

Stay At home 341

Chapter 341: If We Kill Everyone From The Catering Association

“Hmm?” Mag turned toward the forge with a wary expression, and heaved a sigh of relief upon discovering that it had not been reduced to a pile of rubble. He then turned to face an animated Harrison with a perplexed look.

Harrison could see the puzzlement on Mag’s face, and he hurriedly explained, “Mag, your restaurant was removed from the rankings board! All five dishes were removed with no exceptions!”

“Removed from the rankings?” Mag raised an eyebrow upon hearing that. That really was quite unexpected. Ever since the sweet and savory factions had stopped giving one another five-star ratings, Mag felt like the mission was in the bag. However, it appeared that things weren’t going to be that simple.

“Uncle Gray Fatty, are you saying that someone has kicked our restaurant off the rankings board?” Amy emerged from behind Mag with displeasure etched on her little face.

“Yes, Mamy Restaurant must have been targeted by someone, which is why it was removed from the rankings board.” Harrison nodded with a furious expression. During the past few days, he checked the rankings board every single day, paying more attention to it than his own gold shop. Now that the dishes were abruptly removed from the rankings, he was struck by a feeling akin to that of having his own child go missing, and he was very displeased.

All of the customers lining up in front of the restaurant also began to discuss heatedly among themselves. They were also very angry that Mamy Restaurant had been removed from the rankings.

“Mag, have you provoked some sort of vile character?” Gjerj was also a businessman himself, and his businessman’s intuition told him that there were some hidden circumstances involved.

“Now that you mention it, I might have. Perhaps I irked all of the restaurants below me on the rankings.” Mag shook his head with a smile. He wasn’t feeling all that panicked or enraged.

It was indeed outside of his expectations that his restaurant had been removed from the rankings board. It appeared that the Catering Association of this world was even more corrupt and shameless than he had thought. It was already the ninth day, but his restaurant had been banished for no reason. The mission had been in the bag for him, but it wasn’t very clear now.

However, if there weren’t a few ups and downs, then it made running a business quite bland and monotonous. Mag wasn’t all that bothered about all this. After all, his father had established a massive corporation in his past life, and it had also suffered its fair share of hardships. In fact, he was close to bankruptcy on several occasions, and if he had lacked mental fortitude, then he most likely would have already thrown himself off a building.

Having said that, though, the Catering Association’s actions were really quite despicable. He had spent tens of thousands of copper coins buying tickets during the past few days, but it had all gone to waste. They were trying to screw him over, but he certainly wasn’t the type to suffer in silence. If they wanted a

battle, then it was a battle that they were going to have. Mamy Restaurant was no longer as frail as it once had been.

“Alright, thank you for informing me of this, and thanks to everyone for your concern. Even if they do release a so-called report, I can’t accept such unfair treatment. However, Amy’s lessons start soon, so I have to take her to class first. Oh, by the way, I’m releasing a new dish tonight.” Mag glanced down at his watch before hoisting Amy onto the bike with a smile. He then rode the bike toward Chaos School.

“Mag sure has a good personality. Even after suffering such unjust treatment, he can still smile and talk to us in such an amicable manner.”

“Maybe Mag doesn’t really even care about the rankings board. After all, business is booming for him every day anyway. He’s constantly having to shoo away customers after the closing time, so he doesn’t even need good rankings to attract customers.”

“I don’t think that’s the case. Mag has bought a lot of tickets, and that’s quite a large investment, which shows that he still cares about the food competition. However, now that he’s been removed from the rankings board, it’s going to be hard to get onto it again. Even though Amy has two 10th-tier magic casters as her teachers, it’s still going to be hard for them to influence the Catering Association’s decision.”

“Those guys are saying that they’re going to release an official report soon, but I don’t think we should even bother with them. Isn’t the Catering Association a subsidiary to the city lord’s castle? If you ask me, Mag should just go straight to the city lord’s castle, and expose the Catering Association’s shady dealings.”

“Setting that aside for now, did I just hear what Mag said correctly? He said he was going to release a new dish tonight, right? We have to come and taste that!”

“He did indeed! I wonder what the new dish will be.”

The customers all discussed spiritedly among one another as they looked at Mag’s departing figure. The sweet and savory factions were suddenly extremely harmonious and unified.

“What’s going on?” Urien made his way over slowly to everyone. He had heard bits and pieces of everyone’s conversations, and from what he had heard, it appeared that Mamy Restaurant was in some trouble.

“Master Urien, Mamy Restaurant was removed from the Aden Square food competition rankings board.” One of them immediately explained the situation, and all of the other customers chimed in with displeasure, hoping that Urien would be able to uphold justice for Mamy Restaurant.

“How could they do that? All of Mamy Restaurant’s dishes are so delicious; they should be dominating the top five! Lulu and I have gone to all the restaurants on the rankings boards, and barely any of them were any good!” Xixi grumbled before prodding Lulu so he could back her up. “Isn’t that right, Lulu?”

“Yes, you’re right.” Lulu nodded, and patted Xixi’s head in a comforting gesture.

“I feel like it’s better to have less people here anyway. It’s more peaceful that way.” Urien contemplated everyone’s complaints, musing in his husky voice with a calm expression on his face.

Everyone looked at Urien's departing figure, then at one another, and they didn't know what to say anymore.

However, when they thought about it, it was indeed too much to ask Urien to stand up for a restaurant. After all, he was the renowned Lord of Ice and a 10th-tier magic caster.

After a brief silence, Urien turned to look at everyone, and in a bone-chilling, frosty voice, he said, "By the way, wouldn't this issue be resolved if we killed everyone from the Catering Association?"

"Gulp." Everyone was petrified upon hearing that.

The thought process of an insanely powerful being was indeed very unique. If they simply killed everyone from the Catering Association, the Aden Square food competition would cease to exist!

"How boring." Urien turned away, and left.

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As soon as Amy arrived in the magic classroom, she looked at Krassu with a pitiable expression, and wheedled, "Master Krassu, our restaurant was removed from the Aden Square food competition rankings. I'm so angry! Can you make them put us back on the rankings board?"

Krassu glowered with a serious expression, and thundered, "Hmm? Is someone causing trouble for the restaurant again? How dare they pick on my disciple? Looks like they want to taste my fireball! Tell me who it is; I'll burn them all to death!"

Chapter 342: Food Association And Catering Association

"It's not that big of a deal. It's just that our restaurant was participating in the Aden Square food competition, but it was suddenly removed from the rankings today." Mag was given a massive fright by Krassu's vehement reaction, and he hurriedly explained the situation. If Krassu really went ahead and burned everyone in the Catering Association to death, he would have to flee the city with Amy. Couldn't they be more diplomatic in their thinking?

"I see. When I get some spare time, I'll go and put in a word for you with Michael. He should be able to help you." Krassu nodded before turning to Amy with a smile, and continuing, "Little Amy, the materials are already being transported from Rodu, and they should arrive at Chaos City soon. When they arrive, I'm going to personally build a magic fortress for you. However, those old guys heard that I took a disciple, and they sent three disciples of their disciples to congratulate me. They're definitely up to no good, so I'm going to teach you some really good spells in the next few days so you can teach them a lesson..."

Looks like I'll have to take care of my problems on my own. After exiting the school, Mag rode his bike toward Sherlock Detective Agency. To important figures like Krassu, the restaurant rankings were completely trivial. It couldn't even compare to the importance of teaching Amy magic spells.

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One must know oneself and one's enemies in order to emerge victorious in battle. I have to do some research about the Catering Association, then pay a visit to the city lord's castle. After emerging from

the Sherlock Detective Agency, he placed a yellow document bag into his bike's basket, then rode it back to the restaurant.

After Mag walked into the restaurant, Yabemiya approached him with a concerned expression, and asked, "Boss, what do we do now? Our restaurant has been removed from the rankings; do we still keep casting votes?"

"We have enough tickets for the next two days." Sally was also quite incensed, but she was a lot calmer than Yabemiya.

Mag parked the bike, and turned to the two of them with a smile as he said, "Keep voting; maybe we still have a chance at making a comeback. Just ignore the issue for now. Don't let your negative emotions affect your customer service."

"Boss, are you really alright?" Yabemiya was still a little concerned for Mag. Even she was this angry, so Mag must have been fuming, but he was still speaking to them with a smile.

Sally was also a little surprised as she looked at Mag.

"Of course I'm fine. The final rankings haven't been decided yet, right?" Mag shook his head with a smile as he tossed the documents in the basket on his bike into a drawer. He then turned to the two of them, and asked, "What do you want for breakfast? I'll cook something up for you. I'll be releasing a new dish tonight, and we'll taste-test it at noon."

"A new dish?" Yabemiya's eyes immediately lit up upon hearing that, and her sour mood was alleviated significantly. She contemplated momentarily before replying, "I want a sweet tofu pudding and a roujiamo. What's the new dish this time?"

"I want a Yangzhou fried rice," Sally chimed in. She was also looking at Mag with a curious expression. The braised chicken and rice had only been released not long ago, so she was surprised that Mag was releasing another new dish so soon.

"You'll find out at noon. Have a seat and take a rest. I'll go cook up some breakfast." Mag refrained from revealing the answer. Instead, he gave the two of them a mysterious smile before turning toward the kitchen.

I wonder what delicious dish it'll be. Yabemiya was filled with anticipation.

Unflappable even in the face of adversity. That must be why he's constantly able to improve and cook more delicious dishes, Sally thought to herself.

If it were Mag's delicious cooking that had prompted her to stay in the first place, then it was the charisma of his benevolent and calm personality that was slowly winning her heart.

Why would a man like him come to Chaos City with his daughter to open a restaurant, and who could be Amy's elven mother? Why did Mag never mention her, and why had they never seen her? Sally had countless questions in her mind, but she didn't dare to ask any of them.

After Sally and Yabemiya finished their breakfast, it was time for opening, so Mamy Restaurant opened the restaurant door with a smile, and let in all of the customers.

Yabemiya wore her usual bubbly smile, while Sally wore her perpetual cold expression that was still graceful yet not haughty in any way.

The customers were in a foul mood as Mamy Restaurant had been removed from the rankings, and they had thought that the atmosphere in the restaurant would be quite gloomy as well. After, the restaurant bosses were always the most frustrated when things of this nature happened.

However, their negative emotions were immediately wiped away by the Mag and Yabemiya's smiles. It was still the same bright and happy restaurant, and even the conflict between the sweet and sour factions had become a daily ritual that the customers had come to enjoy.

"Welcome. I hope everyone can have a pleasant morning today," Mag greeted with a smile. He then turned and nodded to Yabemiya and Sally before making his way toward the kitchen.

The customers were the foundation of a restaurant. He could fail the mission, but he didn't want to negatively impact the moods of his customers because of that. That was not something that a good restaurant would do.

The busy breakfast service drew to a conclusion. Mag took off his apron before going upstairs with the documents that he had obtained from the detective agency. There was still some time before he had to prepare his spicy grilled fish, so he decided to learn a bit about the Catering Association first.

There weren't that many documents with information regarding the Catering Association, so Mag read through them in about 20 minutes.

Simply put, they were a private association that was enlisted by the authorities, thereby making it an official organization, but it was still run as a private entity, and wasn't supervised by the authorities.

About four decades ago, a middle-aged man began to gather information on all of the restaurants in the Aden Square, and then conducted a survey to determine the most popular restaurants. Based on the results of that survey, he made a restaurant ranking. That man was the founder of the Catering Association, Lorry.

The restaurant ranking that he'd created was gradually endorsed by more and more customers as it made finding good food very convenient. At the same time, avid foodies began to join him, and they founded the Food Association together.

After over two decades of development, the Food Association was well established, and its food competition became more and more renowned. It had become the go-to directory for people looking for good food in the Aden Square. All of the restaurants that appeared on its rankings board were generally endorsed by all customers.

After that, Lorry retired, and passed on his Food Association to a young man named Warren.

That Warren truly was a genius. Not long after taking over, he revolutionized the food competition's rating method. In the past, members of the association would dine at each restaurant to determine their rankings. However, he transformed that into a customer vote.

The Food Association entered a period of rapid development, and the food competition became even more heavily endorsed. Under the new voting system, subjectivity was minimized, so the dishes that

made it onto the rankings received widespread love from all customers. As such, it became an extremely influential force, and a restaurant's ranking in the food competition could decide how much business they were getting.

After that, the Food Association was endorsed by the city lord's castle, and changed its name to the Catering Association. It received an official seal, and that was when profits began to spike for the association.

"If he hasn't been reduced to a deceitful man who takes bribes and manipulates rankings, he really would be a genius." Mag put down the documents in his hands. His voice was tinged with a hint of wistfulness.

Chapter 343: This World

"This food competition is lucky to have not encountered me during its inception. Otherwise, I'd dominate all rankings from 1 to 100, and it would serve as a personal advertisement for me." Mag pursed his lips. There were a few pages of documents at the end that detailed the cooperation of the Catering Association with the Chamber of Commerce.

That wasn't really a secret. The Chamber of Commerce had gathered all of the top shops in the Aden Square, which included all of the best restaurants, and even based on their food alone, most of them could actually break into the top 100 anyway.

However, in recent years, the top 30, and even top 50, had essentially been dominated by restaurants that were subsidiaries to the Chamber of Commerce, making it almost impossible for other restaurants to break into the rankings board. That type of abnormal phenomenon had never taken place in the past, and it drew complaints from many businesses.

In the face of those complaints, the Catering Association's response was always "The customer's choice is paramount!". As for how heavily manipulated the customer's voting results were, that was something that only the Catering Association knew.

The documents detailed how the Chamber of Commerce released a mission every month, and that mission was a voting mission. All of its subsidiary businesses had to vote for the Chamber of Commerce's subsidiary restaurants to complete the mission, thereby ensuring those restaurants secured high rankings.

It's the Chamber of Commerce again. The two guys that were arrested before were Chamber of Commerce board members as well. Looks like the Chamber of Commerce must be behind the removal of the restaurant from the rankings. Could it be that such a colossus is already onto the restaurant? Mag's brows furrowed slightly.

Even though he had announced to Goodenia that he was going to make the Chamber of Commerce close down, he was well aware of how terrifyingly powerful such a colossus was. The presided over about 20% of Chaos City's economy, and their wealth and influence were unimaginable to the average person.

I don't think they're onto me yet. It seems like the restaurant's rankings must have interfered with some other restaurants' profits, which is why they decided to remove the restaurant from the rankings. If I want to reenter the rankings board, I'll have to get past the Chamber of Commerce, and make the Catering Association willing to reinstate me on the rankings board.

This really is quite a difficult issue to resolve without killing anyone. Mag contemplated the predicament for a while, but was still unable to find a good way to rectify the issue. With his current status and power, he didn't even have the right to converse with the higher-ups of the Catering Association, let alone the Chamber of Commerce.

As for Urien and Krassu, they were powerful enough to make everyone wary of them, but if the president of the Chamber of Commerce didn't want to see them, then he could simply refuse to see them.

The city lord's castle and Gray Temple would ensure his safety as Chaos City was a city with laws and rules.

Powerful beings could earn respect from everyone, live better lives, and secure greater status for themselves, but that didn't mean that they could do whatever they wanted.

Mag was glad that he had been reborn in a world where law and order existed. Those laws also ensured his safety, and even though he was weak and insignificant, he could still live with dignity in the face of those powerful beings.

He couldn't do whatever he wanted in a world like this, but at the very least, it elevated his quality of life significantly. He didn't have to be wary of the demons on the streets or constantly be on his guard for sneak attacks.

Law and order restricted powerful beings, and empowered weaklings.

As a weakling for now, Mag had managed to earn respect and approval from his customers with his delicious food, not just because Amy had Krassu and Urien as her teachers. He enjoyed that feeling.

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In the city lord's castle.

Robert stood in the waiting room, and said to the worker there, "Please report to the city lord that Robert of the Catering Association wishes to request an audience with him."

The worker was a little surprised as he looked up at Robert, and he said respectfully, "Oh, it's Master Robert. The city lord has just left not long ago, and won't be back until noon. Would you like to wait for him here or come back in the afternoon?"

Robert had been at the city lord's castle for over 10 years, and had steadily climbed up the ranks. The city lord was quite fond of him, and, barring any mishaps, he would be in a very high position in a few years.

However, to everyone's surprise, he proposed that he wanted to join the Catering Association. Everyone initially thought that he was there to earn some quick money as the Catering Association was renowned for high wages and bonuses.

However, word soon spread of him being ostracized in the Catering Association, even to the extent that he was reduced to a lone warrior. Everyone was very confused by that. They then thought that the city lord had sent him there with the intention of putting him through some hardships so he could emerge a better man from the other side, upon which the city lord would entrust him with a more important role.

“Thank you, I’ll wait.” A hint of disappointment flashed through Robert’s eyes as he nodded.

“Alright, then you can come with me and wait inside. I’m sure there will be many acquaintances of yours that would love to catch up with you.” The worker smiled.

“No, thanks. I’ll just wait here. It’s current working hours, and catching up with me would distract them from their duties.” Robert shook his head, and took a seat near a window in the waiting room. He then stared out the window with a grave expression, and fell completely silent.

He really is as reclusive as they say... The worker poured some tea for Robert, and didn’t say anything else, either.

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When noon arrived, the worker quickly strode over to Robert, and said, “Master Robert, the city lord has returned, and wishes to see you.”

“Thank you.” Robert stood up, and quickly left with the worker. The cup of tea that had been placed next to him remained completely untouched.

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“Robert, I heard you waited for me for an entire morning. Is there something urgent you need to talk to me about?” A well-built man with free-flowing red hair strode toward Robert. He had a black saber hanging from his waist and a section missing from his left pinkie. Smiling, he said, “Actually, don’t tell me yet. You haven’t eaten yet, right? Come and have a meal with me. We’ll talk as we eat.”

“Yes.” Robert bowed his head slightly, and trailed along behind the city lord. He was still the same pleasant and straightforward man that he had always been, and he didn’t have any of the arrogance or haughtiness that one might expect from a city lord.

Michael had picked up his bowl, and was preparing to dig in when Robert sat down next to him, and said, “City lord, I wanted to report to you about my work at the Catering Association. At the same time—”

“I know why you’re here today. Before I left in the morning, Warren came, and reported many things to me. He also advised me to transfer you out of the Catering Association.” Michael put down the bowl in his hand, and he suddenly chuckled at the sight of Robert’s awkward expression. He then picked up his bowl again, and shoveled some rice into his mouth as he said, “I want to hear your side of the story. I’ve worked with you far longer than I have with Warren, so I naturally trust you more.”

Robert heaved a sigh of relief, and said, “On the Catering Association’s Aden Square food competition, there was a new restaurant by the name of Mamy Restaurant...”

“Mamy Restaurant? Why does that sound so familiar?” Outside the room, there was a young girl with a ponytail. She had her ears pressed tightly against the window, and was carefully listening to the conversation taking place within the room.

Chapter 344: So Cool...

Is the food from that restaurant really that good? It's hard to believe, but Uncle Robert is renowned for his honesty... Vivian thought to herself as she eavesdropped on the conversation. She had heard from the servants that her father was back, so she came to have a lunch with him. Upon hearing a conversation taking place in the room, she decided to eavesdrop for a bit. She loved doing these types of things, and it didn't matter if she got caught anyway.

Mamy Restaurant... Mamy... Eh? Isn't that the restaurant that Luna mentioned before? I think she said that the food there was really great, and it's run by the parent of one of her students. Vivian's eyes suddenly lit up as she recalled why the restaurant's name sounded so familiar. Luna had definitely mentioned it to her last time.

Should I go to try out their food? But father says I'm not allowed to go out in the next few days... But if their food really is as delicious as Uncle Robert says, then it would be a shame not to go and taste it... A conflicted expression appeared on Vivian's face.

“Vivian, come in and have some food if you haven't eaten yet. We've discussed everything, so there's nothing left for you to eavesdrop on.” Michael's voice was tinged with a hint of resignation.

“Ah... I've already eaten. I'll leave you and Uncle Robert to your work. Please continue, I was only passing by...” A panicked expression appeared on Vivian's face, and she immediately hurried away.

“What a naughty little girl.” Michael shook his head with a doting smile on his face.

Robert looked out the window, and a smile also appeared on his face. He then turned to Michael, and hesitated momentarily before asking, “City Lord, is the young mistress still suffering from her illness?”

“She is, and it seems to be getting worse and worse. She can only sleep at night after using fire magic to warm her up.” The smile on Michael's face receded as he shook his head.

“The young mistress is such a kind girl; she'll definitely be fine.” Robert's expression also soured a little upon hearing that. Back when he was working at the city lord's castle, the little girl would often ask him to play with her. She was a very interesting girl.

“I hope so.” Michael nodded. He looked at Robert in silence for a while before continuing, “Robert, I know what's going on now. You reported the issues within the Catering Association on a few occasions to me in the past as well, but back when the Food Association was taken in by the city lord's castle, I promised Warren some things, one of which was not to interfere with his work. However, Warren also promised me that he wouldn't use the association to benefit himself, so I'll do some investigating on this matter. If Warren really has dabbled in corruption, and he's using the Catering Association as a tool, then I definitely won't allow him to keep going down this path.”

“But, City Lord, that restaurant really does have a lot of potential. If President Warren continues to target that restaurant even after removing it from the rankings, then there’s a very good chance that it’ll be forced to close down. Similar things have happened in the past, so...” Robert said in an urgent voice.

“Robert, the dwarves of the Issen Castle and their neighboring orcs are planning on holding a meeting in Chaos City to discuss the issue of the border soon. The forest trolls and goblins are fighting over an iron mine again. The forest trolls say that the goblins have encroached upon their territory with their excavations, while the goblins say the mine is on their side of the border. The demons have also recently found a way to access dragon island by traveling through the dark sea, and the inhabitants of dragon island are discussing whether they should fill the dark sea... As such, I really am very busy, so no matter how exceptional that restaurant is, I won’t be able to visit it anytime soon. I’ll chase up the matters regarding the Catering Association. You can go back after you have some food.” Michael put down his empty bowl before departing.

Robert looked on as the door slowly closed, and he fell into silence. He also departed after finishing the food in his bowl.

Having worked at the city lord’s castle for more than a decade, he could understand just how much time and energy the city lord had to expend to take care of daily affairs. Even though those events weren’t taking place in Chaos City, a trend where all scuffles between races and species on the Norland Continent were reported to Chaos City had developed over the years. If the two sides didn’t want a full-blown war to erupt, then they would ask Chaos City to mediate.

Chaos City was like a neutral city that mediated all battles, and held a special status on the Norland Continent.

To Robert, Mamy Restaurant was a restaurant that was worthy of attention, but for the city lord, he had already gone above and beyond just to listen to him talk so much about the Catering Association.

No matter how delicious the food served by a restaurant was, it was still not a place that was noteworthy to the city lord.

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After a while of fruitless pondering, Mag chose to give up temporarily. He asked internally, “System, if I can’t complete the food competition mission due to some circumstances beyond my control, but I already reached number 21 on the rankings board yesterday, does that count as mission being completed?”

“Please do not twist the content of the mission. The mission stipulates that one dish must be in the top 30 of the food competition rankings on the final day. If the restaurant is removed from the rankings board, then you fail the mission,” the system said in a nonnegotiable voice.

“Alright, I’m just going to go grill my fish, then.” Mag pursed his lips. The system refused to make any exceptions, so he would probably be unable to complete that mission. He washed his hands before making his way over to the fish tank.

“Boss, is the new dish today going to be made from that really beautiful fish?” Yabemiya stood at the entrance to the kitchen with a curious expression.

“Yes. This is the rainbow fish.” Mag nodded with a smile. That name had been assigned to the fish by Amy in the morning, and Mag felt like it was better and less of a mouthful than iridescent scale grass carp.

“The fish is so beautiful; it must be very delicious.” Yabemiya was looking forward to sampling the new dish.

“Rainbow fish? That’s such a beautiful name.” Sally was also standing at the entrance to the kitchen, and she looked at the fish that were happily swimming in their tank with a hint of sympathy in her eyes. She really didn’t want to see such pretty fish being slaughtered and cooked.

“By the way, how’s your spice tolerance?” Mag turned to look at the two of them.

“I love spicy food! Even if it’s super spicy!” Yabemiya raised a hand.

“I usually don’t eat any spicy food.” Sally shook her head. Elves were one with nature, and very rarely ate meat or foods with intense flavors.

“Alright, I’ll cook a medium spice grilled fish today. The mildly spicy version will be a little too bland.” Mag nodded with a smile. Those who didn’t often eat spicy food simply had never tasted any good spicy food. Mag was confident that he could make Sally fall in love with his spicy grilled fish.

“Boss, let me help you kill the fish. I’m really good at...” Yabemiya rolled up her sleeves and walked into the kitchen, but her words came to an abrupt halt as an incredulous expression appeared on her face.

A rainbow fish was plucked out of the fish tank, and then quickly killed and cleaned. A series of intricate incisions was made on the body of the fish in a series of almost artistic movements. Killing a fish was supposed to be a mundane task, but Mag made it look very graceful and pleasing to the eye.

“So cool...” Yabemiya sighed with amazement.

Chapter 345: Try to Make The Most of Life

Mag gave the fish a final rinse, and smiled as he said, “I’m also very good at killing fish.”

“Boss is super awesome, much better than I am.” Yabemiya nodded in agreement with Mag’s words. She had been working in various kitchens for many years, but she definitely couldn’t compare with Mag and his exceptional skills. Each and every motion looked as if it had been rehearsed countless times, and he looked so graceful and natural during the process.

Mag turned to the two of them, and said, “Alright, go and have a seat. The marinating process will require some time; I’ll call you two when it’s ready to eat.”

“Boss, can I watch you cook the fish? I swear I won’t try to steal your skills; I’m just curious,” Yabemiya implored.

“Of course you can.” Mag nodded.

“Thank you, Boss.” Yabemiya was elated as she stood off to the side.

“Warning! You currently do not have the right to teach your cooking skills to others. Please do not casually agree to show others your cooking!” The system’s serious voice sounded.

Mag began to prepare the condiments for the marinade as he replied calmly, “Didn’t you hear her? She said she’s not trying to steal my skills, and she’s just curious. I trust Miya just as much as I distrust you.”

“...”

The system chose to remain silent in the end.

Sally hesitated momentarily at the entrance before deciding to sit outside in the end. She supported her intricate chin with her hands, and was slightly dazed as she looked at Mag working in the kitchen.

Grilling fish was actually a rather complex process. In particular, if one wanted to make a really delicious grilled fish, then they would have to expend a lot of time and effort.

Mag had already prepared the old oil in advance. As four people were going to be sampling the fish, he chose a large one. After cooking the same dish countless times in the test field for the God of Cookery, he had already completely mastered the skill. He placed the marinated fish into the oven, pulled it out when it was half-cooked to apply a layer of old oil, and then placed it back into the oven.

“Boss, what’s that box? Why is that the fish gets cooked when you put it inside there?” Yabemiya was very curious about the oven.

“That’s an oven, and it’s designed to grill fish, as well as other things,” Mag explained with a smile. Things like ovens were still too advanced for this world.

“I get it. So it’s like a sealed grilling rack.” Yabemiya nodded with a thoughtful expression. She stared at the oven for a while longer before asking, “But this oven doesn’t have a furnace or anything, so how is it generating heat?”

“This oven doesn’t require burning coal to generate heat. Instead, it uses electricity. Electricity flows along this wire into the oven, heating up the heating elements within, which in turn provide heat for the oven. It’s a similar concept to the lights in the restaurant,” Mag explained. He had already educated Sally and Yabemiya about electricity in the past. After all, there were electrical appliances everywhere in the restaurant, and it would be bad if they were to accidentally electrocute themselves.

“I see. Boss, you really are so awesome. You’ve invented so many quick and convenient things.” Yabemiya stared Mag with stars of reverence shimmering in her eyes.

“Hmph, those were all invented by the system.” A tsundere voice sounded in Mag’s mind.

“We should try and make the most of life.” Mag ignored the system’s voice, and accepted Yabemiya’s adoration with a calm smile.

After applying two layers of old oil, the golden crispy rainbow fish was taken out of the oven. Its alluring scent wafted through the air, and one could tell that it would be delicious even before tasting it.

“It smells so good. So fish can be grilled in this manner. In the past, when I’ve seen chefs cook grilled fish, it always came out really black and hard.” Yabemiya couldn’t help but gulp at the sight of the grilled fish.

The delicious scent wafted out from within the kitchen, and the dazed Sally caught a whiff of it, upon which her eyes also lit up. That scent reminded her of her younger days, when she went out fishing with Princess Irina, and they grilled the fish that they had caught by the lake.

Even though the grilled fish from back then didn't smell as good as Mag's grilled fish, the scent in her memory was still unforgettable for her even to this day. She very rarely ate fish as its many small spiky bones would prick her every time she tried it; she also felt like eating fish was quite inhumane, so she was always burdened by guilt.

However, upon catching a whiff of that scent, she was suddenly struck by the urge to taste the fish. A strong sense of desire welled up in her heart, and she sat up involuntarily as if she wanted to see what the fish looked like.

Ugly Duckling was sleeping on a stool, and it also abruptly opened its eyes as it turned toward the kitchen. It inhaled with all its might, and excitement appeared on its face as it clawed at the stool as if it couldn't wait even a second longer to sink its fangs into the fish.

"Father, I'm back!" Amy's voice sounded along with a few knocks of the door.

Sally opened the door for her.

"Hello, Big Sister Aisha," Amy greeted as she skipped through the door. She immediately caught a whiff of the delicious scent, and her eyes abruptly lit up.

"It smells so good; is that the smell of fish?" Amy rushed over to the kitchen, and picked up the frantic Ugly Duckling with her arms. She stood at the entrance to the kitchen, and looked on with an expectant gaze as she asked, "Father, is the rainbow fish done? Amy and Ugly Duckling both really want to eat it."

"Meow~" Ugly Duckling stared at the grilled fish on the cooking bench, and reached for it with its paws as if it wanted to claim it for itself.

"Yes, almost done. Go wash your hands and sit outside. The fish will be cooked soon." Mag stirred the chili and wild pepper in his wok. A spicy yet nonintrusive scent wafted through the air as the ingredients simmered.

"Yay!" Amy was very elated as she placed Ugly Duckling on the ground. She rolled up her sleeves, washed her hand, and quickly sat down at the table.

"Sizzle!"

The fried chili and wild pepper were poured onto the grilled fish, creating a sizzling sound. The spiciness quickly seeped into the grilled fish, and the familiar smell brought a smile to Mag's face. He sprinkled some chopped green onions onto the dish, and the spicy grilled fish was complete!

"Boss, you really are a genius. I've never seen fish cooked like that, nor have I ever seen such a perfect fish dish." Yabemiya stared at Mag with reverence in her eyes. She had been completely won over.

"Wash your hands, let's eat. We'll be having this grilled fish for lunch," Mag said with a smile. It was quite a good feeling to be praised and worshipped.

An alcohol stove was brought out on top of a stainless steel plate to be placed under the fish. He also added some mung bean starch cellophane noodles to the dish. The quality of the ingredients was much more important than the number of ingredients. Besides, he really did love cellophane noodles.

Chapter 346: Torn Clothes!

The crispy golden grilled fish was half a meter long, and its rainbow color was still faintly visible. In particular, the head and tail still retained their beautiful color.

Red juices were poured over the fish, obscuring the onion and cellophane noodles underneath. Bright red dried chili and wild pepper were sprinkled on top along with chopped green onions, creating a beautiful sight.

“Gulp.”

All four people sitting at the table gulped in unison.

It's such a beautiful fish. The smell is irresistible. It looks like a lot of chili was used, but the scent isn't sharp at all. I can't believe a spicy dish could be so alluring! Just eating a little bit should be fine, right? Sally stared at the grilled fish with astonishment in her eyes. She clearly didn't like fish nor spicy food, but Mag's cooking made the two simply irresistible.

“It must be super delicious!” Yabemiya was full of anticipation. She had seen the entire cooking process; during that time, she discovered that Mag's hands seemed to hold some sort of magical power. Even though there were some ingredients that she didn't recognize, she was still stunned by how Mag was able to combine them into a dish that was perfect in taste, color, and aroma. At the same time, she was even more eager to taste the dish.

“Meow!” Ugly Duckling scratched the leg of a chair to express its displeasure. It really wanted someone to carry it onto the table so it could see the dish for itself.

“Have a taste. This spicy grilled fish is the new dish that I'll be releasing today. Let's taste-test it ourselves first.” Mag picked up his chopsticks, and severed the most succulent part of the fish.

As his chopsticks sliced through the flesh of the fish, the vibrant red juices instantly seeped in, staining its soft white flesh red. Its delicious flavor was sealed in, and Mag placed it in Amy's bowl. He looked at her with a smile, and cautioned, “Be careful; there could be fishbones in there.”

“Mm-hm.” Amy nodded with elation, and picked up her chopsticks with one hand while holding her bowl in her other hand. She put the fish into her mouth, and her expression immediately lit up.

“So this is what fish tastes like! It's so delicious! But... but... it's a little spicy.” The succulent fish meat was enveloped in spicy juices, and a layer of crispy fish skin. Amy chewed a few times before sticking out her little tongue, and turned to Mag with amazement in her eyes as she said, “Father, I want more! I want to eat more fish! Fish is so delicious, and there weren't any bones, either! Father is the best!”

“Alright, here comes more fish.” Amy had her tongue stuck out like a little puppy, creating an extremely adorable sight. Mag smiled, and delivered another morsel of fish into her bowl. Just as the system had promised, the fish had no small fishbones, so it was much more convenient to eat.

Amy looked like she was thoroughly enjoying herself, and Sally and Yabemiya couldn't help but extend their chopsticks in unison to taste the fish for themselves.

Sally inspected the fish between her chopstick with wonder in her eyes. The fish meat was so soft and delicate that it would be severed if she were to exert just a bit more force. However, it still had structural integrity and a great texture. The red juice had perfectly encapsulated the fish, and a delicious spicy aroma wafted through the air. She was already salivating involuntarily before even placing the morsel of fish in her mouth. She hesitated momentarily before giving it a taste.

Oh! It's so spicy! As soon as she placed the morsel of fish meat in her mouth, the spicy juices erupted. Sally felt as if there were sparks flying in her mouth, just as if countless tiny fire magic spells had been unleashed. Her taste buds were instantly awakened, but her tongue seemed to go numb for a split second before coming back to its senses.

In contrast with the spicy juices, the flavor of the soft and succulent fish made Sally feel as if she had fallen into a clear blue ocean, where a school of rainbow fish swam beside her, striking her with the urge to strip off her clothes and swim together with them. So this was the unique taste of the ocean; it was delicious!

As she swallowed the fish meat, she felt as if a ball of fire was sliding down her throat. A burning sensation immediately spread throughout her entire body, making her sit bolt upright involuntarily as a gentle moan escaped her lips.

"Rip!"

A tearing sound erupted, and one of the buttons at the front of Sally's qipao flew through the air, revealing a small patch of snowy white skin and a sliver of black lace.

"Ngh..."

Almost at the same time, Yabemiya also moaned as she swallowed the fish in her mouth. Two buttons detached themselves from the front of her maid dress. Even though she was quite petite, her chest development was quite advanced, so an alluring section of cleavage was revealed.

What the hell? Mag was just about to taste the fish for himself when he was abruptly rooted to his seat. He took a deliberate glance before shiting his gaze away. Why was he suddenly receiving fanservice like this? He hadn't put anything strange into the dish!

"Eh? Big Sister Aisha, Big Sister Miya, your little bunnies are showing, heehee." Amy chuckled as she looked at the two of them.

"Hmm?" Both of them lowered their heads in unison, and only then did they discover that they had suffered from wardrobe malfunction.

"Argh!"

"Argh!!!"

Two sharp screams erupted almost in unison.

After a brief panicked scuffle, Sally and Yabemiya sat down in their seats, both of them as red as beetroots. Their eyes were downcast, and the atmosphere suddenly became a little awkward.

Mag hesitated momentarily before choosing to break the silence. “Er... I actually didn’t see anything, so you don’t have to worry.”

Sally and Yabemiya both turned to look at Mag with skepticism written all over their faces. They both clearly saw Mag stare at them for a moment before turning away.

“Then, I’ll be digging in.” Mag was a little sheepish as he turned his gaze away. The situation had transpired very abruptly, and he had stared for a moment, just as any normal man would.

He placed a morsel of fish into his mouth, and the rich juices, crispy skin, succulent flesh, and spicy flavor immediately captivated his senses.

What a satisfying feeling!!! Mag swallowed the fish and exhaled. He suddenly understood what he had been looking for while searching through one grilled fish restaurant after another.

This is the feeling! This is the flavor! This the grilled fish I’m looking for!

It was the perfect grilled fish in his heart!

Chapter 347: Role Model Stay-At-Home Dad

If someone were to ask Mag how he was able to cook so many delicious dishes, he discovered that he now knew how to answer them.

I’ve been searching for delicious cuisine all my life, until I discovered that no one’s cooking could meet my standards. Hence, I took it upon myself to create food of that standard.

It was a very arrogant response.

However, Mag felt like that was truly the reason why he had picked up cooking and was able to practice relentlessly in the test field for the God of Cookery in order to perfect a single dish.

He wanted to cook food that was truly perfect in his heart, and he wanted Amy to taste that food as well. He wanted to tell all those chefs who supposedly stood at the pinnacle of the cooking world that higher standards and demands should provide motivation for them, not be seen as unreasonable complaints.

With that in mind, Mag was feeling quite touched by himself.

“Father, why are you crying? Is it because the fish is too spicy?” Amy looked up at Mag with concern in her eyes.

“Oh, it’s not that. I just recalled some things because of this grilled fish.” Mag blinked away the tears with a slightly awkward expression. To think that he had been brought to tears by himself.

“Let’s enjoy this fish. After the meal, we’ll have to start working again.” Mag took a glance at the clock on the wall before turning to Sally and Yabemiya. Even though the events that had just transpired were

a little awkward, he had been through many tumultuous events, and such a minor incident wasn't enough to faze him.

Furthermore, Sally and Yabemiya were like little sisters to him. He had no intention of making one of Amy's big sisters her stepmother instead.

Mag was no saint, but he certainly wasn't a promiscuous man, either. In his past life, he had met countless beauties, but refrained from sexual relationships. In this life, he had Amy, so he naturally had to be even more careful.

His lifelong goal was to become a role model stay-at-home dad.

Mag was not in a hurry to get into a relationship. Fate would decide all that for him.

Furthermore, his daughter had a mother. Even though he didn't have any recollection of or feelings toward Irina, she was still Amy's biological mother.

Perhaps nothing would eventuate between the two of them, but before meeting her again, Mag wanted to make himself look like a responsible man with good self-control. Only then could he prove that he was a good father to Amy, providing her with comfortable living conditions as well as a good environment for her to thrive in. That was his responsibility as a man and a father.

At times, even Mag had to admit that he was a bit pretentious, and wasn't honest enough with himself, but he preferred to live like that.

I must have buttoned up my clothes too tightly this morning, causing the buttons to come off after tasting that delicious fish, so Boss Mag can't be blamed... But this is already the second time that this has happened. Mother told me that if a man were to see my body, I would have no choice but to marry him. So... will I have to marry Mag? But Mag already has Amy, so he must have a wife as well. In that case, would he still want me? Yabemiya thought to herself with a conflicted expression. Her gaze then fell on the grilled fish on the table, and she gulped. This grilled fish really is super delicious. If I were to marry Mag, I would be able to eat all types of delicious foods every day, right? When I think about it that way, marrying him seems like a really blissful option.

He didn't... see anything, right? My grandma told me that if a man that's not my husband were to see my body, I should either kill him or gouge his eyes out. Sally glanced at Mag out of the corner of her eyes, and she was also quite conflicted. But he didn't do it on purpose; it's the grilled fish that was at fault! Come to think of it, this grilled really is delicious.

Screw it! Let's eat first!

The same thought flashed through Sally and Yabemiya's minds in unison. They took a glance at each other before picking up their chopsticks, and extracting another morsel of fish for themselves. This time, they had learned their lesson, and laid a hand over their chests before eating the fish.

The spicy flavor wreaked havoc within their mouths, striking them with an unprecedented feeling. It was completely different from when they had eaten purely spicy foods in the past. In contrast, this type of spiciness brought with it a numbing sensation, but it was utterly delectable at the same time, and in conjunction with the succulent fish, it presented an irresistible package.

One mouthful of fish was devoured after another. The simplest and most effective way to repress the burning sensation in their mouths was to keep on eating. Sweat covered their foreheads, but in the face of such delicious food, that didn't matter!

Delicious food really is the best thing for alleviating awkward situations. Mag heaved a sigh of relief upon seeing that. He looked down at Ugly Duckling, which was trying its best to climb up his leg, and he smiled as he picked up its little dish. He placed two morsels of fish on the dish, and put on a serious expression as he said, "Ugly Duckling, this fish is super spicy. You need to make sure that you can handle it before you decide whether to eat it or not."

"Ugly Duckling, if you eat that spicy fish, you might explode." Amy also adopted a serious expression as she panted with her little tongue protruding from her mouth. It was really spicy, but super delicious.

"Meow~" Ugly Duckling nodded its little head, and immediately pounced on the fish meat. It took a sniff before biting down impatiently.

"Meow!!!"

A loud cry escaped its mouth as it sprang up over half a meter on the spot. Its soft fur immediately stood up on its ends, transforming it into a small ball of orange fluff, and it skipped around on the spot like a rubber ball, creating an adorkable sight.

"Hahaha, Ugly Duckling, you're so stupid." Amy doubled over with laughter.

Mag also burst into laughter as he shook his head. On one occasion, back when he was eating grilled fish in Sichuan, a cat in the shop sat at his feet, and ate about a quarter of a spicy grilled fish with even greater spice tolerance than he had. That was why he decided to give Ugly Duckling some spicy grilled fish, but it appeared that it couldn't contend with that Sichuan cat.

Ugly Duckling stared at the fish in the dish with shock and horror, and only stopped jumping around after a long time.

"Ugly Duckling, do you still want to eat it?" Amy asked.

"Meow~" Ugly Duckling hurriedly shook its head, and licked its lips. It stared at the fish for a while longer with a conflicted expression before making its way toward the dish again. It had another sniff, and took another bite, upon which it transformed into a bouncing orange fur ball again.

"Your mouth says no, but your body is quite honest." Mag chuckled as he shook his head. He turned his attention away from Ugly Duckling, which was basking in both pain and pleasure, and picked up a strand of cellophane noodles for himself.

The semi-transparent cellophane noodles had already absorbed the red juice, giving it a translucent and glittering red color

Chapter 348: Someone Has Jumped Over the Wall

"Slurp."

The smooth and slippery vermicelli was slurped into Mag's mouth. The spicy juices coupled with its bouncy texture created a heavenly combo!

When eating grilled fish, Mag could make do without other secondary ingredients, but mung bean starch cellophane noodles were a must. To him, it was just as important as the grilled fish.

Amy's eyes lit up upon seeing that, and she wheedled, "Father, what's that bouncy stuff? I want it too!"

"These are cellophane noodles. They're very delicious as well." Mag placed a couple of strands of noodles into Amy's bowl with a smile.

Amy picked up a noodle with her chopsticks, and blew on it carefully before emulating Mag, slurping it into her mouth. She chewed happily, nodding with elation as she said, "Cellophane noodles really are super delicious, just as delicious as fish."

Even though there was a slightly awkward interlude, the meal still concluded amid a joyful atmosphere. Sally and Yabemiya were covered in sweat, and they each downed a glass of iced water before heaving sighs of contentment. The awkwardness from before had been completely forgotten by them.

"Father, can I keep this fishbone? I want to show it to Daphne." Amy looked up at Mag with anticipation in her eyes.

"Of course you can. During your rest days, you can invite your little friends here if you like. I'll cook delicious grilled fish for all of you." Mag nodded with a smile. That Daphne seemed to be very close with Amy, and when he thought about it, he realized that Amy had never invited any of her friends over.

"Can I really do that? Daphne loves fish, and Jessica hasn't even had fish before. Can I invite them over as well?" Amy's eyes immediately lit up.

"Of course. You can invite anyone you want." Mag nodded with a smile.

"Yay! Father, you're the best." Amy latched onto Mag's hand and jumped up and down with joy.

Sally and Yabemiya looked at their interaction with gentle smiles on their faces. Amy really was lucky to have such a doting father.

"I'll help you pack up the fishbones." Mag stood up, and carefully plucked the fishbones out of the steel dish with his chopsticks. That fish only had a spine, as well as a series of large bones to maintain its body's structural integrity. The flesh had been completely cleaned off the bones by the four of them during the meal, so it only had to be rinsed clean with some water.

...

"Such a delicious fish aroma; could it be that the new dish Mag is releasing tonight is related to fish?"

"Not only can I smell fish, there's also a rich spicy scent in the air. I'm already salivating!"

"I really like spicy food as well. I thought from Mag's other dishes that he wasn't into cooking spicy food, but it looks like I'm in luck."

Customers began to flood in as the restaurant doors were opened again. Soon, they detected the delicious scent wafting through the air, and they began to discuss spiritedly among themselves.

“The new dish tonight does indeed have something to do with fish, but I’ll reveal the specific dish tonight.” Mag nodded with a mysterious smile.

...

“Father’s not home for dinner tonight, so I should be able to get away with sneaking out for a meal, right?” In the backyard of the city lord’s castle, Vivian had changed from her regal blue robes into a set of male clothing. Her gorgeous long hair was casually tied up with a strip of fabric, and she had stuck a mustache above her upper lip, transforming into a handsome young man.

After making sure that there was no one around, Vivian climbed onto the tree beside the wall of the courtyard, stepped onto the wall, and landed gently on the other side. Just like that, she made it out of the city lord’s castle. She glanced around nervously again before adopting a natural expression, and walking along the street.

There weren’t many pedestrians on the streets, so no one had noticed Vivian jumping over the city lord’s castle’s wall. She took a deep breath, and strolled toward the Aden Square in a leisurely manner.

“Eh? He’s...” On the second floor of a restaurant by the side of the street, Schonard sat in a booth in a set of lavish red robes. He swirled the wine in his glass as he looked out the window, upon which he caught sight of Vivian. He had seen her jump over the wall, and his eyes narrowed slightly in contemplation before his expression lit up as he murmured to himself, “Isn’t that Young Mistress Vivian? I was wondering what kind of burglar would dare to rob the city lord’s castle, but it turns out it’s just Young Mistress Vivian in male clothing.

“I wasn’t able to speak to her much during the banquet that was held a few days ago, so this is an opportunity for me. It’s about to become dark soon, so perhaps I would have the chance to escort Young Master Vivian home. Maybe the city lord will develop a good impression of me then, and I can show my father that I’m not just some spendthrift alcoholic.” Schonard put down his wineglass, and bade farewell to his group of shady friends before going downstairs.

Schonard’s father was an ambassador of the Roth Empire that had been sent to Chaos City. As such, he was able to participate in a banquet held in the city lord’s castle with his father, and it was love at first sight for him when he saw Young Mistress Vivian. However, they didn’t share any common interests, so their conversation went stale after exchanging just a few sentences.

He had been searching for information about Vivian for the past few days, but most of the people that he inquired advised him to give up. Young Mistress Vivian was the city lord’s prized jewel, and very rarely even left the castle, let alone interact with other men.

To think that she dares to disguise herself as a man and jump over the wall of the city lord’s castle; perhaps she has a wild side, after all. A smile appeared on Schonard’s face as he hid behind a tree and spied on Vivian from there. If he could have the city lord’s only daughter for himself, then his father would be forced to look at him in different light.

...

Is this the place? It looks really nice, and it’s so busy. Looks like all types of strange beings are forced to dine at the same table due to seat shortage... Vivian stopped outside Mamy Restaurant, and looked

inside through the window. There was still a long line gathered straight down the center of the restaurant, and her brows furrowed slightly as she inspected the scenes unfolding within the restaurant. She didn't discriminate against other races and species, but she was slightly mysophobic, so she didn't really want to dine with unfamiliar beings at the same table, especially when among them were dwarves and orcs, who were certainly not renowned for their cleanliness.

Should I go in? Vivian was quite hesitant. All of a sudden, a customer exited the restaurant, and an irresistible aroma of spicy grilled fish wafted toward her before being cut off as the door automatically closed.

“Gulp~”

Vivian gulped as her legs carried her almost involuntarily toward the restaurant. She laid her hand on the door handle, and even then, she was still saying to herself, “I'm not attracted by the fish. It's just that Uncle Robert says that it would be a shame for this restaurant to fall into disrepute, so I'm just here to do some investigating.”

So she really did come out to have a good meal. That's a good thing; I'll be able to show her my gentlemanly side in the restaurant. A confident smile appeared on Schonard's face as he stood outside his restaurant. He adjusted his collar before opening the door, and entering the restaurant.

Chapter 349: I'm Reserving This Entire Restaurant Tonight

Looking into the restaurant from the outside, Vivian had thought that it would be a very loud and rowdy place. Only after going in did she discover to her surprise that it was actually rather quiet there. Aside from a few involuntary gasps of praise from customers as they enjoyed their meals, all of the conversations were in hushed tones.

Even orcs have learned to whisper? Vivian raised an eyebrow at the sight of two orcs conversing with one another in quiet voices. She had never seen that in any other restaurant before.

Furthermore, in this restaurant, there were orcs and elves sitting at the same table. Tensions had risen significantly between demons and dwarves as of late, but they were dining together in an almost shoulder-to-shoulder proximity here. Vivian had lived in Chaos City all her life, and she was struggling to believe her eyes. Just what had made all of the creatures here forget their differences?

However, her gaze was soon drawn to the large red fish on a steel platter on one of the dining tables. The rich spicy aroma combined perfectly with the delectable scent of the fish; it was the same aroma that she had caught a whiff of outside the restaurant.

Ever since she was little, her favorite food had always been fish. She detested having to pick out the small annoying fishbones, but that still didn't hamper her love of fish.

However, despite having fish countless times in her life, she had never seen fish cooked in that manner before. The fish appeared to have been grilled to perfection, and had been drenched with delectable red juice then sprinkled with chilis, wild peppers, and spring onion.

She saw an orc put a morsel of fish meat into his mouth, upon which his eyes immediately widened as if he had tasted something incredible. His face also quickly turned from green to red, and he opened his

mouth as if he wanted to spit out the fish, but he simply couldn't bring himself to do so. Thus, he swallowed the fish with a conflicted expression before heaving a content sigh.

After panting momentarily, the orc had another mouthful of fish. He was clearly unable to handle the spiciness, but simply couldn't bear to spit out the fish, and his face was soon drenched in sweat. Even so, his chopsticks refused to stop, shoveling morsels of fish into his mouth one after another while his face was twisted with pain and pleasure.

"Gulp."

Vivian gulped. She... was jealous of what an orc was eating? Even she found that to be unbelievable.

His table manners were absolutely horrible, but he was clearly thoroughly enjoying himself! He was completely immersed in the flavor of the dish; just what kind of flavor could captivate someone so thoroughly?

Also, the fish doesn't appear to have any small fishbones? What was even more surprising to Vivian was that the orc didn't even stop once to spit out any bones as he ate.

Right at that moment, a warm voice cut off Vivian's train of thought. "Hi there, we have a seat open over there; you can have a seat there and make your order."

Vivian turned to look at Yabemiya, upon which a hint of surprise appeared on her face. She wasn't expecting to see a half-dragon waitress. That was something that she hadn't seen for a long time in any restaurant in the Aden Square.

However, the half-dragon girl really was very beautiful. In particular, the smile on her face exuded a special type of charisma, which instantly lifted one's mood. Furthermore, the dress she was wearing was also quite interesting. Vivian was wondering if it was a new style, and thought that she would have to shop for it next time with Luna.

Even though Yabemiya was already used to serving customers, she still couldn't help but blush as she was scrutinized by a handsome young man. He also had a mustache like Mag did, but in Yabemiya's eyes, she felt like Mag was more handsome, and more manly as well.

Vivian also realized that staring at Yabemiya was a little rude, so she turned away to look at a dwarf couple leaving the restaurant. There was only a fish skeleton left on their steel platter, and traces of red grease could be seen on the table and chairs, which made Vivian furrow her brows slightly.

Right at that moment, Sally quickly strode over to pack up the stove and platter before casually unleashing a water ball magic spell. The oil and grime on the table and chairs were instantly cleansed; her spell was countless times more effective than wiping down the surfaces with a rag.

Using a water-type elven magic caster to clean the tables? The boss here must be a genius! Vivian's instantly lit up. She strode over, and sat down before running her finger along the surface of the table. There wasn't even as much as a hint of residual water or grease that stained her finger as a result, and even with her mysophobic tendencies, she found the level of cleanliness impeccable. Even though it wasn't a private booth, the service was still exemplary, and worthy of a five-star rating.

"I want that type of fish." Vivian pointed at the grilled fish on a neighboring table.

“That’s our spicy grilled fish. Please have a look at the menu and choose the size of the fish, as well as the level of spiciness you would like.” Yabemiya smiled as she indicated toward the menu on the table.

“I can pick the size and spiciness?” Vivian was a little surprised as she picked up the menu. The leather exterior was very pleasant to the touch.

“No need to look at that; we’ll have one of everything. As for that fish, we’ll get the biggest and most delicious one,” a voice suddenly interjected before Vivian even had a chance to open the menu.

Schonard strode over to Vivian, and gave her a smile that he thought to be quite gentlemanly.

“Greetings, brother. I feel like we have an affinity with one another, so let me pay for your meal today.”

A hint of displeasure flashed through Vivian’s eyes at the sight of Schonard, and she replied, “No thanks, I’ve got money.”

Isn’t that the guy that was harassing me during the banquet a few days ago? He’s always wearing those hideous red robes; what’s wrong with his fashion standards? She wasn’t expecting to meet him today, but she was in disguise, so he should not have been able to recognize her. With that in mind, Vivian remained quite calm and collected.

“There is no most delicious spiciness when it comes to the spicy grilled fish. It is a matter of personal preference, and is to be based on the individual customer’s spice tolerance.” Yabemiya smiled. She wasn’t very fond of this pompous rich boy, either.

Schonard’s expression stiffened upon being rejected by Vivian, and he was even more enraged by the retort delivered by this half-dragon waitress. However, he still had to keep his cool and maintain a gentlemanly facade in front of Vivian. As such, he looked around at the bustling tables, and said, “I’m reserving this entire restaurant tonight. Tell your boss to come out and evict everyone here; state a price, and I’ll deliver. I’d like to have some peace and quiet when I’m eating. Of course, you can stay with me, brother.”

Chapter 350: You Might Not Be Able to Afford It

Everyone in the restaurant turned to look at Schonard after hearing his bold declaration. All of them harbored intense animosity toward him. If he were to reserve the entire restaurant, no one else would be able to dine there, and that was unacceptable to them.

It was the first time anyone had ever tried to reserve the entire restaurant. Master Urien was still enjoying the grilled fish that he had ordered, and everyone wondered what his reaction would be if this Schonard tried to kick everyone out of the restaurant.

With that in mind, a hint of mockery appeared on everyone’s faces. This young buck clearly hadn’t done his homework before he decided to flex. He might be hailing from a rich family, but there were about 10 people sitting in Mamy Restaurant at that very moment that were just as rich, if not even richer, than his father. Furthermore, there were at least 20 customers that could slam him out of the restaurant with a single slap.

"I also like peace and quiet when I eat." Urien glanced up at Schonard, but didn't do anything aside from continuing to dine on his spicy grilled fish. His tongue had already gone numb from the spiciness, but he could still clearly taste its delicious flavor.

What came as even more of a pleasant surprise to him was that after swallowing the mouthfuls of fish, a scorching sensation ran through his entire body. His legs were perpetually stiff from influxes of frosty energy, but they were warmed up by the dish, and that frosty energy was being expelled from his body. He was also experiencing the same feeling with his hunched back, and as he continued to eat, his back seemed to be straightening out.

Urien had tried to find many ways to keep out the cold. At night, he slept on a bed that was carved out of a ten-thousand-year-old fire rock, which was excavated from the depths of a lava lake, and he also drank a glass of fire fruit juice every day, but neither of those was too effective. Over the years, the frosty energy had already delved deep into his bones, and couldn't be removed through normal methods.

He didn't have many years left to live anyway, so he had given up on looking for new ways to relieve those symptoms. However, the roujiamo that Mag had released gave him hope, and the new spicy grilled fish made him even more optimistic that he would be able to completely expel the frosty energy within his body.

The scorching sensation flowed deep into his bone marrow, reducing the frosty energy and excess humidity in his body to nothingness. The process wasn't a very fast or drastic one, but he could clearly sense the frosty energy receding within his body, and the pain in his back and legs had been alleviated significantly.

If he continued to eat the dish every day, it wouldn't be long until all of the frosty energy in his body was completely eradicated. Perhaps he would even be able to straighten out his back in that case.

Even though he didn't have many years left, why wouldn't he want to live his remaining years in a greater comfort? Furthermore, the remedy wasn't some foul-tasting medicine, but this delicious grilled fish, so it really was a win-win situation.

Schonard took a glance at Urien, but didn't think much of the hunch-backed old man. He was thoroughly basking in all of the attention he was receiving. Of course, Chaos City wasn't Rodu, so he knew that he had to be a bit more careful, which was why he was asking the boss of the restaurant to evict all the customers, and he was willing to pay to reserve the restaurant.

He felt like what he was doing was very gentlemanly and heroic. Vivian was the city lord's daughter, so she naturally couldn't dine with all these demons, dwarves, and orcs. When he thought about how he would be able to dine in private with Vivian, his heart began to flutter. His actions would surely leave a good impression in her heart.

Is this guy retarded? Vivian shot a disdainful glance at Schonard. She'd only wanted to have a meal, but this guy was skipping around like a clown, putting on a really annoying show.

Furthermore, she was dressed as a man, but this guy was still trying to curry favor with her. With that in mind, a peculiar feeling welled up in her heart. She shifted her gaze away from Schonard, and thought to herself, Is he gay?

Vivian shuddered delicately as that thought occurred to her, and she unconsciously scooted away from him.

“How about it?” Schonard looked at Yabemiya with a smug expression as he raised his voice an octave. He was going to teach this half-dragon girl a lesson for talking back to him.

“Um...” Yabemiya was at a loss for what to do as she looked at Schonard. She hadn’t ever encountered a situation like this before, and she didn’t know what should be done. Schonard appeared to be quite a rich customer, so she didn’t want to offend him.

“Sorry, but our restaurant is not available for reservation.” Right at that moment, Mag emerged from the kitchen with a plate of Yangzhou fried rice. He placed the dish on a customer’s table before walking over to Yabemiya, and appraised Schonard with a smile. “Furthermore, our restaurant is very expensive, so you might not be able to afford it.”

All of the customers smiled upon hearing Mag’s words. As expected of Boss Mag, even his retort was delivered in such a civilized and calm manner.

Vivian looked up at Mag with a hint of surprise, upon which her eyes lit up. It appeared that he was the genius chef that Robert was referring to and the interesting parent of Luna’s student.

His cropped brown hair was very clean and uniform, and the mustache on his angular face gave him a slightly rogue air. His tailored chef’s suit was pristine and tight-fitting, making it very pleasing to the eye compared to the greasy uniforms that chefs often wore.

Hmm, he’s pretty handsome. Also, I give full marks for that mustache! Vivian thought to herself. Compared to the mature Mag, the rash and impulsive Schonard completely paled in terms of attraction.

That’s just my opinion on his appearance; it’s not like I have any interest in him. I’m just here to eat. Vivian took her eyes off Mag. It was quite satisfying to hear Mag deliver a retort to the annoying Schonard. She didn’t think that there was a restaurant owner who would refuse a customer’s request to reserve their restaurant, and also throw in a sly “you might not be able to afford it” on the end. He was indeed an interesting guy.

“You’re the boss here?” Schonard also faltered momentarily upon hearing Mag’s words. He didn’t that he would be rejected in such a straightforward manner, and insulted as well. If he let things slide, then the scintillating image that he had just established in front of Vivian would collapse. That would be unacceptable!

Schonard was on the verge of flaring up with rage as he glowered at Mag. “I may be wealthier than you can imagine. I’m reserving this restaurant today no matter what. Just state your price.”

This was just a small restaurant in a corner of the Aden Square. Even if they did have more customers than other restaurants of the same scale, how expensive could it be? If worse came to worst, then he would just have to pay for everyone’s meals and evict them thereafter. He had many gold coins and dragon coins on him, and those should be more than enough.

“Reserving our restaurant may be more expensive than you can imagine as well.” Mag was not very fond of rich boys who were constantly trying to flex like him. As Schonard’s expression became more and more twisted with rage, he smiled, and said, “If you want to reserve the restaurant, you’ll have to pay at

least twice the amount of money the restaurant would make tonight, right? The evening service is the main source of the restaurant's revenue, so you'll have to pay 1,000,000 copper coins. Furthermore, you'll have to pay for everyone's meals, as well as an additional consolation fee, which will cost you 100,000 copper coins. Reserving the restaurant would negatively impact the restaurant's reputation, which would result in a future reduction of profits, which you'll have to pay 100,000 copper coins for as well. Thus, the total will come to 1,200,000 copper coins, in cash."