Even though he was sweating profusely, he was still stir-frying as hard as he could, as though if he was fast enough, the potatoes wouldn't get burnt.

Farah was the first to finish cooking. Her excellent cutting skills had given her plenty of extra time, so she only used five minutes to cook a plate of hot and sour shredded potato.

She looked at her classmates who were working hard, and then looked at the salt, pepper and two remaining potatoes at the side.

After a moment of hesitation, she picked up the two remaining potatoes and started peeling them.

Chapter 2412: 100 Points!

Cooking wasn't difficult, but mastering cooking and making scrumptious dishes were.

The children finished cooking the hot and sour shredded potatoes one by one. Plates of hot and sour shredded potatoes that looked different were brought to the lectern and placed according to their student numbers.

There was only one helping that was charred. Mag knew it came from Pete, the chap who refused to turn down the heat even as he watched his dish turn black in the pot.

Meanwhile, it was common that the shredded potatoes were stuck together and slightly burnt. This was the result of pursuing speed and failing to remove the starch with water carefully. The control of the heat was also very important.

Of course, there were excellent dishes that looked fantastic.

For example, Farah's shredded potatoes. The golden brown potatoes were evenly shredded and glistening. The shredded potatoes were all separated and looked very refreshing. It was almost as good as the one he made.

Mag took out a bowl of rice and began the most nervous sampling part.

The children stared at the lectern and waited for the results nervously.

Mag didn't eat the dishes according to their student numbers. Instead, he ate the ones that were completed first.

Farah's shredded potatoes were already slightly cold, but that didn't make the taste worse.

The sourness and spiciness triggered his taste buds starting from the tip of his tongue. The shredded potatoes were crispy and juicy. They were still in the best eating condition.

A mouthful of shredded potatoes with a mouthful of rice simply tasted fantastic.

“Farah, 100 points.” Mag declared on the spot. “Be it the cutting skills, the cooking process and the final presentation, Farah has done it perfectly.”

What was a benchmark? That was a benchmark.

Perfect score for cutting skills, perfect score for cooking techniques and perfect score for the final product. She was the best in the current batch of students.

“Full marks!”

Farah’s awesome!”

“She’s the first to complete it, and... it looks so well-done!”

The children looked at Farah with an envious and admirable gaze.

Farah’s excellence was obvious and the children trusted Mag’s judgment and scoring.

Farah’s mouth was slightly agape, as though she was shocked with the score that Mag gave her. However, all the gazes which were focused on her made her blush. She lowered her head but she curved her lips upwards uncontrollably.

She had been used to scolding and jeers since she was young. She had never expected to be praised and recognized like this one day.

Furthermore, she really liked to cook.

Turning seemingly ordinary ingredients into scrumptious dishes simply felt amazing. It was as though she was giving them a new lease of life.

Because she liked it, she treasured every chance she had to cook.

“Bruno, 62 points.” Mag declared the second child’s score right away and gave his critique. “There is still a lot of room for improvement for the cutting skills. Your peeling technique isn’t good, so you need to use three potatoes to make a plate of shredded potatoes. The cooking process was correct overall, but you need to improve your control of the heat. The sour taste is too strong. It can be better.”

Bruno nodded humbly and he wasn’t depressed over Mag’s harsh critique. Instead, he had an even stronger conviction in his eyes.

Mag gave out the scores and critiques as he tasted the dishes.

The score was made up of three parts: cutting skills, cooking techniques and the final product.

Mag’s critique was very direct. He would praise the good parts and point out the bad parts. He would correct what needs to be corrected.

The children’s toughness was better than what Mag had expected. At least, the situation of the children breaking down due to the points and critiques didn’t happen.

“Pete, 30 points.” Mag looked at that patch of black shredded potatoes and eventually put down his chopsticks. He looked at Pete, who was blushing furiously, and meaningfully said, “Pete, cooking is a very nimble event. The chef needs to react according to the situation. The heat of this stove can be

controlled. Frying quickly when you realized that the heat was too strong was useless. You could have solved the problem easily by lowering the heat.”

“Can the heat actually be controlled?!” Pete looked shocked.

“I think you seemed to be dozing off when the Teacher was explaining how to use the stove that day.. ” the classmate next to him said softly.

“I know I’m wrong now, Teacher.” Pete’s face got even redder.

“Alright. That’s all for today’s test.” Mag looked at the children and smilingly said, “This score represents your current standard. Of course, it’s only for now.

“Those with a low score, don’t have to be depressed. This means that you have a lot of room for improvement.

“Those with a high score shouldn’t be proud. If you don’t improve, your hardworking classmates will overtake you easily.

“Such a test will be conducted every time after a dish is taught to you. The students who failed, will be given a week to practice and take a retest the following Friday after school until they pass.

Now, you have five minutes to clear up your cooking bench. We’ll be starting our new course soon.”

The result of this test was quite satisfactory. Other than Farah, there were also a few children who got 80 and above.

Beck had gotten 80 points. This result was among the better ones in the class.

When the children were clearing their cooking bench, Mag went to Farah and smilingly asked as he looked at the plate of salt & pepper potatoes, “May I try some of this?”

“Yes.” Farah nodded and gave him a pair of chopsticks with a nervous and expectant expression.

During the test earlier, she made a plate of salt & pepper potatoes after she completed the hot and sour shredded potatoes.

Mag popped a piece of salt & pepper potato into his mouth. The potato was crispy on the outside and tender on the inside. Together with the salt & pepper aroma, it resembled the roadside snacks he had in his previous life.

“Hmm. Not bad.” Mag put down his chopsticks and looked at Farah with an increasingly satisfied gaze.

He had only mentioned this salt & pepper potatoes’ cooking method in class last week. He hadn’t demonstrated it before, so he didn’t expect Farah would try making it after she returned home and she even did such a good job.

However, Mag’s praises simply stopped there. Too many praises for a good student would cause her to lose her friends.

“Thank you.” Farah nodded slightly. Her joy and delight were all hidden in her eyes.

Miya was also looking at Farah smilingly. She was indeed right about her. She was a hard working girl.

The morning's course was soon over in the midst of the intense teaching.

Mag's teaching was focused on practicality and building the children's spirit of exploration and experimentation.

After learning a few dishes from him, at least they wouldn't starve after they left school. They could set up their own restaurants or work as a chef.

Of course, he expected more from them.

They were the seeds that he had planted for the Norland Continent's Food & Beverage industry. He wondered how many of them would grow into strapping trees in the future.

Chapter 2413: Have a Problem? Look For the Rich Woman

After the lunch service, Mag and the system discussed retrofitting the restaurant.

The basic style would remain, but they would change the electrification products to localized products. The omniscient door would be removed and oil lamps that could continue burning for a long time would be installed.

Underground City hadn't given him a clear reply yet, but a long period of silence meant that the other party might send a being that was more highly-ranked than Xi to Chaos City.

Mag had already displayed his power, so he wouldn't be surprised if the other party sent an Extraordinaire powerhouse over.

The system's technology was lower than Underground City's, so these little things of convenience should be kept away for their best interests.

Otherwise, he would be subjected to a very weird level of technology.

The steam civilization that was ahead of the Norland Continent's current level of technology, was far beneath the Underground City's advanced civilization. This level of technology was the most awkward.

Mag put away his things, went to the study and asked inwardly, "System, how's the study on the mech?"

"Preliminary replication preparations have been completed, but there is a technical dating in the materials and workmanship. We don't have any solutions for it currently," the system replied.

"The materials and workmanship are locked. Doesn't that mean that you have worked for nothing?" Mag shook his head. This meant that his idea of replicating a demi-god level mech was crushed.

In the mechanical industry, materials and workmanship were elements that were very difficult to break through.

One could imagine the complexity of the manufacturing process of the materials of the shell alone, which could withstand the attack from demi-god level powerhouses.

However, it wasn't completely useless for the system to replicate this mech's blueprint.

Judging from the importance that Xi had placed on this mech, this thing was most likely a high-tech product in Underground City too. As for what kind of bargaining chip it could be, it remained to be seen.

Anyway, there was no way that he would hand this mech's remains to them so easily.

Even though the nuclear core was damaged, the mech was still quite intact.

The razor-sharp sword split it into two. The edges were clean and no further damage was done.

The possibility of replicating it was very high if it ended up in an institute of mechanical engineering that was relatively comparable in technology.

"Even though we cannot breakthrough on the materials and workmanship now, I've found an alternative plan with the materials I have currently. Although the mech's power cannot reach the demi-god level, its power will be comparable to a 10th-tier powerhouse." The system spoke up again.

Mag, who had already intended to use this mech to make a friend, felt his vision brighten. A 10th-tier was no mean feat. It was the top combat power on the Norland Continent. There were less than 1000 10th-tier powerhouses from all the races combined.

If the system could produce 10th-tier powerhouses in bulk, it would be a good thing for the Norland Continent.

"Are you for real? You have only turned from farming to machinery in the past few days. Are you sure you can manufacture 10th-tier mechs?" Mag had a disbelieving expression.

"Nonsense! This System majored in gastronomy and minored in agriculture and machinery!" The system emphasized angrily. "Do you have any idea how much knowledge is needed to build a farm and a ranch? Machinery, construction, animal husbandry... This is something that requires a very strong comprehensive ability to do!"

"Alright, then build a 10th-tier mech to show me first. Let me see if you are really that powerful." Mag still didn't look very convinced.

"This System refuses to!" the system replied emphatically.

"Are you short of funding?" Mag faintly asked.

"How do you know that..." The system sounded feeble.

Mag waved his hand and generously said, "Tell me, how much does it cost to build a mech? I'm going to invest in it."

"According to the calculations of this System, the cost to build the first mech is 5,000,000,000 copper coins," the system quickly answered.

After a moment of silence, Mag faintly said, "Are you building an aircraft carrier?"

"In some ways, building a mech that could move on its own and has the Norland Continent's top combat capability from scratch, is much more difficult than building an aircraft carrier," the system replied seriously.

Mag remained quiet for some time. He agreed with the system.

The current technology that the system mentioned, wasn't the Norland Continent's current technology. Instead, it was the technology that the system had.

The Norland Continent didn't have a mature supply chain, so the system had to build its own supply chain. That was the real big project.

However, 5,000,000,000 copper coins was also a huge sum to Mag.

Scheer's figure flashed across Mag's mind in that instant. Only a real top multi-billionaire like Scheer would think that 5,000,000,000 was spare change, right?

"Try to lower the cost to 2,500,000,000," Mag said with a frown.

"3,000,000,000. It can't be any less," the system answered decisively.

After a moment of silence, Mag asked, "What did you intend to do with the 2,000,000,000 that is removed from the initial sum?"

The system also only replied after a moment of silence, "Isn't that prepared for you because you bargain?"

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"凸(++ Ⅲ ++) !"

Finally, Mag and the system reached the cooperation agreement of making the mech with 3,000,000,000.

The system would build a mature supply chain for building a mech and build the first 10th-tier mech.

The cost for building the following mechs would decrease from the base of 3,000,000,000. The degree of decrease would be more than 50 percent. The specific price reduction would be calculated according to the system's cost.

1,500,000,000 in exchange for a 10th-tier powerhouse. All the races on the Norland Continent were going to fight for it once the sale price was listed.

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He expected all those billionaires would like to equip themselves with two 10th-tier bodyguards who would never betray them.

However, this business deal didn't seem very worthwhile to Mag.

These mechs would be guarding the system's farms. He didn't need them at the moment.

However, if they really got into conflict with Underground City, these hidden trump cards would be very important.

"System, I want to see the very first mech within one month," Mag said.

"Are you a slave driver?!" the system asked, feeling aggrieved.

“A slave doesn’t boast like you. Anyway, you only have a month’s time. That’s settled,” Mag said decisively, leaving no room for negotiation.

3,000,000,000 wasn’t a small sum. Mag calculated his wealth. The restaurant’s sales together with his recent earnings were only 5,000,000,000 in total, and most of this money was in Irina’s hands.

“3,000,000,000 is making things so hard for a hero.” Mag sighed before leaving the restaurant.

Have a problem? Look for the rich woman.

Chapter 2414: Sold At a Good Price.

“Mr. Mag, you’re such a busy person. Why did you drop by the bank today?” Scheer looked at Mag, who was sitting opposite her, with a smile. There was a pot of freshly brewed tea beside her.

“To be honest, I am in need of some money so I thought of you immediately,” Mag replied with a smile.

Scheer was stunned. She smiled meaningfully and said, “Mr. Mag, you’re currently the most popular rich man in Chaos City. If you’re in need of money, you must be planning something big.”

“Miss Scheer, you are very smart indeed. I am recently about to start a large project.” Mag nodded.

Scheer’s eyes twinkled. She looked very interested as she said, “I wonder what project you’re planning? How much capital would you require?”

“Miss Scheer, you should know about it already. It’s the large-scale commercialization of color printing. I would require about one billion copper coins.” Mag had already prepared what he was going to say.

Scheer was in deep thought. She had reached out to Mag with regard to cooperation in color printing before, but Mag rejected her.

There’s no doubting the size of the market for color printing. One could tell that there would be big profits and usage outlook if one could exclusively master the technique of color printing based on how popular Mag’s picture books were.

However, one billion was no small sum.

“Mr. Mag, are you asking me for a loan, or do you intend to rope me in as an investor?” Scheer asked with a smile.

Mag took a sip of tea and said with a smile, “I intend to sell one-third of the rights to the steam engine to you for five billion copper coins. I wonder if you’re interested in that deal?”

“Five billion for one-third of the rights for the steam engine?” Scheer was stunned and fell into deep thoughts.

The steam train was a new-age product of the Norland Continent. The steam train and steam engine paved the way for a series of machinery that were sufficient to turn over the low-efficiency hand-made production industry and speed up industrialization.

The Night Elves' textile factory had already proven the high efficiency of machinery, making it the main production place of textile products in Chaos City within a few months.

The steam train powered by the steam engine had started normalizing its operations around Chaos City and Vic Mountain, making it the bloodline of goods transportation between the two places.

The railroads started at Chaos City and reached out in all directions.

Just two days ago, Scheer had come to an agreement with the Roth Empire to build a railroad linking Chaos City and the Roth Empire. It was set to start operating by next year.

Mag was the originator of the steam engine and had 25% of the shares in the steam train project. He also had half the shares of the steam engine, as much as Buffett Bank.

One could foresee that the steam engine could be used widely in the future and that would reap boundless fortunes.

Right now, Mag intended to exchange one-third of his shares for five billion copper coins.

"Are you sure you want to sell one-third of your rights to the steam engine to me?" Scheer looked at Mag. She said seriously, "If you need one billion copper coins, whether it's a loan or an investment, I will not reject you."

"I don't like to owe people money and I don't like to owe favors either. Miss Scheer, if you're interested, we can sign an agreement right now. If you're not interested, I'll look for someone else," Mag said calmly. If it was only one billion that he needed, he could just borrow from Amy, he would not have to sell his shares.

"Since you do have the intention to sell your shares, I am willing to buy them on behalf of Buffett Bank. However, five billion copper coins is no small amount to us currently. We will need three days to prepare the cash. I can write a cheque for you right now," Scheer said decisively.

Five billion may sound like a large sum, but it was but a month's profit to Buffett Bank.

Scheer was certain that she could multiply the profits from this transaction.

"Alright. That's settled." Mag nodded. Very few people could get 5 billion copper coins in cash in the Norland Continent within three days.

Scheer's secretary quickly drafted a contract and Mag transferred one-third of his shares for the steam train and one-third of his shares for the steam engine to Buffett Bank in exchange for five billion copper coins.

"Happy working together." Mag took the five-billion-copper-coin cheque and left the bank.

He had already made an agreement with Scheer. Three days later, he would go over to cash out five billion copper coins. Buffett Bank would prepare it in advance for him.

Mag had yet to raise this with Irina.

The remaining two-thirds of his shares could at least be exchanged for 10 billion copper coins.

“What a large sum of secret stash. It’s a pity that I could only get five mechs in exchange.” Mag could not help but think about the amount of money he would need to form a steel army.

Buffett Bank’s middle-aged manager looked at Scheer and said, “Young Mistress, we’ve already invested 30 billion into the construction of the railroad. According to the current plan, we would still need to invest another 100 billion. Based on the calculations of the current operation fees of the steam train, I’m afraid it’ll take us 106 years to recoup our capital.

“And right now, we’ve spent another five billion copper coins to buy the shares from Mag, I’m afraid...”

“The railroad is just basic infrastructure. Besides, it is still in its trial operational phase. It is wrong to use that number to calculate the time taken for us to recoup our capital.” Scheer shook her head with a smile. “The transportation for the goods would increase in frequency subsequently and we have also only just started testing transportation for people.

“Of course, all these are just small monies. What will enable us to quickly recoup our capital is those few mines we bought from the goblins before the railroads link up. The goods transportation would decrease our cost for delivery and as our railroads link up to the dwarves, we would reap a harvest from an even wider market.

“The accessibility of transportation means that there will be no difficult trade to do in this world.

“On top of that, the control of the transportation system itself would mean that they have more choices.

“The world is so big yet you only see this very first layer right in front of your eyes.”

The manager opened his mouth but did not know what to say. He left quietly.

“Five billion copper coins. What exactly is he planning to do? What anticipation and suspense.” Scheer smiled as she looked out of the window.

“Is this Chaos City? It’s a completely different place compared to a century ago.” A middle-aged man in a black long robe looked around Aden Square as he lamented. He was of a big build and the demons who passed by him could not help but make way. He had a serious-looking face and appeared to be a merchant.

A few meters behind him were two young men dressed in black following him. They were looking around cautiously. One of them constantly had a hand at his waist.

“It must be there, right?” The middle-aged man looked at the long queue in front of a restaurant far ahead and was surprised. “The queue is so long. Is it really so popular?”

Chapter 2415: Whoever Comes Is a Guest

Ferdinand walked to the restaurant at the corner of the square. Mamy Restaurant’s signboard was rather obvious, but too abrupt. It looked rather fashionable in the midst of the gaudy signboards in Aden Square.

The restaurant wasn't very big. There were four shopfronts, and it seemed to be separated into two dining themes. Long lines of hundreds of people were formed outside of the two zones.

After considering for a moment, Ferdinand went to line up at the back of the queue.

Xi reported some information about this greatest powerhouse on the continent to him, and told him the restaurant's coordinates.

The restaurant's boss' identity had once surprised him, but he quickly understood. There were also some powerhouses in Underground City who chose to live with a normal identity.

A restaurant's boss could be considered as an identity of leisure.

However, when he came over, the business of this restaurant was obviously the most brisk of all.

He didn't expect that not only was he powerful, he was also equally talented in running a business.

Ferdinand stood at the back of the line and looked at the long line with a hint of a smile.

He couldn't remember when was the last time that he had lined up. Was it when he was a child? It didn't seem so. No one had ever dared to line up in front of him.

800 years ago, he came to the Norland Continent for the first time as an Observer.

The Norland Continent was still in the midst of the intense racial war then. Killing was everywhere. Hatred and bloodlust filled the entire continent.

And after that, he would visit the Norland Continent once every 100 years. He witnessed the disappearance of many races in the midst of the war, and many of the major races began to have relatively fixed territories.

100 years ago, the seven major races on the Norland Continent had a truce and signed the peace accord. They ended the racial war that lasted for thousands of years.

100 years had passed and the Norland Continent's changes had been tremendous.

The battleship had flown on a low speed earlier and he saw all the cities on the vast continent. Without war and smoke, all the races lived happily together and everything looked prosperous.

What astonished him even more was the railway that appeared on the land. The steam trains that had once appeared in the Underground City's ancient times, were running through the mountains and valleys, carrying full loads of iron ores. This meant that they were going to enter into a new era.

"War is indeed poisonous. It would only destroy imagination and everything that is good. Only peace could elevate the entire world." Ferdinand looked at the line in front of him that had all the various races in it and yet was very orderly.

The current Chaos City reminded him of Underground City vaguely.

Although their technological levels had a great disparity, the way the various races lived together peacefully under the rules and regulations wasn't very different from Underground City.

Lining up was a very boring event, but Ferdinand, who seldom lined up, found pleasure in the customers' conversations.

These customers looked like they came from all walks of life. There were fierce mercenaries, merchants with big bellies and demure wealthy ladies.

What was amusing was that they would debate about a certain dish in the restaurant passionately when they were lining up in the same line. They would argue till they turned red in the face, but they still controlled themselves and restricted the argument to being verbal and not physical.

"Does the food in this restaurant really have such special magic? It can make these people so mesmerized?" Ferdinand thought to himself. Seemed like Mr. Mag had found a good chef.

Furthermore, he also heard the names of the dishes that the people in the line often mentioned, like the tofu pudding, the eggplant with garlic sauce and the red braised pork. Perhaps, he could try them out later.

Soon, the restaurant's door opened slowly and a young man walked out. He said with a smile, "Welcome to Mamy Restaurant."

"It's him." Ferdinand stared at the young man standing at the door. He looked exactly like the photo that Xi sent back.

He was younger than what Ferdinand had expected, because his bone age was only around 32 years old.

His power was indeed close to the Extraordinaire's level, which was the so-called "Almost-Extraordinaire" level in Underground City.

Having such a powerful strength at such a young age, he was much more powerful than those geniuses in Underground City, who enhanced themselves with genetic drugs. He was also much more powerful than him when he was at that age.

One had to know that this was the Norland Continent that was forsaken. No one had broken through the Extraordinaire level for the past thousands of years. Even reaching the Almost-Extraordinaire level was rare.

The young man in front of him seemed to have more possibilities.

He already knew the existence of Underground City and had the intention to trade with Underground City.

He was a bold and interesting young man.

Almost simultaneously, Mag's gaze passed through the crowd and landed on Ferdinand.

"Is he the representative from Underground City?" Mag cocked his eyebrow and became more alert.

He could feel pressure coming from this man. He only felt that when he was facing Cthulhu. It was an intense power that belonged to another level.

"Is that a god? Or the so-called Extraordinaire?" Mag felt his mood become grave. He didn't expect Underground City to send an Extraordinaire to negotiate with him.

Furthermore, the power of an Extraordinaire had exceeded his expectations. At first, he thought that he could negotiate with an Extraordinaire from Underground City with his demi-god's realm. Looking at it now, it looked like he had overestimated himself.

Mag had no chance of winning even if he used all his trump cards.

Mag's eyes met with Ferdinand's eyes shortly before moving away with a tacit understanding.

"Since I can't defeat him, I shall conquer his stomach first," Mag thought as he greeted the customers familiarly.

Ferdinand followed the line forward leisurely as he observed Mag's behavior.

This young man had piqued his interest.

The customers called him 'Boss Mag' familiarly. The form of address had been mentioned frequently with love and a hint of grievance when he was lining up.

Therefore, he was the restaurant's boss and its chef too.

It was still alright for the strongest powerhouse on the Norland Continent to open a restaurant, but he even personally cooked for his customers and remembered each customer's name and nickname.

Interesting.

Ferdinand came up to Mag and stood still for a while.

"I have never seen you before. This must be your first time coming to eat at this restaurant," Mag said with a smile.

"Yes. I'm Ferdinand. I was attracted by your fame." Ferdinand nodded with a smile.

"Please come in." Mag nodded smilingly. He didn't know what fame he meant, but it should be different from the fame that attracted the other customers.

Ferdinand stepped into the restaurant and swept a glance at the service staff on the sides.

This 8th-tier Frost Dragon's blood was pure. That 8th-tier spatial magic caster over there should have the Moon Nation's royal blood... He didn't find anything unusual with his casual scan.

Shouldn't this be normal for the restaurant opened by the number one powerhouse?

Chapter 2416: One Insanely Spicy Grilled Fish

The few young and powerful servers lowered Ferdinand's suspicion further.

Perhaps this young powerhouse simply liked to experience life, but at the same time, he wanted to maintain the class in his life.

Ferdinand chose to sit at a seat near to the kitchen. He could see the kitchen through the window here.

Yes. A single piece of natural crystal was used just to let the customers see what was happening in the kitchen.

“Has the idea of an open kitchen begun to pop up in the Norland Continent’s other restaurants now?” Ferdinand caressed his chin as he looked at all the utensils neatly displayed in the bright kitchen, like soldiers waiting to be inspected. He couldn’t help but nod.

His gaze swept across the knife rack. There was only one thick cleaver on it.

However, it was that rectangular cleaver that made his gaze linger.

This knife looked normal, but it was a real god’s weapon.

Be it the weaponsmith’s technique or the knife’s materials, they were all extraordinary.

From that knife, he could see who the kitchen belonged to.

“He even deliberately made such an extraordinary weapon just to cook.” Ferdinand’s smile grew wider. The young people were really getting more and more interesting now.

Mag passed by Ferdinand and also sized him up quietly.

Due to the fact that this fellow was too powerful and had attained the level of god on the Norland Continent, it wasn’t easy to judge his age.

Judging one’s age with one’s appearance was the most ridiculous method in the alternate world.

However, from his upright sitting posture, even though he was restraining himself, he still had a fearful and decisive aura. Hence, he should belong to the military. One’s temperament wouldn’t lie.

Of course, this judgment was deduced from the fact that Xi also belonged to the Underground City’s military.

Mag had never expected that detaining a mech could make the big boss of the Underground City’s military come personally.

The other party came with the identity of a customer and even lined up for 30 minutes outside. He didn’t come straight to the door, which meant that there was room for negotiation.

It was great that there was room for negotiation.

The greatest worry that Mag had was that the other party didn’t want to talk and would come to fight immediately. Everyone in the restaurant couldn’t defeat him even if they attacked him together.

“System, will you help me if the negotiation fails and he wants to kill me?” Mag asked inwardly.

After a moment of silence, the system faintly said, “I can help you check out the environment of your tomb.”

“Get lost!” Mag frowned. This system was hopeless and couldn’t be used as a hidden trump card.

Just as Mag was thinking about how to handle the situation, Ferdinand had already picked up the menu with great interest and began reading it.

Ever since he could remember, physical menus no longer existed in the Underground City's restaurants. Instead, they were all using electronic menus. Some restaurants even had the function of virtual tasting, which allowed you to choose the food you wanted better.

The menu was very simple. It was separated into zones. Every dish had a small picture.

"Photographs? Color printing? Or a drawing?" Ferdinand stared at those pictures for a while and finally found the traces of a drawing. Only then did he place his attention on the contents of the pictures.

The dishes looked rather complicated, so it was difficult to judge them by their pictures. However, they looked rather appetizing.

Ferdinand flipped through the menu and found the few dishes that the customers were enthusiastically discussing when he was lining up earlier.

"Hello, may I share the table with you, please?" A young voice spoke up.

Ferdinand nodded. It was a pretty maiden about his granddaughter's age.

After looking around him, he realized that sharing a table seemed to be an accepted norm here. Even the elves and the demons who were fighting to their deaths one century ago, were sitting on the same table. Naturally, he shouldn't break the rules, so he smiled and nodded.

Vivian sat across from Ferdinand, flicked a glance at the menu next to him and smilingly asked, "Is it your first time eating at Mamy Restaurant, Sir? Looking at your attire, you are not a Chaos City's resident, right?"

"Yes, I came because of the fame." Ferdinand nodded and sized up Vivian a little.

In Underground City, his young subordinates didn't dare to speak up and kept a respectful distance away from him, but this maiden not only shared a table with him and even took the initiative to talk to him. She was rather bold.

"Then you have come to the right place. Mamy Restaurant is the best restaurant in our Chaos City. Oh, no! It should be the best restaurant on the Norland Continent!" Vivian said proudly.

"Oh? Is it really that formidable?" Ferdinand smiled and asked cooperatively.

"Of course. After all, there are restaurants everywhere, but there is only one Boss Mag." Vivian nodded with conviction before saying in a lower voice, "I don't mind telling you this. There are no better chefs than Boss Mag in this world."

"You know that too?" Ferdinand was a little surprised. According to the information provided by Xi, Mag should have concealed his identity.

"Of course. Although he has always kept a low profile, I knew it long ago." Vivian tilted her chin up. "You don't know what he has done, otherwise, you will admire him too."

Ferdinand pondered about the information that Xi sent to him. Looking back at the life of Mag Alex, he couldn't help nodding in agreement. "It's indeed admirable that he could achieve that at such a young age."

“Indeed. Other than Boss Mag, who else could have made the grilled fish so delicious? The hot pot is even more ridiculous. The nine-squared pot method is really meant for singles. And, there’s...” Vivian began to introduce the dishes she liked to Ferdinand.

Ferdinand was stunned for a moment before realizing that they weren’t discussing the same topic.

However, this little maiden was rather interesting. She reminded him of Little Vicki. He would visit her after dinner.

“Sir, what would you like to order?” Miya approached their table and smilingly asked.

“One helping of red braised pork, one helping of insanely spicy grilled fish, one helping of the eggplant with garlic sauce and one helping of savory tofu pudding,” Ferdinand said.

Xi had mentioned about the red braised pork in her report before. The remark was: a delicious yet strange food.

The spicy grilled fish was recommended by Vivian. The insanely spicy version was also recommended by her. She said that a real man should eat the insanely spicy grilled fish.

As for the eggplant with garlic sauce and tofu pudding, he simply wanted to try something new.

“Sure, Please wait for a moment.” Miya nodded and moved onto the next table.

Mag, who was busy in the kitchen, looked up when he heard that conversation. Although Vivian’s comments earlier made him rather happy, was she being serious when she recommended the insanely spicy grilled fish to the visitor from Underground City? Even he didn’t dare to recommend that to Xi and Vivian.

However, he ordered it himself, so naturally Mag wouldn’t say anything. Anyway, it wasn’t going to be his butt that was going to hurt the next morning.

After Ferdinand placed his order, he looked at Mag, who was walking between the few stoves familiarly and elegantly, and curiously asked, “Is there only one chef in this restaurant?”

This was different from the image of the top powerhouse on the Norland Continent that he had imagined.

Chapter 2417: You Are Really a Genius, Chap

Ferdinand marveled at Mag’s smooth actions in the kitchen.

Just like an artist spraying his paint, the colorful side ingredients leaped in the wok. A huge bunch of kebabs were flipping over the grill. The small earthenware pot was bubbling next to it. Soon, he removed a helping of braised chicken from the big pot at the side.

The one-man-kitchen had undertaken the different requirements and expectations of hundreds of customers.

However, even so, he seemed so relaxed and calm.

At first, Ferdinand thought Mag had opened the restaurant for fun, but it seemed like he was wrong now. Mag was being serious.

Among all the chefs he had met before, none of them could compare to him.

It was enjoyable to watch him cook.

Dish after dish were sent out from the kitchen to the customers' tables.

Ferdinand, who was sitting at the kitchen's entrance, smelled all kinds of aromas.

Those dishes that had an enticing glow, gave out astonishingly scrumptious aromas. Even someone like him who no longer had too many mortal desires, couldn't help but to gulp.

"Although we can watch Boss Mag cook when we sit here, it's a torture to watch others' dishes move past us," Vivian said glumly.

Ferdinand nodded in agreement before saying to Vivian with a smile, "Excuse me, may I be so bold as to ask you about your occupation?"

"Me? I'm Hope School's teacher," Vivian said, but there was a hint of pride in her calm smile.

"Being a teacher is admirable." Ferdinand was surprised, but he began to look at Vivian with an increasingly favorable gaze.

If Vicki was half as obedient as her, she wouldn't have left home and not contacted her family members for a whole year.

"Mister, what do you sell? Did you come from Rodu?" Vivian also asked curiously.

Ferdinand nodded and said, "Yes. I am in the metal business. I went to the dwarves to buy my stock and happened to pass by Chaos City. I especially came to try out this restaurant."

Vivian smilingly said, "Oh, I see. I heard that the railroad from Rodu to the dwarves is under construction. Once the railroad is finished, your metal items can be sent back through the railroad. It will be much more convenient then."

"I have heard about this railroad too. Apparently, it is a big iron cow that doesn't need to eat grass. Who invented such an amazing thing?" Ferdinand asked curiously.

Ferdinand had already seen the expanding railroads on the Norland Continent on his way over earlier.

Be it the invention of the steam trains, or rapid laying of the railroads, they were all done within this one year. The maturity of the technique was astonishing.

Ferdinand even suspected that there were smugglers from Underground City who had taken part in it and taught them the technology.

"I'm not sure about that either. I think whoever invented that marvelous thing must be a genius like Boss Mag." Vivian cast a glance at Mag in the kitchen with a gaze full of admiration.

"Oh yes. Boss Mag and I are even colleagues. He's also a teacher from Hope School. He is teaching the children to cook." Vivian added on.

“He’s also a teacher?” Ferdinand was even more surprised.

It was fine that the Norland Continents’ top powerhouse opened a restaurant and became a chef... but he was, in fact, a teacher as well.

“Yes, Boss Mag is very popular among the children.” Vivian nodded and lamented. “He’s such an outstanding man. It seems like he is great at anything he does.”

Just as Ferdinand and Vivian were chatting, their dishes were finally served.

“Hello, your spicy grilled fish, red braised pork, the eggplant with garlic sauce and savory tofu are all served.” A voice spoke next to his ear. Four dishes floated out from the kitchen slowly and were placed in front of him one by one.

The first aroma to greet his nose was the spicy grilled fish’s. Even Ferdinand, who was used to a lot of things, couldn’t help but frown when he smelled that intense spiciness.

His taste was usually light. He couldn’t say no to Vivian’s strong recommendation, so he ordered a helping.

He thought that the maiden’s taste shouldn’t be strong. He didn’t expect that he had severely underestimated the young people’s perversity now.

An entire spicy grilled fish was displayed on a grilling pan with all kinds of side ingredients. A layer of red chili was layered over it. His throat could feel the hostility even before he tasted it.

“Don’t worry. The chilies are simply for appearances. You will finally understand that the so-called ‘insane’ is just to describe the taste after you start to taste it.” Vivian looked at the hesitant Ferdinand and encouraged him. “Go on. Pick up the chopsticks and dig in.”

Ferdinand flicked a glance at Vivian. He still picked up the chopsticks after a brief moment of hesitation.

He was the Underground City’s Grand Marshal. How could he be scared of a dish?

After sweeping the cut chilies away, the grilled fish with crispy golden skin finally revealed itself. Its rainbow color could still be seen vaguely, especially on the head and the tail.

The dark red sauce was drizzled over the fish, covering the onions and glass noodles underneath. The tender green spring onions were sprinkled over the patch of red. It was steaming due to the heat from the grill pan. It looked like a beautiful painting.

Ferdinand picked up a piece of fish.

“You have to dip it in the sauce for it to have a soul.” Vivian reminded him.

Ferdinand obeyed her instructions and dipped the tender white fish in the sauce before popping it into his mouth.

Mm...

Mm...

Spicy!

After holding it in for three seconds, Ferdinand's face finally turned red.

The intense spiciness attacked his oral cavity crazily. His taste buds turned from spicy to pain, and then to numbness. In the short three seconds, he had experienced an excitement that he had never experienced in the past few hundreds of years.

Ferdinand clenched his fists instinctively. Energy was coursing through his body. He could barely restrain his power that almost burst out.

"This spiciness is indeed insane." Ferdinand lamented inwardly as he looked at the grilled fish in front of him.

After being used to the light diet that his secretary prepared for him daily, that mouthful of spicy grilled fish had indeed caught him unawares.

However, after the impact of the intense spiciness, the crispy fish skin and tender fish meat began to slowly release its scrumptious flavor.

In that instant, he seemed to have seen a big fish with beautiful colors swimming in the deep ocean.

He swallowed the fish meat and he felt as though he had swallowed a lump of fire. A heated sensation spread all over his body. Surprisingly, the spicy sensation wasn't released in his stomach again. Instead, he felt very comfortable all over.

Of course, this sensation didn't alleviate the spiciness in his mouth. After swallowing the fish meat, the spiciness appeared in his mouth again, as though it was hurrying him to take another bite.

Of course, Ferdinand could reject it, but he decided to listen to his body's decision this time.

The chopsticks moved towards the fish again.

Chapter 2418: The Big Boss' First Gourmet Experience.

In his long lifespan of over 1000 years, Ferdinand had met many geniuses, fought countless dangerous battles and eaten many expensive foods in his life.

However, today's grilled fish had subverted his usual understanding about food.

From getting to know the insane spiciness to getting lost in its taste after he got used to it, his chopsticks began to search for the fish meat and equally interesting side ingredients. He actually couldn't stop.

"I didn't expect there will be people who can eat together with Miss Vivian. That's the insanely spicy!"

"Yes. The first bite will get your soul and your butt is going to hurt the next day. That's what this insanely spicy grilled fish is."

The surrounding customers were looking at these two people with admiration. These were the true warriors.

After eating half of the spicy grilled fish, Ferdinand ate half a bowl of rice to suppress the spiciness in his mouth.

His gaze landed on the red braised pork at the side. He forgot about the three other dishes when he concentrated on eating the spicy grilled fish.

The red braised pork was held in a black terracotta bowl. The wild boar meat was cut into long cubic shapes and the thick gravy dyed the wild boar meat a deep red color. The interlaying fat and lean pork looked enticing.

This dish that appeared in Xi's journal, attracted Ferdinand's attention as well.

Ferdinand popped a piece of red braised pork into his mouth. The tender pork melted almost immediately in her mouth. The lean meat was chewy and not dry. The pork skin was soft and sticky. It wasn't hard to bite down on. It was exquisite.

"This taste!"

Ferdinand's eyes glowed. If the spicy grilled fish had brought an intense excitement to the taste buds and body, then this red braised pork was like a gentle maiden that enveloped him into her arms and consoled him gently.

One bite was definitely not enough, so he took another piece of red braised pork and savored it slowly in his mouth.

All his daily meals were nutritionally balanced and designed by dieticians. While taking into account the taste, every food item's nutrition values and amount were carefully calculated.

In the past 1000 years, he had indeed lived very healthily.

But at this moment, he suddenly realized that such preciseness seemed to have killed something.

For example, the taste that made one happy, the taste that made one excited and the sense of surprise that made one enthusiastic.

He ate different kinds of food every day, but the process of eating was just like a procedural step. There was no expectation nor surprise.

However, at this place, be it the spicy grilled fish or the red braised pork, they brought him an unparalleled surprise.

In Underground City, the philosophers often debated if the technology had only given them the pros? In the past, Ferdinand couldn't be bothered about such questions. If technology didn't bring them convenience, how could these philosophers, who had full stomachs, have the time to raise such questions?

However, he couldn't help thinking, were they really all pros?

He ate the red braised pork with two bowls of rice. He felt he couldn't get full no matter how much of the soft and fragrant rice he ate.

The eggplant with garlic sauce was different from what he had imagined. There was actually no fish inside?!

On the rectangular plate, there was a fish split in half, and a thick golden-red sauce was covering it. The glistening sauce seeped into the 'flesh' perfectly. That fish, which looked and smelled perfect, was actually made of eggplant!

However, this didn't affect its scrumptiousness at all.

After putting the eggplant into his mouth, the four tastes of sour, spicy, sweet, and savory exploded in his mouth almost simultaneously. Each taste was so distinct but they actually blended together in such harmony. They gave the taste buds a powerful stimulation.

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

A vegetarian dish had tasted like a meat dish and its taste was so widely arrayed that he almost bit his tongue.

It was slightly more savory, so it was the best to eat with rice.

Ferdinand ate another two bowls of rice before he felt a little full.

Vivian, who was still seriously eating the spicy grilled fish, couldn't help looking up at him. She was amazed with this gentleman's appetite inwardly. He could eat more than the orcs at the next table.

Only the chilies were left for the spicy grilled fish. Finally, he ended with a bowl of savory tofu pudding.

Ferdinand burped with satisfaction. He hadn't experienced the satisfaction brought by food for a long time.

"It's indeed interesting." Ferdinand looked up at Mag, who was still busy in the kitchen, with increased amusement in his eyes.

How could there be such a genius in this world? He had advanced to the Almost-Extraordinaire level against all odds on the Norland Continent and could even cook marvelously.

He had tasted the Norland Continent's food 100 years ago. No one race's food was comparable to the food cooked by Mag.

"Miss Vivian, may I ask, when does the restaurant close for the night?" Ferdinand asked Vivian, who had just finished eating her grilled fish.

After pondering for a second, Vivian replied, "I think it's nine in the evening."

"Alright, thank you." Ferdinand nodded with a smile. He looked at Vivian and thought for a moment, before taking out an exquisite dagger and placing it in front of Vivian.

Vivian looked at that simple yet intricate black dagger and puzzledly asked, "This is?"

"This is a small gift of appreciation for your recommendation of the grilled fish, Miss Vivian." Ferdinand got up with a smile. "I hope to see you again."

"Then, I will keep it. Thank you sir." Vivian didn't reject it. Ferdinand said that he was in the metal business, so such a little item shouldn't be something very valuable.

Ferdinand settled his bill and left with a helping of red braised pork and rice. Since it was still early, he decided to go to Rodu to visit his granddaughter first.

In the kitchen, Mag looked at Ferdinand, who was walking away gradually, through the glass with a thoughtful expression.

Rodu, the Black Cat Opera House.

On the brightly-lit stage, the opera actors were immersed in their acting. Their excellent singing mesmerized the thousands of audience members, making them move along with the plot.

In a dark corner, a middle-aged man quietly appeared and watched the show on the stage judgingly.

The person was Ferdinand who had just come out from Mamy Restaurant. The long distance between Rodu and Chaos City was completely negligible with the battleship.

“Black Cat? Isn’t that her username? This lass is already out of control at home, and she actually wrote such a ridiculous plot?” Ferdinand was looking at Vicki, who was immersed in her acting, with an indulgent smile.

Ferdinand watched the opera seriously for a while and observed the audience’s expressions around him. He couldn’t help but nod. “However, her performance has indeed improved in the past year, and she has even received so much recognition from so many people. No wonder she doesn’t want to go back.”

The bell for the end of the show rang and the lights gradually turned on. Vicki led all the actors in taking a bow.

Everyone stood up and clapped for a long time.

Ferdinand also stood up gradually and clapped.

The last time that he watched Vicki perform seemed to be her school performance when she was 10-years-old.

Time passed by in a flash and this lass had already grown up.

Chapter 2419: It’s Too Dangerous Here

The audience slowly left the opera house, but they still praised the show in their conversations. The opera’s new performing style was slowly getting popular in Rodu’s upper society.

The exquisite stage, interesting story and lovely singing all gave the night life a hint of color.

After the show, they could even eat some supper and have a drink on Romo Street.

The once desolated Romo Street, had risen again due to the popularity of the two taverns and the Black Cat Opera House. All kinds of F&B and entertainment projects began to settle in Romo Street and it slowly became a new popular commercial area in Rodu.

Vicki watched the audience with a sated smile.

After roaming the streets where no one cared about them, it felt good to finally experience a full house.

Then, her gaze landed on the last figure in the crowd and she went white. She turned around and tried to run away.

"I brought you the red braised pork and rice. Are you sure you don't want them?" Ferdinand said with a smile.

Vicki's footsteps faltered and she turned around. She said with a sheepish smile, "What brings you here, Grandpa?"

The audience had all left and the actors, who were about to leave the stage and rest, became energetic once they heard Vicki. They all turned to look at that middle-aged man.

Although he was standing below the stage, all of them were naturally in awe when they saw the man in front of them.

It was an air of power.

They had followed Vicki for more than one year, but they seldom heard Vicki talk about herself. However, they all knew that their maestro was different from them. She really came from a wealthy family and was most likely a real-life Miss Black Cat.

They didn't expect her family to come looking for her today.

"Maestro, we'll go in to rest first. Take your time and chat slowly." The actors left them alone smartly.

Angela, who wanted to stay back and watch, was pulled away.

Only Ferdinand and Vicki were left in the huge theater.

"Why? Are you not happy to see me?" Ferdinand smiled faintly.

"How can I not be? I'm just too happy." Vicki had given up. She immediately put on a smiling face and jumped off the stage. She hugged Ferdinand's arm lovingly and coyly said, "I missed Grandpa a lot."

"I don't know how much I can trust you now." Ferdinand shook his head, but his eyes were filled with an indulgent smile.

"Of course you can believe me wholeheartedly. What evil thoughts can Little Vicki have?" Vicki replied matter-of-factly. Her gaze landed on the insulated takeaway box and her eyes glowed a little. "Did you go to Mamy Restaurant?"

"I went for a meal and bought a helping for you too." Ferdinand passed the insulated container to her.

"Thank you, Grandpa. You're the best." Vicki accepted the takeaway box. "Let's go sit in my office."

Ferdinand followed Vicki across the theater to her office.

“The red braised pork, and it’s still hot. It smells great.” Vicki opened the insulated box and immediately marveled. Then, she lamented, “It’s a pity that Big Sister Xi isn’t here. Her favorite food is red braised pork.”

Ferdinand sat across from Vicki and smilingly asked, “Are you and Xi Mamy Restaurant’s regular customers?”

Vicki chewed on the red braised pork with puffed out cheeks as she answered, “We’re not really regular customers. I have only been to Mamy Restaurant twice, but Boss Mag’s culinary skills are unforgettable.”

“It’s indeed a marvelous taste.” Ferdinand nodded in agreement.

Vicki swallowed the meat and curiously asked, “But, Grandpa, did something serious happen? Why did you come to the Norland Continent personally?”

Xi had mentioned the matter of that Almost-Extraordinaire mech to her before, but given her grandfather’s status, such a matter didn’t require him to come personally.

“My precious granddaughter has left home for over a year without any news and she still refuses to come home after we found her. So, do you think I shouldn’t come personally?” Ferdinand asked her seriously.

“I-I can’t leave for now.” Vicki blushed. “You saw it for yourself today too. The opera house has just opened and we already gained the love of so many audience members. If I go now, the opera house will have to close immediately and all my troupe members will be out of a job.”

“Today’s performance was indeed not bad.” Ferdinand nodded with appreciation.

Vicki felt so gratified. It wasn’t easy to get praise from Grandpa, even her dad was usually scolded by her grandfather.

“Did you come for that mech this time?” Vicki asked. She didn’t believe that her grandfather would make this trip for her deliberately.

“Seems like Xi has told you plenty.”

“You have mistaken Big Sister Xi. I got this information from Big Sister Xi with all my might. After all, you said that I have to keep track of current affairs.” Vicki quickly took the blame back onto herself.

“The mech is one reason. The other reason is to meet with that young man Alex,” Ferdinand said with a smile. He didn’t pursue it.

“Boss Mag is a good man.” Vicki said with a righteous indignation, “I think some fellows from Underground City are too much. How dare they cross over to murder. They have no regard for the rules.”

“Rules are what the strong use to restrict the weak. Some people always think that they are the rule setters, so naturally they aren’t going to follow them.” Ferdinand stopped smiling as well.

“Is this matter connected to the military?” Vicki sneaked a peek at Ferdinand and suddenly felt a little nervous.

Boss Mag slashed that Almost-Extraordinaire mech and even detained it. This was an antagonistic move to the power behind the mech.

If this matter had something to do with the military, her Grandpa’s motive for this trip would be unpredictable.

“Currently, we couldn’t find any evidence that the military is involved in this matter.” Ferdinand shook his head.

Vicki heaved a breath of relief. At least, this meant that her grandfather wasn’t behind this.

“However, I have indeed come to take that mech back. We should be able to get even more information from that mech. It’s regarding that mysterious organization, Immortel.” Ferdinand didn’t conceal his disgust when he mentioned Immortel.

“Immortel!” Vicki went white.

Immortel was a very mysterious and powerful organization in Underground City. Apparently, it was founded by an Extraordinaire. The group was very powerful but no one knew where they were.

An Almost-Extraordinaire mech that even the military didn’t possess, suddenly appeared out of nowhere and crossed the borders to kill.

Only that mysterious organization, Immortel, would have that kind of power in Underground City.

“I have another objective for coming to the Norland Continent. It’s to bring you back to Underground City,” Ferdinand said to Vicki, “It’s too dangerous here.”

Chapter 2420: An Invitation For a Collaboration

Mag only saw Ferdinand again at the restaurant’s entrance after the dinner service.

The other party was very polite. At least, he didn’t disrupt the restaurant’s operation.

“Mr. Mag, I came from Underground City. Are you free to talk now?” Ferdinand got straight to the point.

“Please come in.” Mag didn’t look shocked either. He stepped to the side and let Ferdinand enter.

There was no alcohol, only the steam of a teapot was drifting between the two of them.

“Today’s dinner was delicious.” Ferdinand spoke first.

“Thank you.” Mag nodded slightly. This praise seemed to be friendly, so he no longer put on a solemn expression. Mag asked, “May I know what’s the purpose of your late night visit, Mr. Ferdinand?”

“First of all, I’d like to represent the Underground City Federation and apologize to you all regarding the Wind Forest’s matter. The military is now pursuing the murderer with all its might.

“Secondly, I would like to exchange the mech from you. Currently, we only have limited information. We’ll need to have more information in order to catch the perpetrator,” Ferdinand said politely.

Were all the Underground City Extraordinaires so humble? Mag was a little surprised. Ferdinand’s humble attitude almost made him feel that he was the one with the upper hand.

However, the other party’s power and background were far above his. It had been an unequal negotiation from the moment they sat at this table, but the other party was so courteous. He apologized immediately and was willing to make an exchange instead of ordering him to hand the mech over.

“Does he have something to ask from me?” A gleam flashed across Mag’s eyes, but he still said with a calm expression, “You should apologize to the elves. I cannot accept your apology on behalf of the dead elven queen. However, as her son-in-law, I can’t accept your apology before the murderer is arrested.

“As for that piece of metal, you have to exchange it with the perpetrator’s head.”

Ferdinand said to Mag, “I can understand Mr. Mag’s stance. We already have some clues about the perpetrator that crossed over the borders, but the other party has a complicated network of power. I’m afraid that the military has also been infiltrated. If you want revenge, perhaps we can work together.”

“Work together?” Mag frowned.

“According to our current intel, the controller behind the mech might be an organization called ‘Immortel’. This organization is intricately connected to many plutocrats and is very powerful.

“You want to seek vengeance while I wish to eradicate this organization, so we have the same objective,” Ferdinand explained.

“Given your power and influence, why are you choosing me?” Mag looked into Ferdinand’s eyes. He wasn’t so narcissistic to think that he was irreplaceable. Underground City even had an Almost-Extraordinaire mech and the other party was a real Extraordinaire.

“I need a helper who is powerful yet unknown to Underground City, while you need a helper who can provide you with convenience in Underground City. I think we can cooperate well,” Ferdinand said frankly.

“However, I still know nothing about you and our so-called common enemy up till now.” Mag took a sip of the tea. “Having an equal amount of information is the premise for a collaboration.”

Ferdinand looked at Mag with an increasingly appreciative gaze. This young man had a very strong power that didn’t match his age. At the same time, he also had a prudence and wisdom that far exceeded his peers.

“I am Ferdinand, the First Marshal of the Underground City Federation’s Military.

“‘Immortel’ is a mysterious organization that has existed for over 10,000 years. They believe in eternal life. We know very little about them.

“They should have some Extraordinaires within their ranks and they had a shady relationship with a few plutocrats. They have infiltrated into all areas of Underground City, even the military has their traces.

“They have control of the Underground City’s best technology. Their mech’s technology is even a generation ahead of the military.

“The military’s actions against ‘Immortel’ have been leaked in advance repeatedly, so we can deduce that the military is already highly infiltrated by them. Hence, I need to find a helper from some other place,” Ferdinand said.

Mag had instinctively sat up straight. He was interested in this topic.

He could sense a lot of hidden information in the other party’s simple words.

The party sitting across from him was the Underground City’s Marshal. He really was at the pinnacle of Underground City’s political power.

It was close to his previous deduction. In the Underground World, the plutocrats had a lot of power. They could even influence the military.

The ‘Immortel’ that intruded into the Norland Continent to kill and plunder was very powerful. It was so powerful that even the Extraordinaire marshal couldn’t eradicate it and had to personally come to seek external help.

“An Extraordinaire like you is already beyond me,” Mag said honestly.

Killing an enemy above one’s tier wasn’t as easy as one said.

A real god hadn’t appeared on the Norland Continent for thousands of years, so that could already explain the problem.

“You don’t have to deal with the other party’s Extraordinaires directly. I will arrange an identity for you. You just need to investigate some things for me. With your current power, it’s more than adequate,” Ferdinand said.

“What can I gain from this?”

“After I eradicate ‘Immortel’, I will hand the mech’s controller over to you. Furthermore, I will provide you with an identity that allows you to enter Underground City. Over there, you may get in touch with a real Extraordinaire,” Ferdinand answered.

Mag had to admit that he was tempted.

He didn’t have much feelings for the elven queen, but she was still Irina’s mother. He should avenge her mother’s death for her.

Ferdinand could also provide him with a proper identity to enter Underground City. It was naturally better than smuggling.

He wanted to see for himself if the air in Underground City was indeed fresher and sweeter. Could he really become a god if he stayed there?

Mag tried to control his emotions as he said to Ferdinand, “I need a set of detailed information about Underground City and the part of your plan that you need me to execute. I will give you a reply within three days.”

“Alright. I will get Xi to hand them over to you later.” Ferdinand nodded. “But, Mr. Mag will have to keep this information confidential, otherwise, the law enforcers’ workload will increase tremendously.”

Mag could sense that this was a threat.

“Don’t worry. I know the rules.” Mag nodded.

A smile reappeared on Ferdinand’s face again. He took a sip of the tea on the table before saying to Mag, “We are done with business. I wonder if I may get Boss Mag to roast a helping of mutton kebabs and a helping of beef kebabs? I would like to take them away.”

Mag stared at Ferdinand quietly for a moment before asking, “How is Vicki related to you?”

“She’s my granddaughter,” Ferdinand smilingly answered.

“You are not a good guy in her story.” Mag had a weird expression.

“Children are always a little naughty.” Ferdinand smiled nonchalantly before he gratefully said, “I forgot to thank you for saving her life.”

“I have already received my compensation, so you don’t have to thank me anymore,” Mag calmly replied, but he couldn’t help criticizing this sly old fox inwardly. He only mentioned this matter after the negotiation, so that Mag couldn’t take any advantage of it.