

## Stay At home 2441

### Chapter 2441: This Aroma Is Fantastic!

The food critic David spoke first. He heaped praises on Iman's steamed yellow dragon fish. "The fish's meat is tender and light yet fresh, with a rich umami taste. The Tucker Restaurant's unique sauce gives the fish's taste even more layers. This steamed yellow dragon fish is fantastic!"

"The fish meat's texture is excellent. The control of heat is perfect. The choice of sauce and the grasp of condiments were equally well-done. It emphasizes the yellow dragon fish's umami and enhances the taste." Another judge praised.

"I think this turtle soup is an exquisite item. This is the first time I have tasted a black jade turtle that is over 3000 years old. This steaming method has done justice to it as well. The choice of not adding too much side ingredients and seasonings is a smart one. The crystal melon that was added last didn't affect the soup's taste. Instead, it added a hint of fragrance." Old Hunter put down the soup's bowl and nodded with satisfaction.

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The judges voiced out their individual opinions and commented on the two dishes.

Mag leisurely brushed oil over the ribs and flipped them as he listened in intently.

Listening to the judges' comments, Iman's steamed yellow dragon fish was obviously better than Alfonso's boiled black jade turtle in clear soup. Although the boiled black jade turtle in clear soup was also well-received, the overly simple cooking method had concealed the contestant's culinary skills.

After the commenting, the judges gave the marks for the two dishes on the spot.

The total marks for the competition was 100 points. Each judge had 10 points and so the total was 100.

The points were soon tallied.

Iman received 90 points and was ranked 1st temporarily.

Alfonso received 82 points and was ranked 2nd temporarily.

90 points was considered a good score in this season's competition. Together with Iman's PK value that was at the third place, he was basically confirmed to be in the top four.

And, Alfonso, whose PK value was at the bottom, was confirmed to be eliminated.

Mag nodded inwardly. Given Iman's steady performance and relationship with the judges, he only got 90 points. It was obvious that this judging panel was very stringent.

This was a good thing for Mag. At least, it gave him the chance to be in the top four.

With the announcement of Iman and Alfonso's results, the atmosphere became tense.

The other contestants completed their dishes one by one and the dishes were sent to the judges' table to be commented on and judged by the staff members.

Just as Mag expected, the difference between the contestants wasn't great. Among the six contestants who had completed, the lowest point was 78 while the highest was 92.

Currently, the highest points came from a contestant called Angelina. Her dish called the "Rainbow Phoenix" was unanimously acclaimed by the judges.

That was a delicacy that used the best Wild Pheasant as the main ingredient. By using all kinds of ingredients as decoration, she completed the amazing transformation from the pheasant to the phoenix.

Mag had read Angelina's info before too. She was the only contestant without an agency, but she was a food blogger who was rather famous on WeTwit.

Compared to the other contestants, her specialty was bestowing beauty on the food.

She was like an artist who could turn the foul and rotten into the rare and ethereal. She made the common food into something beautiful and artistic.

This before-and-after contrast was very attractive and shocking, so Angelina was also considered as a strong contender for the champion of this year's Top Chef Competition.

The other seven contestants had finished their dishes and the judges were already half-full.

Everyone's gaze and the camera focused on the last contestant who was still cooking—Mag.

All the food's aroma in the air hadn't dissipated yet. Together with the judges' exciting comments, even the air seemed extra tasty.

"The time will be up soon. He's not done yet?"

"Will Contestant Hades be the first contestant to run out of time on the Top Chef Competition?"

"His technique at dissecting the goat is great, but his cooking efficiency can be improved. Otherwise, he can only be a butcher."

Mag's fans were anxious while the other contestants' fans began to jeer at him.

The other contestants were looking at Mag, waiting for him to make a fool of himself.

Although the contestants who were eliminated were sad, they felt much better looking at Mag.

Meanwhile, those contestants who thought that they had advanced, felt even more relaxed.

The judges were not in a hurry. Anyway, they couldn't get off work before the show was over. Rather than them trying to make things up to talk about, it was more interesting to have a contestant present who they could comment on.

"There is a reason why the ancient method of grilling over charcoal was eliminated. Not many customers could spend so much time waiting for it," Julian said smilingly. He was in a great mood right now. His disciple had advanced into the top four in the second place.

“Other than the ancient tribes that preserved their traditions, such a cooking method is rarely seen now. Not being hygienic enough was also an important reason why it was eliminated.” David nodded too.

“What do you know about grilling over charcoal? Grilling the meat over a small fire is the essence. I think that this young man is patient, steady and experienced. He has great potential,” Old Hunter said honestly.

David looked unhappy and his voice became a little more sinister. “I think he just wants to drag it out and get eliminated for not presenting it in time. It will save him and his pride from the judges’ comments.”

Right then, a rich grilled meat’s aroma pierced through the messy aromas in the air and surged towards the judges like an arrow.

“Smells great!”

All the judges’ eyes lit up at the same time. They stopped arguing and turned to look at Mag.

The grilled mutton ribs’ aroma was so rich and unique that it suppressed all the aromas’ remnants in the air after it appeared. No one could ignore it.

A hint of a smile flashed across Nancy’s eyes. She curved her lips and looked at Mag’s calm face. He didn’t look smug because of the judges’ attention.

“Is that the original aroma of grilled mutton? It’s so rich and invasive. Just smelling the aroma makes one hungry for it.” A judge marveled.

Another judge continued on speaking, “The grilled mutton ribs is one of my favorite dishes, but this is indeed the first time I have seen mutton ribs that are grilled over charcoal. This rich aroma is unprecedented. It should have a lot to do with the marinating method and seasoning. It may be related to the grilling method as well.”

“This aroma is awesome! It suppressed the remnants of all the other aromas as soon as it appeared. This aroma is more enticing than all the grilled mutton ribs that I have had before. It makes one look forward to it.” Old Hunter looked rather agitated and he cast a smug glance at David and Julian, as though the goat’s ribs were grilled by him.

Julian snorted lightly and kept quiet.

David’s expression was slightly unnatural but he still said, “The aroma of these grilled mutton ribs is indeed enticing, but the aroma alone isn’t enough. We have to taste it to know.”

#### **Chapter 2442: Old Bootlicker**

“It’s golden. Must be crispy, right?! I want to eat it!”

“Although it is charcoal-grilled, the mutton ribs still look very clean. No soot or charred parts can be seen.”

“Hades YYDS[1.YYDS (yǒngyuǎn de shén; yyds) means “eternal God” and describes an outstanding person or thing. It’s similar to the saying GOAT (Greatest of All Time) in English. The phrase is often used by fans to praise their idols or simply to describe something they are fond of.]!”

The judges’ comments made those in the audience, who were not present, get gradually excited.

The camera zoomed in and on the grilling rack, and on the mutton ribs that were grilled until they were golden, sizzling and splattering. They could almost smell the aroma coming out of the screen.

Compared to the other contestants’ reserved way of cooking. The grilling over charcoal was more straightforward and greater to watch.

The contestants who had completed their dishes, focused their attention onto Mag too.

A hint of surprise appeared in Angelina’s beautiful eyes. This grilled mutton ribs’ aroma was indeed special. It was much richer than the mutton ribs that she had roasted before. It was a mesmerizing and intoxicating aroma.

At first, she thought Mag was using this ancient cooking method of grilling over the charcoal as a gimmick to wow the crowd, but now, she began to think that perhaps, it was this cooking method that bestowed a different taste to these mutton ribs.

Just with this aroma alone, she already decided that Hades was a contestant with real skills and not one of those pretty faces who had no skills.

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Iman, whose cooking bench was closest to Mag’s, experienced the strongest scent now. He even couldn’t help but gulp a few times when the rich grilled meat’s aroma washed all over him and the sizzling sounds went into his ears.

As the disciple of the chef of Tucker Restaurant, Iman had always believed that his culinary skills were the best since he joined this show. Even though he had once deemed Angelina to be his greatest opponent for the first place, he didn’t think that her culinary skills were above his. He only thought that her plating was prettier than his.

However, he had to admit now that if his steamed yellow dragon fish and Hades’ grilled mutton ribs were completed at the same time, his steamed yellow dragon fish’s aroma would be completely overwhelmed.

Of course, this was just the aroma.

As for what the taste was like, just as Judge David said, they had to taste it to know.

And now, the most nervous contestant was, without a doubt, the contestant, Denton, who was placed at number four.

Denton had thought that he was definitely making it to the top four. After all, his manager had told him before the competition that the replacement contestant was just a filler. He didn’t have to take him into consideration.

However, Hades' performance now made them look at him seriously.

There was already an obvious disagreement among the judges, which was a good thing.

The contestants' skills were close. In the situation whereby Hades was 10 points behind, such a disagreement was enough to get him out of the competition.

The control of heat was just right and the ribs were in their best condition. Mag started to plate them.

There was no fancy plating. The 12 ribs were stacked on the long plate in a pile. They were done after the chopped green onions were scattered over them.

"Judges, I am done." Mag raised his hand up.

There was only five minutes left on the two hours countdown. The time was almost up.

"This plating is really casual," David said laughingly with disdain.

"Don't tell me that you want him to place the ribs in a fan shape? Isn't a pile a kind of classic plating too?" Old Hunter dissed him. He was in loggerheads with David today.

David looked displeased and he was about to rebut Hunter.

Right then, Nancy spoke up leisurely. "I think his plating suits his overall cooking style. It highlights his theme with simplicity. Grilled mutton ribs are grilled mutton ribs. There are no other fancy things. Moreover, the ribs themselves are enticing enough."

David's words were choked in his mouth. He swallowed them and turned to butter up Nancy. "Miss Nancy is right. There is a spirit in this casual plating. It looks like a mountain from afar and the chopped green onions look like the greenery dotting in between them. It's really the highlight. These ribs are amazing."

"Old bootlicker." Old Hunter flicked a disdainful glance at David and held back his urge to diss him.

Mag couldn't help looking at Judge David too. His comprehensive skills were really awesome.

Although there were many ways to plate the ribs, Mag was too lazy to do any of them. Hence, he chose the easiest way and stacked them all together. There was no spirit at all.

However, Miss Nancy's sudden support for him was a surprise.

The Top Chef Competition might look like a culinary competition on the surface, fundamentally it was still a variety show which focused on viewership, and to choose a chef for the McCarthy Family.

As the person-in-charge of the show, other than being the judge, Nancy wielded even more power than the director.

After David, all the judges switched their positions and heaped praises on Mag's mutton ribs.

Only Julian remained calm and quiet.

As the chef of Tucker Restaurant, he had his pride. What did a little girl know about cooking?

The ribs were sent to the judges' table and placed on the conveyor belt for the judges to take a closer look.

The ribs were grilled to a golden brown. The sizzling sounds were still audible as the aroma washed over them. They were irresistible.

Nancy's throat moved and there was a hint of anticipation in her eyes.

The dishes that she tried previously were normal and couldn't compare to their family's chef's culinary skills. The so-called delicacies were worse than the dishes that she normally ate, so they weren't unusual.

However, the grilled mutton ribs were different, even the family chef who specialized in grilling, had never made the grilled meat smell so enticing.

After looking at the dish, the staff members plated a rib for each judge and presented it to the judge.

The surface temperature of the ribs had cooled down a little and it was the best time for eating them right now.

Nancy picked up her fork and knife gracefully and cut off a piece of meat from the rib before putting it into her mouth.

She pursed her lips and chewed gently, savoring it carefully while maintaining her always-graceful persona.

However... in the next moment, she lost her control.

The skin that was grilled till it was crispy, was wrapped around the succulent mutton. With only a gentle bite, before Nancy could react, the juice and fat exploded in her mouth. The slightly spicy fat melted on the tip of her tongue and triggered her taste buds instantly.

"Ah—"

Nancy opened her mouth slightly and made an enticing moan.

Yes.

Nancy realized she had lost control and blushed slightly, but her gaze was still fixed on the rib in front of her. Her fork and knife cut another piece of meat and she popped it into her mouth.

The long-lost surprise for food made her a little excited.

Even though she had led a wealthy lifestyle since she was young, she had lost most of her interest in food. However, it was just because of that, that she wanted to search for more tastes and thus, came to the Top Chef's variety show.

She was rather disappointed in this year's Top Chef Competition. It didn't let her find a whole new taste. She didn't expect a replacement contestant, who was found at the last minute, to give her the greatest surprise.

**Chapter 2443: This Rib Is Awesome!**

“Miss Nancy’s exclamation was so sexy!”

“Miss Nancy exclaimed. Hades is definitely going to win!”

“Miss Nancy has had an aloof expression the whole time. I didn’t expect her to lose her composure over these grilled mutton ribs. Looking at her mesmerized expression. Is it really that delicious?”

The bullet chat refreshed crazily. The discussion was especially heated regarding Nancy losing her composure over the grilled mutton ribs.

“Is it real? Is that newcomer so good?” The director had a weird expression as he looked at Nancy, who was immersed in eating the mutton ribs. He changed a few lines in the script that he was holding and went into deep thought.

The other judges began to try out the grilled mutton ribs.

Old Hunter put on the disposable gloves and picked up the rib that was as thick as a child’s arm. He pinched the meat with his fingers. The surface was slightly tough but the meat’s texture was still tender. Then, he took a bite.

Under the crispy skin, the juice in the tender meat squirted out. The slightly spicy taste had seeped into the meat together with the light fragrance of the fruit wood charcoal. The savory sauce gave the mutton a rich taste. The tendon that clinged onto the bone gave him a layered sensation when he chewed. It was oily but not greasy.

“This rib is awesome!”

Old Hunter’s eyes widened a little and he praised it with greasy lips. He didn’t make other comments and simply took another bite of the rib again. He chewed carefully with narrowed eyes and a mesmerized expression.

“Is he exaggerating?” David gave Old Hunter a side glance before looking at Nancy, who only tasted the previous dishes once and was now digging into the rib. He also cut out a piece with his knife and fed it into his mouth, despite his aversion to direct grilling over the charcoal’s fire.

“Mmm—”

David’s eyes widened as soon as the meat entered his mouth.

The rich fat in between the meat exploded in his mouth and the seasoning on the crispy skin was perfect.

With that bite, he saw the agile herd of goats running on the grassland. They were the elves on the grassland. He saw the red charcoal, and the fragrance of fruit wood charcoal blossomed quietly during the burning. He saw the scene where his forebears grilled food over the fire.

Everything was like a dream and it subverted his thinking.

This scrumptiousness was explosive and irresistible. There was no way to resist it.

As one of the top food critics in Underground City, he had tasted almost all the famous chefs' dishes.

He was the judge for the Top Chef Competition for the past two years. Frankly speaking, the majority of the contestants' potential were limited. They had a gap from the real masters. For example, Iman's steamed yellow dragon fish was inferior to Julian's.

For the show's effects, he would usually say some praises.

However, this rib was a thunder in a clear sky. It occupied a region in his heart alone.

Yes. To him, this was undoubtedly an astonishing delicacy. It was a dish that was comparable to the top masters' best dishes.

"I think I might have been wrong previously. I was very wrong." David looked with hot tears in his eyes before taking another bite. "So good—"

The judges were so mesmerized by the grilled mutton ribs that they forgot to comment. This situation had never happened on the Top Chef Competition before.

"I, David, will rather starve than eat a mouthful of grilled mutton ribs! In the next second: Mmm... so good!"

"A scene where everyone is proven wrong!"

"It makes me so hungry. Are there any restaurants in Tucker City that have grilled mutton ribs?"

"Maybe not today, but there definitely will be tomorrow."

The audience in front of the screens were craving it so badly.

In the Twin Towers, Akali was gulping on the sofa as she ordered her secretary at the side, "Didn't Brother Hades grill 12 ribs? They ate 10 of them, so there are two left. Go get them for me."

"Young Mistress, this..." The secretary looked hesitant. "This is the McCarthy Family's show after all, and Miss Nancy is in charge of it. I'm afraid we are not able to ask for that."

"If we can't ask for that, then snatch them. The Mocha Building is not the Twin Towers," Akali said matter-of-factly.

"I'm confident that we can breach the Mocha Building, but... this is a live show that hundreds of millions of people are watching right now. We might cause a bad influence." The secretary reminded her gingerly. Sweat was already beading on her forehead. She couldn't imagine how furious Master would be if that really happened.

Akali flicked a glance at her and seriously pondered for a while before saying, "Forget it. I'll send a message to Nancy directly. She will give me respect."

"That will be for the best," the secretary said fawningly, but she was secretly dissing inwardly. The hell would Miss Nancy give you the respect!

Seeing that everyone was marveling over this grilled mutton rib, Julian also cut a piece of meat off.



The razor-sharp dining knife sliced open the meat and the fat and juice squirted out from the cut surface. The gleaming meat aroused his appetite. The crispy exterior and tender interior was, without any doubts, the grilled meat's best state.

Hades had used the most primitive charcoal grill without any precise temperature control. It was difficult for him to control the temperature and yet he grasped the perfect temperature. That was really hard.

Putting the mutton into his mouth, the crispy exterior engulfed the tender meat while the fragrance of the charcoal was wrapped inside. Its taste was so unique and distinct that the other grilling methods had never achieved such a level.

Judging from the mutton's state, Hades' control of the temperature was perfect. It could easily be overdone or under cooked but yet, it was perfect.

The precise kitchenware had provided many conveniences for the chefs and greatly lowered the threshold to become a chef. For example, the temperature that was the hardest to control could be done with a timer. And, even the seasonings came with their own measuring equipment.

Back then when he was learning how to cook, his master had given him an old set of kitchenware that had all the automated parts removed. This was so that he could learn how to cook himself and not depend on the fully-automated kitchenware completely.

A few hundred years had passed and he had become the Tucker Restaurant's head chef. Other than the VIPs that came occasionally, he was rarely busy in the back kitchen.

The chefs now could make his signature dishes steadily with the precision kitchenware. There was a slight difference, but the normal customers were not able to taste it.

Iman was, without a doubt, the best among his disciples. He was the disciple whom he was most proud of.

However, the rib in front of him sent him back down memory lane.

Those days when he was scolded by his strict Master. Those days when he was sweating like mad in the simple back kitchen. Those days when he was ecstatic over the minute improvements in his culinary skills.

He seemed to have forgotten about those things while he was persevering on.

After swallowing the mutton, a warm flow went down his throat and lit up his heart.

It had been years since his culinary skills had improved, right?

Did his comfortable mentality finally destroy him? That was really bad.

Julian put down the fork and knife and put on the gloves. He picked up the whole rib and munched on it.

Taking big bites of the meat with his hands was the right way to eat the ribs.

**Chapter 2444: I Truly Appreciate You**

Old Hunter was the first to finish the rib. He left the bare bone and took off the gloves. He wiped away the sweat on his forehead and grease on his mouth. He had an expression of longing for more.

“This is the best grilled mutton rib that I have had in my life. I could even say that it’s the best among all the grilled meats that I have ever had.” Old Hunter looked at Mag with appreciation. “Contestant, your potential is way better than I have imagined.”

“Thank you.” Mag smiled humbly.

David followed after him. After eating his rib, he looked at Nancy, who was still eating her rib gracefully. One had to know that she only ate a small bite of the previous seven dishes. Obviously, she was very satisfied with that mutton rib.

“First of all, I would like to apologize to Hades for my earlier rashness and recklessness. After the tasting, it’s obvious that he has found a perfect balance point between food safety and scrumptiousness.

“He has shown us the real core of delicious food with an ancient cooking method. Extremely precise cooking equipment may not create absolutely scrumptious food. The charm of an experienced chef handling everything is more admirable.

“Just as Old Hunter said, this rib is also the best that I have ever had. Be it the control of the heat, or the seasoning, they were perfect. It’s astonishing.

“It’s foreseeable that this dish will create a grilled meat craze and bring new ideas to the world of grilled meat,” David looked at the camera and commented about the goat ribs.

All the judges looked at David strangely. Although this grilled mutton rib was delicious, given David’s prideful character, why would he admit his mistakes publicly? This matter was indeed weird.

Mag raised his brows slightly but he still nodded with a smile.

“It’s rare to hear such a great comment from David. Furthermore, he apologized first before he commented.”

“I’m asking again. Can we have the same charcoal-grilled mutton ribs somewhere in Tucker City? If there is somewhere, I’m going there right now!”

“I think that Brother Righteous has a great chance to advance today!”

“I did my calculations. According to the programming division’s rules, if Hades wants to advance, he has to get 96 points from the judges before he can advance into the top four with a minute<sup>1</sup> advantage.”

The netizens refreshed the bullet chat crazily.

Mag had done his calculations inwardly too. According to the real-time PK value calculations that Xi told him telepathically, he did indeed need to receive 96 points from the judges to defeat the current fourth place.

Although he had a lot of traffic today, it was only one morning. Till now, his PK value was only three after conversion.

Of course, this was already better than the zero points that he had expected at first.

Currently, the contestant in fourth place, Denton, had a combined score of 88.5.

Looking at it now, his situation was still not bad on the surface.

Denton, who was at the side, could no longer remain calm now. He kept looking towards his manager below the stage. Although he knew that Mag's online score was very low, he wondered if the judges' great comments would cause the situation to change.

The contestants who didn't take Mag seriously before, began to be concerned and wary of Mag.

After David finished commenting, Nancy also put down her cutlery.

She had eaten the entire rib clean with a fork and knife. Only a little tendon's membrane was still stuck to the bone.

The other judges weren't in a hurry to express their opinions. They seemed to turn their gaze to Nancy.

This show was still decided by Nancy, including the top four's name list. They had received it before the competition.

However, this contestant who appeared suddenly, was too amazing. Miss Nancy, who usually didn't eat much on the show, actually finished a whole mutton rib. This was an unexpected change that wasn't in the script.

And when David, who was usually very glib, decided to praise Mag shamelessly, it made them decide to comment after Nancy made her decision.

Nancy wiped away the grease on her lips gracefully and looked at Mag with an unconcealed appreciative gaze.

She was rather disappointed in this year's Top Chef Competition. None of the dishes had surprised her. She had decided that even the champion was not going to enter the McCarthy Manor's kitchen.

However, she had changed her mind today.

She was going to have this man.

Just with these grilled mutton ribs, Nancy had already decided to let Hades enter the McCarthy Manor's kitchen and be in charge of grills.

Even though she couldn't eat grilled mutton ribs every day, it was still an extreme scrumptious experience for either a friends' gathering or a snack.

Furthermore, it was difficult for the other chefs to replicate it, which meant that he was irreplaceable.

"This is the first dish that I have finished in this year's Top Chef Competition." Nancy looked at Mag and smilingly said, "Hades has made an astonishingly mesmerizing dish with a normal Haley Goat. Before that, I had never imagined that mutton could be so tender and juicy, and so deliciously mesmerizing."

“He used this method to let us see the charm of the traditional charcoal grilling, and has also proved on the Top Chef Competition’s stage that not only the expensive and precious ingredients can create delicious food.”

“I truly appreciate you.”

The last sentence was solely meant for Mag.

Mag was still as calm as ever. He nodded with a smile. “Thank you.”

The judges looked at each other with an ‘Aha!’ expression.

The previous contestant who had received Miss Nancy’s praises and appreciation was the champion of the second edition. He should be the head chef of the McCarthy Manor now.

Hence, all the judges after her were heaping praises on Mag. They weren’t stingy with their praises at all.

“Is this mutton rib really that scrumptious?” Johnny looked shocked. The script was in a mess now, but Miss Nancy was the one who changed the script, so he couldn’t be unhappy at all. He altered the script with a frown as he told his assistant, “Aren’t there still two ribs left? Go get them for me to try them out.”

“Sure.” The assistant quickly strode off. This was considered as one of the director’s team’s benefits. The dishes that were leftover by the judges were ‘processed’ by them.

“Pack the remaining two ribs for me. I’m bringing them home.” Right then, Nancy’s voice appeared in his ear telepathically.

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Johnny’s expression froze, but he quickly nodded in agreement.

“Director.” The assistant swiftly returned with the plate and offered him the two ribs.

Johnny gulped when he looked at the ribs and tried his best to move his gaze away. “Pack them in the highest manner possible and put them in the warmer.”

“You are not tasting it now?” The assistant was perplexed.

“I want to, but the lady boss doesn’t allow me to.” Johnny was miserable as he covered his face and said, “How can we fool around during work time? Bring them away.”

## **Chapter 2445: Advancing To Semifinals**

Nancy’s admiration made Mag feel more composed. He even started thinking if there was a possibility to join the McCarthy Family through Nancy, even if he did not win the competition.

His aim was not to win the competition. His ultimate goal was to join the McCarthy Family and to complete his mission.

Achieving it via Nancy would seem very safe.

Of course, if he could win the competition, he would also be able to gain a foothold in the Underground City's Gourmet circle.

All the judges had made their comments. All, except for Julian, who had just placed the bones of cleanly eaten mutton ribs on his plate. The camera naturally focused on him.

Iman looked at his master closely. His master had always been very strict. He had barely heard him compliment anyone since he learned culinary skills from him when he was young.

Denton's face was as pale as a sheet. It was as though he saw the slot for the top four position fly away from him.

"These mutton ribs are indeed rather unique. You can tell the chef's attention to this dish based on the infusion of fruit charcoal and the tender meat wrapped within the slightly charred surface.

"The cooking method seems easy but it actually demands a lot from a chef to be able to control the heat well. This might just be basic for a chef, but most chefs have lost this skill because of the extremely accurate kitchenware.

"I think the charcoal-roasted mutton ribs are the best dish for today," Julian declared.

The judges looked at Julian in shock. The nickname 'iron-face Julian' did not come by for nothing. Julian did not even spare his disciples from his disses but actually gave Hades, a contestant he did not think could make it, such a positive compliment.

"This, I agree," Old Hunter nodded in agreement. "The chefs nowadays have already forgotten what cooking is all about. They have all become tools of recipes and kitchenware."

Upon hearing that, the contestants on the stage all looked down, avoiding eye contact with the judges.

"What... a compliment!" Iman was shocked. He had never heard such a compliment in the past 10-odd years. Even in the last three seasons of the Top Chef Competition, he had never heard his master compliment someone like that.

"Done for, I'm really done for," Denton muttered under his breath. Even Julian, the strictest judge, gave him such a good compliment. Hades would most likely get above 90 points from the judges.

"Thanks for the comments. Now, can we have the judges award their points for Hades' dish!" the emcee said.

The judges stopped discussing and started marking their points seriously.

"I'm so nervous! Can Big brother Hades make a comeback?"

"Although he was complimented, I think the chances for Hades to get through to the next round would still be slim. No one had gotten higher than 95 points in this season's Top Chef Competition yet. He will only be able to make it through if he gets 96."

"It's already unfair to the other contestants that he was brought into the show last-minute. It's only right if he was eliminated."

The audience before the screen was very nervous as well.

“What a difficult decision. I want Brother Hades to be eliminated, that way, he would be mine. But I want him to make it through to the next round too. I don’t want to see him upset when he gets eliminated. What should I do?” On the top floor of the Twin Towers, Akali had a distressed expression as she chewed on the mutton ribs in her hands.

During the program recording, she could not get through to Nancy’s phone. The mutton ribs did not come from the recording site. It was a substitute her secretary got for her at the last minute. It was the mutton ribs with the best reputation in Tucker City.

The mutton ribs in her hands tasted pretty good but she was still craving the one Hades made.

She could tell that Nancy was beginning to take interest in Hades and that was why she said such shameless words.

The Top Chef Competition was actually just a competition to choose a chef for the McCarthy Manor.

Those in the industry all knew it very well. But that was precisely why everyone wanted to join the competition. It was so that they could join the McCarthy Family.

To be chosen by the top ten families meant that one would not need to worry about putting food on the table and would even be highly respected.

Of course, she had whatever Nancy had. In fact, she had more.

Akali sent Mag a private message on WeTwit and continued watching the program.

A minute passed quickly. The judges put down their scoreboards and waited for the result to be shown.

After that... the programming division annoyingly inserted an advertisement.

Hades’ scores would be revealed soon and that would determine if he could get through to the top four. Right now, the program was at its peak in viewership. There were 1.3 billion watching the live-stream.

Therefore, Johnny signed a last-minute agreement with a company to have a 12-second commercial priced at 0.1 billion inserted into the live-stream.

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Mag dissed the crafty businessman and he could not help but feel increasingly nervous.

This felt exactly like how he felt back then when he was waiting for his high school results before he knew his family was extremely rich.

The 20-seconds-long wait finally passed. Mag’s score was revealed.

“Judges’ total score: 96!”

“Comprehensive score: 89.4!”

“Ranking: 3!”

Mag looked at the scores on the screen and let out a relieved smile.

It was a little better than what he expected and also a little more nerve-racking

The contestant in fourth place had 88 points. If he hadn't garnered so much attention to himself prior to the competition and did not have that three points PK value, he would have already been eliminated and sent home.

"This... this... this is impossible..." Denton was dispirited. From the preliminaries all the way to the quarterfinals, he had yet to see any contestant with a score of 96 points.

This fellow here, in his first competition, actually achieved such a high score.

"Fantastic!" Angelina looked at Mag with admiration.

Although she was in first place, the judges only gave her 93 points. She was initially still quite proud about breaking the highest score the judges have given for this season. She did not expect that her record was broken by Mag immediately and was pulled up to 96 points.

"This fellow is such a monster!" Iman looked at Mag seriously. 96 points. It meant that at least six of the judges gave Mag full marks. That meant that they were very satisfied with that dish.

One had to know that Mag only obtained 3 points for his PK value but could still clinch the third position and was only behind by 0.6 points in terms of comprehensive score.

The scarier part was that he only made an official announcement to join the Top Chef Competition this morning. Just when everyone thought that his PK value should be zero, he actually already had three?!

"Congratulations to Hades for advancing to the top semifinals!"

"w(?!?)w!!he actually got 96 points!"

"The second-highest score in the history of the Top Chef Competition and the highest for this season!"

"This last-minute contestant is way too strong!"

"This feeling of an epic comeback is superb! I'm becoming a fan!"

A commotion stirred among the audience.

### **Chapter 2446: I Find You Increasingly Adorable**

"What was I even nervous about?" Xi loosened her clenched fist at the bottom of the stage and smiled.

"However, was all this part of his plan? Even from that post he sent out in the morning?" Xi looked at Mag curiously.

Mag did not seem to struggle with adapting to life here ever since he came down to the Underground City with her. He seemed to be able to arrange things very well and had a lot of tricks up his sleeves. She even thought that he might be from the Underground City.

His extraordinary performance in his professional field had successfully won the judges over and got him a rare high score to advance to the semifinals. It could be considered taking one successful step forward for the mission.

The name list for the top four was out and coming in first place was Angelina who got 92 marks. Iman came in second place and Mag was in third place with only a 0.4 points difference.

The other four contestants were eliminated.

“Sir, I have a question!” Denton stood out angrily.

Everyone looked at him a little sympathetically.

According to the original script, he should have been in the top four positions and not on the elimination list.

The emcee looked toward the director.

Johnny nodded and allowed him to speak.

“Denton, what questions do you have?” the emcee asked.

Johnny pointed at Mag and said, “Hades only joined the Top Chef Competition today. His basic PK value was 0. How can he reach three points within just a few hours? This is impossible!”

The other contestants had almost the same expressions. They all looked at the judges and emcee.

“That is indeed a little strange.” David agreed with a nod.

As a permanent judge of the competition for three seasons, he knew clearly that at the semifinals, the three points from the online score meant that Hades’s PK value had already gone past 30 million.

Although it was way lower than the average points of the other contestants, it was actually very high for a contestant who had just officially announced joining the competition five hours ago.

With the contestants’ and judges’ suspicion raised, the emcee raised his hand calmly and said, “Please switch to the real-time PK board.”

The screen on-site switched to the PK board of the eight contestants. Angelina was in the top place with 0.15 billion. The second was Iman with 0.13 billion. The last place on the board was Hades with a PK value of 35 million.

35 million and the number was still rapidly increasing.

The screen also showed the calculation method. According to the calculation, Mag’s online score was at 3.1 now. Another 0.1 more than before.

“What did this fellow do?!”

This was what all the judges and contestants thought.

“What a joke, Hades is now Brother Righteous with billions of fans online!”



“You need to understand them. After all, the contestants and judges have been off the internet for two hours and they don’t know that times have already changed.”

“If you and I don’t vote, when will Brother Righteous reach the top? Brothers, cast your votes!”

The netizens were all going wild. They were all very satisfied with the result.

“This...” Denton was about to go crazy.

“Are you mad? This is the live-stream of the Top Chef Competition! Even if you don’t want your life, I want mine!” Just then, Denton’s manager’s slightly trembling voice exploded in his ear, shaking him awake instantly. Denton swallowed whatever words he wanted to say back in.

“This is incredible. I accept it. Congratulations, Hades.” Denton controlled his emotions and squeezed out a smile at Mag.

“Thank you.” Mag saw Denton’s ugly smile and found it very funny. He smiled even more brilliantly.

The queries of the contestants had been answered and the programming division even gave each eliminated contestant some time to bid farewell at this stage.

Although this was a culinary competition, the contestants themselves were almost celebrities, considering how much viewership and popularity the show had.

The top eight contestants of all seasons were mostly signed under Mocha Group and debuted according to their specialty.

The eliminated contestants left the competition stage and the contestants who advanced took their seats successfully. The judges congratulated them on advancing and at the same time, announced that the semifinals would be held the next day. The competition rules would be announced on the day of the competition itself.

That was the end of a two and a half hour long quarterfinal of the Top Chef Competition.

“The live-stream has ended. Thanks, everyone,” Johnny said as he stood up and pulled off his in-ear microphone.

The cameras were all turned off and the judges all stood up as they moved their stiff bodies around, after sitting for more than two hours.

The contestants headed offstage and were all led away by their managers.

“Did you generate fans for me?” Mag asked Xi telepathically as they walked through the long walkway.

“No.” Xi shook her head.

“That 30 million is way too much!” Mag was still in disbelief.

“The incident from the morning is still brewing. At the same time, the Top Chef Competition also helped with the volume. Therefore, the popularity,” Xi explained.

“Has Horace been arrested?” Mag asked without a smile.

“Charlie and Bart have already been withheld by the Justice Investigation Bureau. But Horace has yet to be arrested.”

“According to how cruel Fergus is, whether Horace would still be alive right now is still unknown.” Mag shook his head. He thought for a while and said, “Give me Horace’s location. I know you can obtain it.”

“What do you want to do?” Xi stopped in her tracks and looked intently at him.

“I’ve said it before. Justice might be delayed but never absent,” Mag said with a smile.

“You should leave such things to the Justice Investigation Bureau. Your method does not comply with the rules of the Underground City.” Xi shook her head.

“Would letting him be silenced comply with the Underground City rules?” Mag asked sarcastically.

“That’s true. This rule of yours was set by them in the first place.”

Xi fell silent and continued walking.

“He should be tried and redeem himself in front of those young girls who died with grievances or are still trapped in their nightmares. He should not die quietly and be staged to look like he committed suicide,” Mag said as he looked at Xi’s back profile.

Xi took a deep breath and turned to look at him. “The rules of the programming division is that no contestant can leave Mocha Building without permission. Therefore, you have to leave your bangle in the building. You only have two hours.”

“I find you increasingly adorable.” Mag caught up with Xi with a bright smile.

Approximately 10 minutes later, the flying car driven by Xi flew off from Mocha Building.

“Women’s clothes are indeed quite uncomfortable. However, the dress is still quite breathable.” Mag pulled off his headpiece and undid the buttons to the rather tight-fitting dress.

There was a red dot on the screen. It was located among the mountains 3000 km away from Tucker City. It was currently stationary.

This should be Horace’s location.

“Let’s go meet this scumbag.” Mag switched on auto-pilot and started changing.

### **Chapter 2447: The Adjudicator**

In a deserted valley filled with strange rocks, Horace stood on a giant rock and looked eastwards nervously.

Around 15 minutes ago, he had finally made contact with Young Master Fergus.

Young Master Fergus agreed to help him escape based on his years of loyalty.

He would receive a new identity and move far away from Tucker City to a small town at the northwestern borders. The Dixon Family had a branch company there and he would become the new CEO of that company. He could return to Tucker City after staying there for 10 years.

With the Dixon Family's power, he knew very well that Fergus could do that easily.

"Although it's a border town, it's still the Dixon Family's company. There should be many pretty young maidens in the company, right?" Horace was already looking forward to his new life.

A dot of light appeared in the sky and a flying car giving out a dim light appeared at the horizon. It appeared in front of him in a blink of an eye.

There was no logo on the flying car. It hovered five meters in front of Horace just like a ghost.

Horace looked ecstatic. He leaped off from the giant rock to the ground.

The flying car's door opened and out came a young man in a black body suit and sunglasses. He solemnly said, "Horace?"

"Yes, I'm Horace," Horace replied with a smile. He was wondering why it wasn't someone close to Fergus meeting him.

The young man in black clothes clicked on his bangle and confirmed Horace's identity again. Then, he looked around him and coldly smiled. "You have chosen a nice place."

"This place is very secluded. We won't be discovered easily. I discovered this place when I was choosing the locations." Horace was feeling a little smug, but he still hurried him. "We'd better leave now. I heard that Charlie and Bart were already arrested."

"Where is your flying car parked?" the young man asked.

"Right behind that rock." Horace waved his hand and a flying car flew out from a giant rock.

"Excellent, then we shall be on our way now." The young man nodded and walked to his own flying car.

Horace followed after the young man. He lifted his hand up to show him his bangle. "Should I change my bangle now? Will we be traced?"

The young man walking in front suddenly stopped. His hand grabbed Horace's throat when he turned around. He watched Horace's face turn dark red and shook his head. "There's no need for that. Young Master said that it will be more troublesome if they can't find you."

Horace glared at the young man, who lifted him up with one hand, with a shocked and pained expression as he said in a hoarse voice, "H-he wants to silence me..."

"There's no silencing. They will soon find you committing suicide here because you can't face the punishment of a lifetime in jail. This is very reasonable." The young man shook his head and tightened his grasp as he prepared to end him.

Horace had a desperate expression. He already knew Fergus had decided to end this matter right here. Dead men would never talk and could take all the blame.

A white light had already appeared in front of his eyes. He had no way to retaliate or struggle. The other party was an 8th-tier powerhouse and had complete control over him.

Right then, a flash of white light came down from the sky.

Ding!

A thin and narrow black longsword stabbed into the rock.

And the man in black's arm that was grabbing Horace, was chopped off by the sword.

Fresh blood splashed all over Horace's face. The young man let out a painful scream, but he couldn't be bothered with the pain yet as he took out a three-sided short dagger and pounced onto Horace on the ground.

A figure dropped from the sky and stepped onto the man in black's waist. He was sent flying as he crashed into dozens of stone pillars and weird rocks.

The three-sided short dagger missed Horace's heart, but it still left a bloody wound on his thigh.

Horace fell to the ground, holding his throat. He couldn't care about the pain in his leg as he looked at the man in black who appeared suddenly. Horace said in a hoarse voice, "Save me. I'll tell you anything! I'll be truthful! Fergus wanted to silence me. I have laundered billions for the Dixon Family in the past few hundred years and they want to silence me!"

The man in the luxurious black long robe wore a black and gold mask. He looked noble and mysterious.

His razor-sharp gaze turned to the young man in black, who was crushed under the giant rock, and lifted his hand at him.

"Bang!"

That young man in black exploded without any warning. The huge explosion wave turned everything within 10 meters of the rock into dust.

"Suicide assassin?" Mag frowned. This was much more vicious than hiding poison in the teeth.

The remaining explosion wave was removed by Mag with a wave of his hand.

Horace looked at the falling rocks with lingering fear, but he also heaved a breath of relief at the same time.

He had never thought that Fergus would send an assassin to kill him, and it was such a fierce person.

"Thank you for saving me. Please bring me away from here. As long as you can guarantee my safety, I will tell you all I know!" Horace kowtowed to Mag.

Judging from the mysterious man in black's power, he was at least a 10th-tier powerhouse. He just didn't know which side he belonged to.

Meanwhile, what Horace didn't know was, on the WeTwit's live-stream, a chatroom called "Judging Horace" had appeared. The creator was "The Adjudicator".

The live-stream began when the killer in black was strangling Horace's throat. Then, the deacon in black descended from the sky, cut off the killer's arm and sent him flying away with a kick.

In the situation whereby the whole Internet was looking for Horace, this live-stream was pinned to the top when it was discovered.

"Darn it! The Justice Investigation Bureau failed to locate Horace, yet the vlogger found him?!"

"Judging Horace? Perhaps, it's going to live-stream the judgement and have illegal torture?"

"The scene is so bloody! Is that the legendary plutocrat's suicide assassin? It's so scary!"

"He actually mentioned the Dixon Family. Let's watch it while we can. I have a feeling that the vlogger's account will be canceled soon."

"Please help me slash him. I'll send you to the top of the trending list!"

The netizens were shocked by the suicide assassin, yet at the same time, they were also excited by the live-stream's content.

"Are you talking terms with me?" Mag stared at Horace.

"You know very well that all I have left to survive on are these secrets." Horace smiled, revealing his wily old fox's character.

"Unfortunately, I'm not interested in these things." Mag shook his head. He bent over and drew his black longsword out from the rocks slowly as he said in stern and cold voice, "Horace, I will judge you for your crimes here today. For the past 300 years, you, together with Charlie and Bart, have sexually assaulted 362 women, including 62 minors. 18 victims committed suicide because of the humiliation. Over 100 victims fell into deep depression. Do you admit to your crimes?"

#### **Chapter 2448: Tear Away the Fig Leaf**

The live video of "Judging Horace" was climbing up the WeTwit's live-stream interface rapidly. It gained a lot of attention within a short time.

After the sexual assault incident was exposed, and with Hades' astonishing performance on the Top Chef Competition, this incident gained even more attention.

A famous director who was very respected in the industry, an evergreen actor in the movie industry, and the favorite of all in the movie industry, were actually so depraved that they preyed on hundreds of innocent maidens and directly caused more than 10 maidens to commit suicide in depression.

Such a contrast was shocking and infuriating.

The Justice Investigation Bureau quickly intervened and Charlie and Bart were soon arrested. However, Horace disappeared after he escaped from the film and video base. Nobody knew where he was. The netizens started a movement called "Find Horace", and millions had responded to it.

Nobody expected that a live video called “Judging Horace” appeared on WeTwit before the Justice Investigation Bureau and the netizens found him.

Moreover, the opening scene of the live-stream was brutal. The suicide assassin wanted to silence Horace and his arm was chopped off by a sword that came from the sky. He self-detonated when he had no way to escape.

Such a realistic scene brought a great shock to the audience.

The speech that Horace made in his panic had also proven the legendary suicide assassins that belonged to the plutocrats.

Of course, what made the audience even more shocked was that the person who came wasn’t from the Justice Investigation Bureau. He was a mysterious man in black.

More importantly, he wasn’t here to arrest Horace, but to judge him!

There was no court and no victims present. There was only the suspect and the man in black who called himself “The Adjudicator”.

Professional lawyers had analyzed the situation before. In Tucker City’s high court whereby the sentencing was getting increasingly careful, the chances of Horace receiving a death sentence was extremely low. He could even be jailed for less than 50 years.

Given Horace’s current age, he had a chance of getting out of the prison alive.

The result had also caused a great hoo-ha on the Internet. A bastard who caused misery to hundreds of victims, might only receive such a light sentence.

But now that this Adjudicator had found Horace before the Justice Investigation Bureau did and decided to pass the judgment on the live-stream.

Everyone was waiting to see what kind of judgment he would give to Horace.

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In the WeTwit’s headquarter building, Lucien, who had just fallen asleep, was woken up in a hurry by Amos, the Director of Operations.

“What’s it?” Lucien, whose nap was interrupted, was rather unhappy.

“Horace was caught,” Amos said nervously.

“A director without the help of the Dixon Family. Do you think he’s capable of escaping from the Justice Investigation Bureau?” Lucien looked increasingly annoyed. He actually disturbed him because of such a small matter.

“No... He wasn’t caught by the Justice Investigation Bureau. He was caught by a mysterious man who called himself “The Adjudicator” and he has set up a live video on WeTwit. He is live-streaming the judging of Horace.” Amos clicked open his bangle and set it to the double-screen. One of them was the live video by “The Adjudicator”, while the other was the replay of it. It started from the part where the suicide assassin tried to kill Horace.

“A vigilante?” Lucien’s eyes widened as he looked at the virtual screen. He no longer felt sleepy.

There were a lot of factors in this video and they were very sensitive.

The Dixon Family wanted to silence Horace and had sent their most loyal assassin. Judging from their preparation, it was very well done.

Furthermore, this scene happened to be encountered by “The Adjudicator” and he live-streamed it.

The ancient plutocrats had existed for tens of thousands of years and they were the rulers of Underground City. Later on, they moved behind the scenes as the political system changed, but they still ruled and influenced Underground City in other ways.

Of course, this kind of control was secretive and not known by the public.

And, the assassins and private soldiers that the plutocrats kept, had always just been rumors online. There had never been any factual evidence of them.

Then, today’s video clip pointed out the Dixon Family directly.

Keeping assassins, silencing witnesses. Was that the real plutocrats?

Scary, scary...

Frankly speaking, Lucien was a little afraid too.

He knew about the power of the various plutocrats, but he didn’t expect them to silence Horace so decisively.

In his position, he might offend any one of them one day. Would he encounter something like that one day?

“Shall we shut down this live video first?” Amos asked, “Using the excuse of obstructing the laws and preventing imitation.”

“Shutting down the live video will please the Dixon Family, but we will offend the other families. Furthermore, I have to check the military’s intentions.” Lucien shook his head. He clicked on his bangle and dialed a number as he said, “You should go back first and wait for my news.”

“Sure.” Amos quickly strode away.

Very soon, Lucien got a reply from the military: The people need an outlet to vent their frustration.

After a moment of hesitation, Lucien sent a message to Amos. He wanted him to observe first and not interfere with the live video for the moment.

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“Basta\*d! Look at what you have done!”

A loud slap echoed throughout the villa. Fergus lowered his head with a swollen cheek and a panicked expression.

He sent the assassin and to play safe, he deliberately sent an 8th-tier assassin to kill Horace, who was only 5th-tier.

However, he didn't expect someone to interfere and kill the assassin that was painstakingly groomed by the Dixon Family. Horace was caught and what was even more terrifying was, that person actually live-streamed the whole process.

It wasn't a secret among the plutocrats to keep assassins.

The big families had interests in all kinds of industries in the Underground City. There were affairs that they couldn't settle above board. The assassins were the best candidates to handle such affairs

However, to the ordinary folks, this was an absolute secret that couldn't be discussed at the table.

But this so-called "The Adjudicator" had torn away the fig leaf and Horace's speech had exposed the Dixon Family completely.

"Don't interfere with this matter anymore. I will settle it. From today on, you are grounded for three months," Merlin said coldly.

"Chief, many affairs in the company need me..."

"All posts in the company are suspended. We'll see again when you can do your job properly." Merlin interrupted Fergus and looked at him coldly.

Fergus felt a chill up his back and lowered his head in a panic. He answered and quickly walked away.

"Darn it! I will find that fellow and cut him into pieces!" After he came out of the villa, Fergus' gaze was filled with ruthlessness. He punched the air angrily and the space twisted.

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"Locate his location right now and send our nearest forces over, but tell them not to act rashly. The other party is a warrior who is at least a 10th-tier. Lockdown the scene and wait for reinforcements!"

In Tucker City, the bureau chief of the Justice Investigation Bureau moved his gaze away from the giant screen and ordered.

### **Chapter 2449: 362 Strikes**

The Horace incident had caused tremendous pressure on the Justice Investigation Bureau's chief, Pashat. The military's comment made them have to interfere in this incident that had a huge effect on the Internet as quickly as possible, while the pressure from the Dixon Family had also given him a huge headache.

However, something that gave him an even bigger headache had happened. Just as the bureau was still tracking Horace, someone had found him before them and was going to judge him. Moreover, he was live-streaming it.



Rumors about the Justice Investigation Bureau's incompetencies were flying everywhere. This was a slap to their face.

*"Damned it. Which moron in the Dixon Family handled this matter?!"* Pashat dissed inwardly. At first, he didn't set this matter to be the most urgent, as he wanted to give the Dixon Family some time to clean up their mess.

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Regardless if it was to let Horace disappear for some time, or let him disappear completely, it would look better for all of them.

But now that the fig leaf was torn away completely. The Dixon Family had not only failed to silence him, they were even exposed on the live-stream, and the person that the Justice Investigation Bureau failed to find, was found by a mysterious man.

The Dixon Family should be busy shirking their responsibility right now, while he was having a headache about how to remove his incompetency charges, otherwise he could kiss his promotion in the next month goodbye.

Very soon, the technical staff locked in on Horace's current location. It was 3,000 kilometers away from Tucker City. The personnel from the headquarters would only need 20 minutes to reach there.

Meanwhile, the branch that was nearest to that location, could arrive in 10 minutes.

However, the combat power of that mountain branch was limited. The strongest powerhouse was only a 7th-tier, who was helpless even if he went.

The powerhouses from the headquarters were all activated. Two battleships followed them as well.

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*"He's actually been exposed on the spot. Fergus that little b\*tch is going to get it, and it saved me the money to get an assassin."* In the penthouse of the Twin Towers, Akali was watching the live-studio with excitement on her face.

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*"However, who is this handsome man? Even though he is wearing a mask, judging from his figure and low and sexy voice, he should be a cool and aloof handsome man, right? But, I don't think that such a powerful and righteous handsome man exists among the younger generations..."* Akali gulped as she stared at the man with the mask. She wasn't angry that he had humiliated the Dixon Family.

*"No, no. I have just fallen for Brother Hades. I cannot shift my attention so quickly. It's immoral."*

*"However, Horace was exposed by Brother Hades and this brother with the mask is judging him now. They are both so righteous!"*

*"Mmm. It's indeed the right choice for me. I will like them both!"*

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In a few short minutes, the number of people that entered “The Adjudicator”’s live-studio had already exceeded tens of millions, and was still increasing at a terrifying speed.

Meanwhile, in the valley, Mag pointed his longsword at Horace, who was slumped on the ground.

Mag had watched many movies when he was learning the Underground City’s language, including a few movies that were directed by Horace.

He had to admit that Horace was indeed exceptional when it came to making movies. This was the reason that he won many awards at many movie festivals and was liked by the Dixon Family.

However, being talented wasn’t an excuse for committing crimes. Those victims had never thought that a respected senior in the industry would do such a heinous thing to them.

“Y-you cannot judge me! Only the court can judge my crimes...” Horace went white. He was reminded of an old movie—“The Adjudicator”.

The movie was about the age of a few thousand years ago when the laws were incomplete. The rich and powerful people ruled and the ordinary people were suffering. A mysterious man wearing a mask who called himself “The Adjudicator”, punished the rich and powerful who had escaped the punishments of the law.

This movie caused huge repercussions and many imitation crimes back then. Hence, this movie was also banned.

This man in front of him called himself “The Adjudicator” and wanted to judge him here.

“You’re really stubborn and incorrigible.” A smirk appeared on Mag’s face under the mask. He looked down at Horace and coldly said, “For 300 over years, you hid under the Dixon Family’s protection and harmed the innocent maidens. You cut off all the channels that they used to voice out their grievances. Your crimes are too horrible even to be described. You are hereby sentenced to death with 362 cuts by the sword. It will be carried out right now.”

As soon as he was done saying that, a rusty blunt sword appeared in his hand. He put away that razor-sharp black sword.

“W-what do you want to do?! Y-you are committing a crime here!” Horace’s voice was shaking as he stumbled backwards. He hit a giant rock and couldn’t go backwards anymore.

“The 1st strike is for that maiden whose internet ID is ‘The Lost Fawn’.” Mag raised his sword and cut off Horace’s ‘root of all evil’.

“The 2nd strike is for the maiden in red who jumped into the lake.” That sword stabbed into Horace’s thigh slowly.

“The 3rd strike is for...”

Horace’s screams didn’t affect Mag waving his sword steadily.

The blunt sword cut open the flesh and the uneven blade cuts sliced through the muscles, making the sense of pain even greater.

Mag didn't enjoy this process, but he felt his every strike was extremely grave.

"Great! This is eradicating the frustration I have felt the whole day!"

"362 strikes. Is he stabbing a strike for every victim? He's so thoughtful."

"This is indeed what torture equipment should be like. Using a sharp sword will be too easy for that old fart."

"The Adjudicator is back. Bad eggs, tremble!"

The bullet chat refreshed crazily and the netizens' emotions went wild.

In Tucker City's slums, in a small and dark room, a thin middle-aged woman looked at the blurry image on her bangle and cried. There was a little dark yellow bear made of cloth in her arms. She caressed the bear and softly said, "Cassa, someone has avenged you. That bad guy is being judged finally..."

In the video and film base, at a production group that was filming, the female costar who was getting ready for her scene, suddenly broke down. After saying her apology, she covered her face and ran to the bathroom. She locked the door and crouched at a corner. She looked at Horace who was being stabbed repeatedly and smiled, but her tears marred her makeup.

At a rubbish dump at the corner of the street, a woman who was in a daze, saw the live-stream that was playing in the bakery across the street. A hint of clarity suddenly appeared in her eyes. She stumbled over to the floor-to-ceiling windows at the bakery and then smiled. Her eyes got increasingly clearer.

### **Chapter 2450: You Get One More Strike**

Mag was holding onto the sword steadily. Every strike avoided the lethal areas and yet he made sure to give Horace the maximum pain at the same time.

In order to make sure Horace stayed awake and alive to feel the pain of every strike, Mag even fed him a few healing pills when he opened his mouth to scream.

It was something that could be bought at the Underground City's pharmacies everywhere. It wasn't expensive but it was very effective.

"Kill me... I know I am wrong... Kill me..."

Horace's voice was filled with fear and pain. He suddenly regretted that he didn't let that assassin kill him earlier. He could have had a quicker death.

Fresh blood oozed out from the wound slowly. The healing pills kept him alert and he could clearly feel the excruciating pain from every wound.

As that cold voice read out the names along with the strikes, some images appeared in his mind. It was those women whom he had assaulted. Once, he had enjoyed the way they struggled. Their futile struggles only made him more excited.

Right now, a sword appeared in each of their hands as they stabbed him with a menacing expression.

They came for revenge. They consolidated their humiliation into their swords and stabbed them into his body hard.

“The 208th strike. For the girl who loved the blue sea but can’t be buried at the seaside.” Mag’s voice still didn’t waver. His blunt sword stabbed into Horace’s elbow, severing his bones and tendons and separating his joints. Mag’s gaze swept over the cliff afar away.

Three figures appeared on the cliff. The silver badges on their chests were reflecting the light.

The people from the Justice Investigation Bureau were here.

10 minutes. They were rather efficient.

However, the leader was only a 7th-tier. Even though he had locked in on him with the sniper rifle, he didn’t fire.

“They should have rushed here from the nearby bureau branch, right?” Mag had just communicated with Xi briefly. It would take 20 minutes for the main forces from the Tucker City’s bureau’s headquarters to arrive. To prevent a direct clash with the Justice Investigation Bureau, he needed to leave before the main forces arrived.

Mag kept a lookout for the bureau’s personnel on the cliff and hastened the speed of his execution.

The other party shouldn’t have Xi’s level of bullpup assault rifle, but it would be best to play safe. Otherwise, it would be very embarrassing.

“Captain, what shall we do now?”

On the cliff, three investigators were hiding in between a giant rock and the bush. One of them even had a bullpup assault rifle set up in front of him. It was already locked onto that black figure in the valley below.

They were five kilometers away from the valley and Mag was within the sniper rifle’s lethal zone.

“He has already discovered us.” The sniper removed his finger from the trigger. His voice was muffled.

He thought that he had hidden his figure very well, but just as the moment he took aim at him, the other party discovered him.

This sniper rifle could let him kill his enemies five kilometers away. If the other party wasn’t aware, even a 10th-tier powerhouse could be killed with one shot.

However, when he met the man’s dark eyes under the mask through the gun sight, even his soul trembled.

That sense had already exceeded the pressure brought by a 10th-tier powerhouse.

He chose to give up on killing a being that could be a super powerhouse.

“The order is to let us form a perimeter, so keep a watch on him, don’t let him leave and wait for the team to arrive,” the captain said in a low voice.

“That fellow deserved to die. He has harmed so many maidens,” the team member at the side mumbled.

“You can say that privately, but don’t say that when the people from the headquarters arrive. You might lose your job,” Quark said smilingly. He was also looking down at the execution site in the valley with a complicated gaze.

He chose to leave Tucker City’s headquarters and come to this remote forest branch back then because he couldn’t stand all that bureaucratic stuff.

The laws that were written were the same, but punishments that were issued were different.

There were always a pile of reports and evidence on people like Horace, but he was still active at all the movie festivals in the past 300 years and still accepting hundreds of millions to make the blockbuster movies.

Even when the military had gotten increasingly powerful recently, they still couldn’t do anything about it.

He had noticed Horace’s incident this morning too. However, Horace would either be hidden by the Dixon Family or silenced, or the Dixon Family would affect the judgment and let him be jailed for a short period of time. After the incident cooled down, they would come up with all kinds of reasons to get him out of the prison for medical care.

The bureau couldn’t even teach the plutocrat’s dogs a lesson, let alone seek justice for the victims.

He didn’t expect such a fierce person to interrupt when the Dixon Family was trying to silence Horace.

Live-streaming on the Internet. Judging on the spot. Executing him on the spot.

Although he knew that this was against the rules, he was wavering a little right now.

If this so-called “The Adjudicator” didn’t exist, when would the maidens’ grievances be ever redressed? How much longer would those sleazy men keep reaching out at those maidens who couldn’t defend themselves?

This fellow had removed the fig leaf that was covering everyone. Those chaps must be fearful now, right?

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“The Justice Investigation Bureau has sent two battleships and eight 10th-tier powerhouses. They will enter the combat range within eight minutes. You have to evacuate within five minutes.” Xi’s voice appeared in Mag’s earpiece and two red dots were rapidly getting closer in his vision.

“The timing is perfect.” Mag withdrew his sword from Horace, who had turned into a bloody man, and found another clean spot to stab again.

The 362 strikes were Mag avenging those victims that were recorded, but there should be many victims who had kept this matter in their hearts because of all kinds of reasons.

“Kill me. Please kill me. I can tell you everything I know... Fergus from the Dixon Family was also involved. He even killed a girl. She was buried under that big tree outside of the movie base... I also know about many matters in the industry. As long as you promise to kill me with the next strike, I’ll tell you everything...”

Mag’s sword halted as he asked Horace, “You said Fergus killed a girl and she was buried under a tree outside of the movie base? Is it real?”

“Yes, it’s real! He was interested in that girl, so I brought her to his room. The girl put up a fight and he killed her. We buried the body together. It’s real.” Horace quickly and looked at Mag with reddened eyes. “You can kill me now!”

“As the accomplice, you get one more strike.”

Mag stabbed the blunt sword in as he spoke coldly.