

Stay At home 381

Chapter 381: Mamy Restaurant is Back on the Rankings Board!

“A drop of my blood?” Yabemiya was a little perplexed by that request.

“I want to verify something. If you don’t want to, I won’t force you.” Elizabeth nodded in response.

Yabemiya looked at Elizabeth, and hesitated momentarily before mustering up her courage, and asking, “You’re a dragon; are you trying to help me find my father?”

Elizabeth nodded before shaking her head. “I am, in a way. However, my main objective is to verify something for myself. I can’t guarantee that I’ll find the person that you’re looking for.”

“Alright, you can take anything you need from me.” Yabemiya nodded, and extended her hand.

Sally had been silent for a long while, but at that moment, she positioned herself between Yabemiya and Elizabeth, and asked, “I don’t know why you came to seek out Miya, but I still want to ask; why have you come to her?”

Elizabeth looked at Sally with an earnest expression, and replied, “I can’t tell you that, but I can guarantee you that I bear no ill will toward her.”

Sally looked into Elizabeth’s eyes for a short while before stepping away to the side. Dragons were very proud creatures, and they wouldn’t lie easily.

Elizabeth strode forward, and an extremely thin ice pin appeared on the tip of her finger. She looked into Yabemiya’s nervous eyes, and pricked her fingertip with the ice pin.

“Ngh~”

A faint moan escaped Yabemiya’s lips, but she forced herself to suppress the reflexive urge to wrench her hand away. She looked on as a drop of golden blood hovered in the air after leaking from her fingertip, and her eyes widened with incredulity.

The blood droplet was enshrouded in translucent snow and ice; it rose slowly into the air until it was at Elizabeth’s eye level.

A golden bloodline, and an unexpectedly pure one as well. The Golden Dragon bloodline is also golden in color, but if it were the Golden Dragon bloodline, the power imbued within her blood should be more potent, not as gentle as this. Elizabeth looked at the droplet of blood, and a hint of confusion appeared on her face. She gently swiped her left hand over the ring on her right hand, and a silver crystal that was about the size of a palm fell into her hand. She then tossed it forward, and it hovered in midair, just below that droplet of blood.

The blood that was encapsulated in the ice crystal suddenly began to plummet, exploding upon making contact with the silver crystal. Golden blood splattered in all directions before being absorbed in its entirety by the silver crystal.

“Whoosh~”

The silver crystal was only emanating a faint light, but that light suddenly brightened significantly, and the crystal itself began to rotate at a high speed.

A beam of light was projected by the crystal like a projector, and an image appeared in the air.

The image slowly became clearer, and was revealed to be a woman with gentle features, who appeared to be around 30 years of age. She wore an old floral dress, and even though her face was a little pale, her delicate beauty was still very apparent to any onlooker.

“Mother!”

Yabemiya looked at the woman in the projected image, and she couldn't help but step forward. There was an enraptured expression on her face, and tears were already flowing uncontrollably from her eyes.

“How could this be?” A hint of surprise also appeared in Elizabeth's eyes upon seeing that. The projection stone was an item that she had brought with her from dragon island, and it could reveal one's bloodline through their blood. That was why she had asked Yabemiya for a drop of her blood.

However, the projection stone had only revealed the image of a woman, and that was not a normal occurrence.

Still, her expression gradually softened when she saw Yabemiya's reaction. If the woman in the image was her mother, she had to be really happy. Elizabeth had already forgotten what her mother looked like, and the projection stone couldn't display the image of her mother.

The projection only lingered in the air for a short while before slowly fading away. In the end, the shadow of a dragon suddenly appeared, but it was only there for a fleeting moment before disappearing. They could only faintly make out a silhouette of the dragon, but it was impossible to tell what kind of dragon it was.

“Sorry, it looks like my bloodline isn't pure enough, so the bloodline can't be displayed.” Yabemiya only came to her senses a few seconds after the projection had disappeared, and she turned to Elizabeth with an apologetic expression. There were still two trails of tears running down her face, evoking a sympathetic response.

“That's alright, perhaps you're a very special being. We might meet again someday.” Elizabeth shook her head, and even though her voice was still as cold as ever, she wasn't blaming Yabemiya for what had happened. However, there was a hint of disappointment in her eyes as she stowed away the projection stone, turning to leave. A large snowflake suddenly appeared beneath her feet, and she disappeared in the blink of an eye.

Yabemiya stared blankly at the spot where Elizabeth had just disappeared before breaking down into sobs.

Sally hesitated momentarily before patting Yabemiya on the shoulder, and consoling her in a gentle voice. “It's ok, Miya, your father will definitely come to find you.”

“Aisha, I'm really useless, right? I don't even know what my father looks like, where he is right now, or even what kind of person he is.” Yabemiya turned to Sally, and sobbed.

Sally shook her head, and looked at Yabemiya with an earnest expression as she said, "Of course not. None of that is your fault. He's the one who never showed himself to you, and he's the one who never told you anything about himself. You're not the useless one. If you meet him someday, you can ask him whose fault this is."

"Aisha, you're so good to me." Yabemiya dove into Sally's arms, and trembled with sobs as she said, "I saw Mother. It's been so many years, and I've almost forgotten what she looked like..."

Sally had her arms wide open, and her expression was a little stiff, but it gradually softened as she heard Yabemiya's words. She wrapped her arms around Yabemiya, and patted her on the back. She didn't say anything; all she did was listen.

"A dragon bloodline that is being dominated by a human bloodline is definitely not a Golden Dragon bloodline. The Golden Dragon is not inferior to the Frost Dragon bloodline, so it can't be her... What a pity..." Elizabeth murmured to herself as she walked down a long alley. She suddenly turned to look beside her, and a translucent frost scimitar appeared in her hand as she pushed open the door next to her.

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"The final rankings for the Aden Square food competition are going to be announced today. I wonder if there will be some big changes."

"Tch, what changes could there be? It's definitely going to be identical to what it was yesterday. No new restaurant is going to be able to make it into the top 30 on the final day."

Many people were gathered in front of the magic screens in the Aden Square, awaiting the food competition results.

"It's a shame that Mamy Restaurant was removed from the rankings. All five of their dishes deserve to be in the top 100, but they were disqualified for no reason. I don't think there's any reason for this food competition to exist any longer." Harrison looked on with a wistful expression.

"Indeed." Gjerj nodded.

"This is great, Boss; our restaurant has the 29th ranking in the bag! Business will only continue to improve next month!" The Ricky's Rotisserie employee looked at his boss with an excited expression.

"I knew that our rotisserie would be able to claim the 29th spot this month." Ricky was also very excited as he stared at the magic screens with shimmering eyes.

"Mamy Restaurant is on the rankings board again!"

The screens were updated, and a loud cry immediately rang out among the crowd!

Chapter 382: Money Doesn't Buy Omnipotence

"Braised chicken and rice, Mamy Restaurant, number 29!"

"La zhi roujiamo, Mamy Restaurant, number 35!"

“Savory tofu pudding, Mamy Restaurant, number 67!”

“Sweet tofu pudding, Mamy Restaurant, number 68!”

“Yangzhou fried rice, Mamy Restaurant, number 88!”

One voice after another erupted, and the atmosphere suddenly became very joyful. Many Mamy Restaurant customers had come to see the final rankings, and they didn’t have much hope in their hearts, but who would have thought that Mamy Restaurant would be reinstated?

“B-Boss, where’s our rotisserie?” The employee was a little flustered. He looked at all of the magic screens, but was unable to find their rotisserie.

“T-t-this is impossible! We paid so much money, and the Chamber of Commerce promised us the 29th spot. How could this be?!” Ricky had also flown into a complete panic, and he desperately searched for Ricky’s Rotisserie on the magic screens, but his efforts proved to be fruitless.

The 29th spot that belonged to Ricky’s Rotisserie had been taken by Mamy Restaurant, and he felt as if that was the worst insult that anyone could deliver.

“That restaurant appeared again? That’s impossible! It was removed from the rankings already! It was supposed to never appear on the rankings again! This is all fake, it must be... You, your Catering Association needs to give me an explanation! Why is this happening? Where is my Ricky’s Rotisserie?!” Ricky rushed over to the Catering Association employees like a madman, and grabbed one of them by the collar.

All of his dreams and expectations had been dashed in a split second, and the blow was too heavy for him to endure. He needed an explanation. Why had that restaurant appeared again, and why had it taken the 29th spot that belonged to him? Where was his rotisserie? It wasn’t even occupying the 30th spot!

“Sir, these rankings were provided by the association, and do not have anything to do with me. If you have any queries, you may state them, but can you please let go of me first?” The employee that had been grabbed by the collar was also a little flustered.

“Exactly! Why is my restaurant gone as well? Do you know how much money I spent for the ranking? How could you remove my restaurant without any explanation?”

“How dare you Catering Association do something like this? We’re all members of the Chamber of Commerce; the Chamber of Commerce will stand up for us!”

Aside from Ricky, there were some other restaurant owners who had suddenly had their restaurants removed from the rankings, and they also began to interrogate the Catering Association employees.

Right at that moment, Robert arrived on the scene, and he looked at Ricky with a stern expression as he warned, “Sir, I am the new president of the Catering Association, Robert. Please let go of my employee, or you will be arrested for threatening an employee of the city lord’s castle.”

“New president? Isn’t the president of the Catering Association that fat guy? Why is it suddenly him?”

“This is really strange. Not only has the president changed, the rankings board has also changed significantly.”

Everyone looked at Robert with surprise in their eyes.

“Heh, employee of the city lord’s castle? You people from the Catering Association aren’t employees of the city lord’s castle.” Ricky let go of the employee, but he still refused to back down as he waved his fist, and said, “If you’re the new president of the Catering Association, then why don’t you tell me why my Ricky’s Rotisserie was ranked 29th yesterday, but it’s suddenly disappeared from the rankings board? What kind of shady dealings has your Catering Association engaged in?”

“My restaurant is gone as well! I put in so much effort during the past few days, and all of it has gone to waste. Your Catering Association must give us a reasonable explanation!”

The other restaurant owners were also very worked up, but none of them were as vehement as Ricky. After all, Robert was the new president of the Catering Association, and it was best not to offend him.

“Ricky’s Rotisserie has been removed due to its fraudulent actions in purchasing rankings, as well as for its sub-par service, hygiene, and food. Our Catering Association has already verified all of this before removing the restaurant from the rankings, and it will be unable to participate in the Aden Square food competition for the next three months.” Robert’s voice was extremely calm and stern as he provided an explanation, and he was looking at Ricky as if he were examining a parasite.

Everyone instantly fell silent upon hearing that. All of the foodies gathered there turned to Ricky with resentment in their eyes. They finally understood why the food recommended on the rankings board was becoming more and more atrocious. It was because these restaurants hadn’t made it onto the rankings board based on actual merit. It was no wonder that their food was so horrible.

All of the other protesting restaurant owners shuddered in unison. Not only had a new president suddenly been assigned, he had made such drastic changes on his first day, wiping away all of the fraudulent restaurants, and delivering a punishment of not being able to participate in the food competition for the next three months. That was an absolute disaster for all of the restaurants that had bought their way onto the rankings board.

Ricky took an instinctive step backward, and his face instantly became flushed as he sensed all of the disdainful looks aimed toward him. His blood rushed into his head, and he let loose an enraged roar. “Bullsh*t! This is slander! I’m going to report you to the city lord’s castle! You must have taken bribes from Mamy Restaurant! Otherwise, you wouldn’t have removed my rotisserie from the 29th spot!”

Two Catering Association employees immediately rushed forward to prevent Ricky from attacking Robert.

“You can state any doubts you like about the rankings; I’ll be happy to clear those doubts up by releasing official documents and statistics, including some of the account books kept by the Chamber of Commerce. You can report me to the city lord’s castle if you like, but I have more than enough evidence to rebuke you.” Robert looked at Ricky with an expression that looked as if it had been carved from stone.

Ricky's expression changed drastically, and he felt as if he had been plunged into a glacial pit. If what Robert said was true, then even the account books of the Chamber of Commerce were in their grasp, so there was no way that he would be able to do anything. Even the Chamber of Commerce wouldn't be able to stand up for them, which meant that all of the money he had spent on purchasing rankings had been flushed down the drain. Furthermore, the reputation of his Ricky's Rotisserie would be completely ruined as well.

"No! You're lying! I won't allow you to slander me like this!" Ricky roared as he threw a punch at one of the employees standing in front of him, knocking him straight to the ground. He then rushed toward Robert, but was soon detained by other employees.

"The Catering Association is a subsidiary organization of the city lord's castle. As such, all of the Catering Association's employees are also employees of the city lord's castle. You have physically assaulted an employee of the city lord's castle, and intentionally tried to cause a disturbance. According to Chaos City's laws number 29 and 38, those two crimes will earn you at least a one-year-long sentence in the Bastie Prison." Robert looked expressionlessly down at Ricky, who had been pinned to the ground. He then looked at all of the other restaurant owners who were considering following Ricky's example, and all of them immediately discarded those thoughts.

"How could this be..." Ricky stared up at Robert with despair on his face. All of the restaurant owners shuffled back a few steps in unison, and deathly silence ensued.

"Money doesn't buy omnipotence here in Chaos City," Robert announced in a loud voice.

A smattering of applause suddenly broke the silence in the Aden Square. Soon, more and more people began to join in...

Chapter 383: Can I Give My First Time to You?

"Boss! Boss!!! Our restaurant entered the rankings board again! Braised chicken and rice came in at number 29, and all of the other four dishes also made it into the top 100!" Mag was just preparing breakfast for Amy when he heard an urgent burst of knocking. He opened the door, and Yabemiya immediately rushed in with cheeks that were flushed with excitement.

"Hmm?" Mag faltered slightly upon hearing that before a surprised smile appeared on his face, and he asked, "Is that true, Miya? The braised chicken and rice made onto the rankings board again? And it's number 29?"

"It's 100% true! I saw it with my own two eyes; our restaurant really did make it onto the rankings board again!" Yabemiya nodded with excitement.

Right at that moment, the system's voice sounded. "Ding! Congratulations, one of your dishes has made it into the top 30 during this edition of the Aden Square food competition, so you have successfully completed the mission! The reward for this mission, the Haagen-Dazs ice cream recipe, has already been delivered. You may enter the test field for the God of Cookery at any time to practice."

Mag looked at the flashing experience bag in his mind, and he couldn't help but smile.

The completion of this mission sure was unexpected. He was already prepared to receive the punishment for failing the mission, but who would have thought that such a drastic reversal would take

place? He had done nothing else aside from sleeping the night before, but the mission was somehow completed.

“How did this happen? Did the Catering Association provide an explanation?” Mag asked.

“I don’t know the specific details, but the president of the Catering Association has been replaced by a tall and thin man. I recall that he came to dine at our restaurant once, and he seems to be very stern. Aside from our restaurant being reinstated on the rankings board, many restaurants were stripped from it. He announced that those restaurants had bought their rankings, and they would be banned from the food competition for three months.” Yabemiya was still feeling very worked up as she delivered her recount of events.

“Who would have thought that such a massive revolution would take place? Looks like the city lord really decided to bite the bullet this time. I’m surprised that he remembered to reinstate our Mamy Restaurant on the rankings board, though.” Mag nodded with a smile. From Yabemiya’s account, he could deduce that the new president was most likely the former Vice President Robert, who had been transferred to the Catering Association from the city lord’s castle.

The dismissal of the old guard in the Catering Association would undoubtedly create many changes, both in the Catering Association itself as well as in the restaurant industry in the Aden Square.

However, Mag definitely approved of the new president’s decisive course of action. Even though such radical measures would inevitably result in some backlash, it was always better to rip off a band-aid quickly rather than slowly. If he wanted to drag the Catering Association out of the mire that it had been sinking into for the past decade, then some negative consequences were an inevitable byproduct.

As long as the Catering Association could establish itself again, and not be controlled by money, perhaps it would actually serve as a useful association to the masses soon. Even though it had done many wrong things in the past, Mag still felt that the Catering Association shouldn’t be completely abolished. The restaurant industry needed a supervising organization, so the existence of the Catering Association was still imperative.

Of course, what made Mag the most elated was that he had completed his mission. The Haagen-Dazs ice cream recipe was a really good prize; Amy would have delicious ice cream to eat tomorrow.

After a while, Sally also arrived, and she, too, wore a bright smile on her face. However, she refrained from repeating the news as it was apparent from Mag and Yabemiya’s smiles that they already knew what had happened.

“Father, tomorrow is our day off; I can still invite my friends over for lunch, right?” Amy came downstairs, and looked at Mag with anticipation on her face.

“Of course you can. Also, I’m going to prepare a special dessert for you and your little friends tomorrow.” Mag nodded with a smile. The ice cream recipe had arrived just in time for Amy and her little friends to enjoy a delicious dessert.

“A dessert?” Amy’s eyes lit up with excitement and curiosity as she asked, “Like tofu pudding? Amy loves tofu pudding!”

Mag put on a mysterious smile as he replied, "It's a little different from tofu pudding. You'll know what it is tomorrow."

"Yay! Father's dessert will definitely be super delicious!" Amy nodded with glowing eyes.

"Boss, are you going to be entertaining guests tomorrow? Do you need our help?" Yabemiya asked.

"That won't be necessary, but if you've got nothing to do tomorrow, you can come over for lunch, and try out the new product that our restaurant is going to release." Mag turned to Miya and Sally with a smile.

Yabemiya nodded with elation before turning to Sally. "Alright, I'll be coming for sure. How about you, Aisha?"

"I don't have anything to do, so I'll come as well." Sally nodded. She was very much looking forward to this new dessert.

"Good." Mag nodded with a smile.

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Outside the restaurant, the customers organized themselves into two lines as usual. All of them were very happy that Mamy Restaurant had made it onto the rankings board again, but were also feeling a little wistful as Mamy Restaurant had given up on voting on the final day. Otherwise, their rankings would have been even higher.

Mamy Restaurant made it back onto the rankings board; Boss Mag must be really happy, right? I'll be going to the Blue Suede Textiles Shop today, so I won't be able to wear my veil anymore. I wonder if he'll dislike me for my appearance. Gloria was part of one of the lines, and she wore a nervous expression on her face, which was still being obscured by a white veil.

She clenched her delicate little fists tightly as those thoughts occurred to her. She wore a pink dress with a golden sash, which accentuated her lithe and graceful figure, drawing the attention of many customers, all of whom were curious what she looked like under that white veil.

The restaurant door was opened, and customers piled in as they expressed their congratulations to Mag.

"Thank you all for your support. The restaurant is now open for business; please come in." Mag greeted all of his customers with a smile. He was very touched by the concern and support that they had extended toward him.

The customers entered the restaurant one after another, and Mag greeted all of them one by one. All of a sudden, a woman in a pink dress stopped in front of him.

"Welcome," Mag said with a smile. He had never seen the young woman's face as it was always obscured by a veil, but from his observations, he knew that she came to eat a sweet tofu pudding almost every day. Her voice was very beautiful, but she rarely ever spoke, and the two of them had never had a conversation.

However, she stopped beside him today, and looked at him through her white veil as if she had something to say.

All of the customers behind her also stopped, and looked on with curiosity.

“Thank you for curing the freckles on my face. Can I give my first time to you?” Gloria was a little nervous as she appraised Mag.

Chapter 384: What A Beautiful Big Sister!

The entire restaurant fell into a deathly silence. Everyone stared at Mag and Gloria with peculiar expressions on their faces. Who would have thought that they would be greeted by such a mind-blowing conversation this early in the morning?

WTF?! What the hell is going on? Mag looked at the young woman standing before him, also dumbstruck. This was the first time that she had ever spoken to him, and she was certainly making it count. He gave an awkward cough, and put on a serious expression before replying, “I’m not that type of person, so I’ll have to refuse.”

“Father, what’s a first time? Why are you refusing it? Maybe this big sister really wants to give it to you?” Amy wore a curious expression as she held Ugly Duckling in her arms. She then turned to scrutinize Gloria’s white veil as if she were trying to see the woman behind the veil.

“Well...” Mag opened his mouth, but he really didn’t know how to explain the concept to Amy.

Many customers wore knowing smiles upon seeing his awkward situation. They didn’t say anything, either, as they didn’t want to corrupt Little Amy, but all of them were quite curious about how the situation would progress from here.

After hearing Mag’s reply, Gloria also realized that she had misspoken, and a blush appeared on her face. She immediately waved her hands, and corrected herself. “I’m saying... I want you to be the first person to see me without my veil as you are the one who gave me a second chance at life, and instilled within me the courage to take off my veil.”

“Oh, I see... Of course you can.” An awkward smile appeared on his face. For some reason, there was a hint of disappointment in his heart, but he couldn’t be blamed for having a dirty mind—anyone would think the same thing in his situation.

However, the young woman’s words still filled him with a sense of gratification. It appeared that she had indeed had some type of flaw on her face, which led to her constantly wearing her veil. After eating his tofu pudding, the freckles vanished, and she regained the courage to take off her veil. As such, he was feeling quite pleased that he had done a good deed, and was quite curious what she looked like under the veil at the same time.

All of the customers were also enlightened upon hearing that. So it wasn’t what they were thinking. In any case, it was a good thing that they would be able to witness the “rebirth” of this young woman after eating Mag’s tofu pudding.

Gloria looked at Mag, and took a deep breath. She mustered up her courage before taking off her veil, revealing a head of golden hair that shimmered with a faint sheen under the sun.

Her smooth long hair trailed all the way down to her calves like a golden waterfall, and her intricate features were like a work of art.

Her purple eyes were clean and pure, and she was biting down on her lower lip with a nervous expression. Her long eyelashes were trembling slightly, but she looked directly at Mag, not allowing herself to turn away.

Her snowy white skin appeared even fairer when complemented by her pink dress, and even though her limbs were rather thin and delicate, her chest was sizeable in comparison. The golden sash around her waist accentuated her slender figure, and she was radiating the energetic aura of a sprightly young woman.

So beautiful!!!

“I feel like Chaos City’s beauty ranking board is about to undergo a change after this.”

“Boss Mag really has done a good deed. If a beauty like her could only wear a veil for the rest of her life, then that would be a great shame.”

All of the customers were captivated by Gloria’s exquisitely beautiful features.

As expected, my judgment is spot on. Her figure and looks earn her a 9.9/10—almost a perfect score. Mag’s eyes lit up, and he was also a little stunned by her beauty. At the same time, he was very proud of the evaluation he had made when he had seen Gloria for the first time. Her beauty really did suit his tastes, but for some reason, he was surprisingly calm. If he had met someone like this in his past life, he would already be thinking about how to propose to her.

“Wow! What a beautiful Big Sister! You have purple eyes!”

Amy looked up with her mouth slightly gaping open, and her bright blue eyes were shimmering with excitement.

She’s so beautiful. Her skin is great, and her disposition is really good too. Yabemiya was looking at Gloria with a hint of envy in her eyes, while Sally was also slightly enraptured. It was quite a feat to be able to draw such reactions from other women.

So this is what the world looks like without my veil in the way; I haven’t seen the world like this in many years. Even the air seems to be fresher. Gloria could sense that everyone was looking at her, and a faint blush appeared on her face. In particular, when she saw Mag’s gentle yet scorching gaze, she wanted to don her veil again and flee into the distance.

However, she had mustered up a lot of courage to stand here, and from this day forth, she was going to live without her veil. She was going to become the owner of the Blue Suede Textiles Shop, and begin her journey toward her goals and dreams. She couldn’t afford to back down now. Otherwise, how would she be able to surpass Scheer Buffett, and become someone like her grandfather?

“My name is Gloria Moreton. Thank you for your tofu pudding.” Gloria looked at Mag, and curtsied as a gesture of gratitude before turning to Amy with a sweet smile on her face.

“My name’s Mag, and you’re very welcome. Come on in.” Mag nodded with a smile.

I did it! I told him my name! But... is he going to think that I’m taking too much initiative, and that I’m a promiscuous girl? Gloria nodded before walking into the restaurant, and heading toward her usual seat. Her cheeks were slightly flushed, and she could hear the sound of her heartbeat, which was fluttering like a hummingbird’s wings. She was quite elated, but also a little nervous and conflicted at the same time.

“What would you like to order?” Yabemiya made her way over to her with a smile on her face.

“I’d like a sweet tofu pudding and a Yangzhou fried rice, thanks.” Gloria nodded with a smile.

“No problem, please wait a moment.” Yabemiya nodded in response, and as she turned to leave, she looked at Gloria, and said, “You look really good without your veil.”

“Thank you.” Gloria tucked a few strands of hair behind her ear, and a genuine joyful smile appeared on her face.

Gloria’s tofu pudding and Yangzhou fried rice were soon ready, and she picked up her spoon as she looked at the sweet tofu pudding before her. She leaned forward and inhaled deeply through her nose, upon which a content smile lit up her beautiful features. She placed a spoonful of tofu pudding into her mouth, and its sweet flavor seemed to have made its way even to her heart.

After taking off her veil, the sweet tofu pudding seemed to be even more delicious. From this day forth, she no longer had to worry about others seeing what she looked like.

The shackles in her heart quickly crumbled as she dined on her tofu pudding, and it was as if beams of light were shining into her heart, filling her with hope and joy.

Chapter 385: So, You’re Fired

_Big Sister looks so beautiful when she’s eating, and her purple eyes are super gorgeous. _Amy sat behind the counter, and supported her chin with her hands as she carefully examined Gloria.

After a peaceful breakfast, Gloria paid for her meal before getting up to leave. When she made her way to the entrance of the restaurant, she turned toward the kitchen, and caught a glimpse of Mag’s profile, upon which a blush appeared on her face. She quickly walked out the door, and ignored the surprise on her coachman’s face as she instructed, “To the Blue Suede Textiles Shop.”

“Y-yes, Young Mistress.” The coachman immediately set the horse-drawn carriage into motion.

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In the Blue Suede Textiles Shop, the manager looked at the employees before her with a serious expression, and said, “A new owner will be coming today, so let’s all put in a good effort, and not leave her with a bad first impression.”

She then adjusted her clothes, and walked out in front of the store, looking around with a nervous expression.

“What kind of person is our new owner going to be? I heard our textiles shop was almost closed down, but the president insisted on keeping it open; that’s the only reason why we still have jobs,” an employee muttered in a quiet voice.

“I heard it’s the eldest young master’s daughter that’s coming. Apparently, the president made her one of the candidates for the heirloom, which gives her the same status as the second young master’s,” another employee replied.

A thin and short employee’s face lit up with anticipation as she speculated, “Is that true? Then doesn’t that mean that she could become the leader of the Moreton Family someday? If we serve her well, maybe we’ll get promoted!”

“If the president really does intend on grooming her as his heir, then she wouldn’t have been sent to our Blue Suede Textiles Shop.” A chubby employee pursed her lip with a hint of disdain, and said, “She doesn’t have what it takes to compete with the second young master. I also heard that she’s constantly wearing a veil, and doesn’t dare to show anyone her face. If you ask me, I reckon she must be really ugly or have something unsightly on her face. How could someone like her become the heir to the Moreton Family?”

“Really?” All of the employees were stunned to hear that. All of them turned toward the chubby employee with curiosity, wanting to hear more about their future boss.

“Why would I lie? I heard about all this from one of my sisters who works at the Moreton Manor. She says that the young mistress wears her veil even when she’s at home, and no one has ever seen what she looks like. She doesn’t even take it off during meals; how hideous would she have to be to wear a veil even during meals? Is she afraid that others wouldn’t be able to stomach their food if they saw her face?” The chubby employee enjoyed being the center of attention, and she continued to speculate with a smug expression on her face.

“Is this place still not open for business?” Right at that moment, a gentle voice cut into everyone’s conversation.

All of the employees turned, and their eyes immediately lit up. A beauty in a pink dress was standing at the entrance to their shop; her regal disposition coupled with her exquisitely gorgeous features made it impossible for them to look away.

“We’re already open. What kind of textiles are you looking for? You’re so beautiful, like a goddess from the heavens.” The chubby employee immediately approached her with a fawning smile on her face.

“I’m not here to look for textiles.” Gloria’s expression cooled slightly, and she shook her head as she looked at the chubby employee.

“Then, how can I help you?” The chubby employee was a little perplexed.

All of the other employees wore similar expressions of puzzlement on their faces. Business had been very bad for the Blue Suede Textiles Shop in the past few years. They sold only an average of a few meters of fabric a day, and those earnings weren’t even enough to pay their wages. However, the president insisted on keeping the store in operation, so they weren’t scared of losing their jobs.

It was exactly because of this that all of the employees had developed lackadaisical attitudes. Only in the face of customers who were clearly quite wealthy and were potentially going to purchase fabrics in bulk did they make any effort to provide customer service. Only customers from whom they could make sizeable commissions were worthy of being served in their eyes, and this young woman was clearly one of them. However, she was telling them that she wasn't here to buy fabrics?

"I'm the Moreton Family's young mistress that you were referring to; the one who's worried that no one would be able to stomach their food if they were to see my face." Gloria appraised the chubby employee with a calm expression.

"H-how is that possible?!" The chubby employee's expression changed drastically as she stumbled back a few steps. Her legs gave out under her, and she sat on the ground. As she did so, her flailing arms knocked over a shelf, and the rolls of fabric on the shelf came crashing down upon her head, causing a large red bump to appear on her forehead.

"B-Boss!" All of the employees also wore panicked expressions. Discussing the boss behind her back, especially when she was a member of the Moreton Family, could easily get them fired.

"Y-Young Mistress, I'm the manager of the Blue Suede Textiles Shop, Jean. I didn't think you would get here so early." The store manager immediately rushed in after hearing the commotion, and she also wore a surprised look as she caught sight of Gloria. Just a day ago, she had gathered some information; as such, she was waiting for a woman with a veil on her face to appear, but Gloria wasn't wearing her veil anymore.

She had also heard the conversation that had taken place between the employees, but she didn't reprimand them for it. She had always been the manager of the shop, so she was a little disgruntled that a new owner had suddenly been assigned. As such, she was also harboring a hint of animosity toward this young mistress, so she made no effort to stop them.

However, now that Gloria had overheard the conversation, she was in a lot of trouble. The employees were bad-mouthing their new store owner on the first day, while the manager did nothing to stop them. With that in mind, cold sweat was pouring down Jean's forehead, and she lowered her head as she scrambled for a way to rectify the situation inwardly.

Gloria looked at Jean and the employees with a calm expression, and she didn't say anything, but her clenched fists suggested that she was not as calm as she appeared.

"Young Mistress, Boss, I was just spouting nonsense! I'm so sorry; I shouldn't have said those things... Please, please don't fire me..." The chubby employee slapped herself, and she burst into sobs as she sat on the ground.

"According to the Moreton Family's rules, no employee can discuss members of the Moreton Family behind their backs. Anyone who is caught doing so will be fired with no exceptions." Gloria looked at the chubby employee with a cold expression, and said, "So, you're fired."

The chubby employee stared up at Gloria with a dumbfounded expression as if she couldn't believe what she was hearing.

All of the other employees were also feeling quite panicked, and they lowered their heads as they didn't dare to look at Gloria. Who would have thought that such a beautiful woman would be so cold and decisive? She had only just arrived at the shop, and one of the employees had already been fired. All of them had also joined in on the conversation earlier; were they going to be fired as well?

"Greetings, Young Mistress Gloria." Right at that moment, a voice sounded outside, and Mars strode in, wearing a long black cloak. He took off his hat, and extended a salute toward Gloria. A hint of surprise appeared on his face upon seeing what was happening in the shop, but he didn't say anything further.

"Mars? Why are you here?" Gloria was also a little surprised to see Mars. She had heard about the punishments that Cyril and Mars had received. On that day in the main building of the Chamber of Commerce, she knew that Mars had done her a favor by not revealing to Cyril that she had been eavesdropping on their conversation. Furthermore, she recalled that Mars had shared a good relationship with her father back when she was a child.

"The president evicted me from the Chamber of Commerce, but allowed me to choose a subsidiary business of the Moreton Family. I heard that you were coming here, so I applied to come here as well, and my request has been approved," Mars replied.

Gloria looked at Mars for a moment longer before turning to the store manager, who was sweating profusely, and she said, "You can go as well."

Chapter 386: You Only Have One Month

"Young Mistress, I've worked at the Blue Suede Textiles Shop for over a decade, and I know this store like the back of my hand. Please allow me to assist you in taking the Blue Suede Textiles Shop to greater heights; please give me another chance," the manager begged.

"You've been here for over a decade, during which the store has been on a steady decline. As such, there's no reason for me to keep you." Gloria looked at the manager, and shook her head as she said, "Besides, you can't even discipline the employees. I'm not going to use a manager who can't even enforce store rules. I'll ask them to assign you a new job; you can go now."

The manager opened her mouth to say something, but remained silent in the end as she extended a bow toward Gloria. She then turned to the staff room, and began to pack up her things.

All of the remaining employees were petrified upon seeing that. Even their manager had been fired; this new boss was absolutely terrifying. Her way of doing things completely belied her captivating appearance, and she was certainly not some weak sniveling little girl who could only hide behind her veil.

_Compared to the young master, his daughter seems to be more suitable for this type of role. Taking off the veil is like removing a set of shackles from her heart; perhaps this is what natural talent looks like? When she was talking about following the rules, she reminds me of the president. _Mars looked at Gloria with approval on his face. He clenched his fists, and his expression became more resolute as he thought to himself, _From this day forth, I have to be as loyal to Young Mistress Gloria as my father was to the president. I want to see her rise to become the president herself, and bring more prosperity to the Moreton Manor. _

“Let me introduce myself. I am Gloria Moreton, your new boss.” Gloria turned toward the employees with a smile on her face. She then pointed at Mars, and said, “This is Mr. Mars. He was the secretary of the president, but he will now become the new store manager here.”

Everyone turned toward Mars, and drew sharp breaths in unison. They were already stunned by the lofty status of their new store owner, and they were now shocked to find that their new store manager was also such an important figure. The secretary was the president’s most trusted subordinate, so why was he undertaking the role of store manager here?

All of a sudden, everyone came to a realization. Perhaps the young mistress hadn’t been deployed to their store as the president had given up on her. Instead, he could be harboring very high hopes for her, and wanted to test her by assigning her to a failing business. Even though the Blue Suede Textiles Shop’s situation was not very optimistic, it was the first business that had paved the foundation for the rise of the Moreton Family.

The store manager was packing up her things, and her expression stiffened upon hearing that. She became even more dejected and remorseful for her foolish actions. She knew that she had missed out on her only opportunity to potentially enter the inner circle of the Chamber of Commerce.

The chubby employee had also struggled to her feet at some point before packing up her things, and leaving the shop that she had worked at for eight years. She knew that after being fired from a Moreton Family business, none of the subsidiary businesses under the Chamber of Commerce would want to hire her. As such, it would be extremely difficult for her to find employment in Chaos City again.

Gloria turned to the employees with a serious expression, and declared, “Today, I want to announce something: the president has given me an ultimatum, demanding that I make the Blue Suede Textiles Shop a profitable business in a month. Otherwise, the shop will be closed down, and all of its employees, including myself, will be fired.”

All of the employees were stunned to hear that. They looked at each other, and no one dared to say anything.

They were very familiar with the situation that the Blue Suede Textiles Shop was in. The shop still had stock from many years ago, and just the storage and maintenance of that stock required a lot of expenditure. As such, it was completely impossible to make the business profitable in just a month.

“A... a month?! Young Mistress... isn’t that time period a little too short?” A petite employee finally mustered up her courage, and stated the query in everyone’s hearts.

“Something that can’t be changed in a month can’t be changed in three months, either. This is just like the ultimatum that was delivered to all of you three years ago, except this time, the president is the one delivering the ultimatum.” Gloria shook her head.

Mars stepped forward with a smile, and said, “Alright, Young Mistress, we’ll work hard to make our textiles shop a profitable business in a month.”

All of the employees looked at Mars, and their panic gradually subsided. He was the president’s most trusted subordinate. If he said that it could be done, then there should be no issue.

“Mr. Mars, I’ll be in your care from now on, then.” A smile also appeared on Gloria’s face as she turned to Mars.

...

Following the breakfast service, Mag was in a good mood, and he lay down in his lounge chair to sunbathe again. Meanwhile, Yabemiya and Sally were also both in high spirits, and they were dancing to Gokuraku Jodo.

The supremely talented Sally had already perfected the dance, and each and every one of her motions was filled with seduction and exuberance.

In comparison, Yabemiya wasn’t as talented, but she practiced more often, so she had also reached a high level of mastery in the dance.

_Life sure is good. Only in this world would I be able to see an elf and a half-dragon dancing to Gokuraku Jodo. _Mag stretched lazily before closing his eyes. The autumn sun shone its light upon him, and he felt as if he didn’t have a care in the world.

...

That night, during dinner, Amy looked at Yabemiya and Sally with anticipation in her eyes, and asked, “Big Sister Miya, Big Sister Aisha, can we perform the ‘Spring Is Here’ dance for my friends tomorrow?”

“Huh?”

“Hmm?”

Both Yabemiya and Sally were surprised by her request.

“But... I’ve never danced in front of anyone, and I’m not good at it, either. It’ll just be embarrassing.” Yabemiya’s cheeks were a little flushed, and she wore a nervous expression.

“I... I’ve never danced in front of any people before, either.” Sally nodded in agreement. She had only danced in front of elves before, so technically, she wasn’t lying.

“That’s alright, both of you look really good when you dance. My friends will love it. All three of us can dance together.” Amy offered encouragement to Miya and Aisha before turning to Mag, and wheedling, “What do you think, Father?”

“I think all three of you look really good when you dance. Your little friends will definitely love to watch you dance.” Mag nodded with a smile at the sight of Amy’s adorable little face.

A Gokuraku Jodo performance in an alternate world? How exciting!

Chapter 387: The City Lord’s Castle Wants to Reserve the Entire Restaurant?

Upon Amy’s insistence, Yabemiya and Sally finally agreed to perform Gokuraku Jodo for her little friends tomorrow. Of course, Mag’s encouragement also played a role in their decision.

As Mag was welcoming customers into the restaurant for the dinner service, Amy rushed over with Ugly Duckling in her arms, and asked, “Father, can I invite Teacher Luna over tomorrow as well?”

“Of course you can. Let’s go together to invite her tomorrow.” Mag patted Amy on her little head. It seemed that she was still quite fond of Luna.

Gjerj overheard the conversation as he walked in, and he smiled at Amy as he asked, “Is this a party for Amy’s little friends? Can my Parmer and Parber also come?”

“Uncle Blue Fatty, do you have any cute little sisters in your family?” Amy looked up at Gjerj with anticipation in her eyes.

“Your Aunt Miranda might have one in her tummy, but it’s only been seven months, so she hasn’t given birth yet. But we do have a super adorable little brother, Angus, whom you’ve never met before.” Gjerj wore a joyful smile on his face at the mention of his children.

“Is it really a little sister?” Amy’s eyes lit up, and she extended her hand toward Gjerj with a serious look as she said, “I’m extending an invitation toward the little sister. She can bring along her big brother for lunch tomorrow. Father is going to make some super tasty new dessert!”

“Alright, I’ll tell them that they’ve been invited thanks to their little sister.” Gjerj nodded with a smile before turning to Mag, and asking, “Is that alright, Mag?”

“This is Amy’s party, so she can invite whomever she likes. We welcome you and your family tomorrow.” Mag nodded with a smile. He was quite fond of Gjerj and his two sons, and in any case, having more people would liven up the atmosphere during the party.

“I’m sure those little guys would love to come, especially when they can dine on your food.” Gjerj nodded with a smile before making his way into the restaurant.

“Little Amy, I really want to attend your lunch party as well. Can you invite me?” Harrison walked in, and looked at Amy with an expectant smile.

“No. Don’t you know how old you are, Uncle Gray Fatty? Tomorrow’s party is for my little friends. Besides, you don’t even want to come to the party; you just want to taste Father’s new dessert, right?” Amy shook her head. She had seen right through Harrison’s sinister plot.

“Sigh, but I feel like I’m only three and a half years old. How depressing.” Harrison heaved a forlorn sigh. He didn’t think that Amy would be able to see through his true intention so easily. As he walked into the restaurant, he thought to himself, Looks like I have to hurry up and find a wife, and then have a kid with her so I can also come to these parties!

...

“The restaurant is closed for the day. If you would like to have a meal, please come back tomorrow.” Mag closed the restaurant at 9pm as usual, but a man in a long coat approached him after closing time.

“Hello, Mr. Mag. My name is Dicus, and I’m from the city lord’s castle. We met at the gates of Chaos School before, though you might have already forgotten.” The man looked at Mag with a smile as he said, “I’m not here for a meal today. I’ve been sent here by the city lord to discuss some things with you, but you were quite busy earlier, so I decided to wait outside for a bit. Would I be able to come in and have a word with you?”

“Sure, come on in.” Mag didn’t have any recollection of Dicus, but seeing as he was here on the city lord’s orders, it wouldn’t be good to decline him. After all, the city lord’s castle had contributed greatly to reinstating the restaurant on the food competition rankings.

“Mr. Mag, business at your restaurant sure is great; not many restaurants in the Aden Square can compare.” Dicus smiled as he walked in.

“You’re far too kind.” Mag nodded with a smile before walking in behind him.

“Boss?” Yabemiya, who had just finished clearing the tables, wore a confused look as she turned to Dicus.

Mag smiled, and explained, “Miya, Aisha, you two can go back early today. Don’t forget to come back tomorrow for lunch. Mr. Dicus here has some things that he needs to discuss with me.”

“Alright, see you tomorrow, Boss, Amy.” Yabemiya nodded, and bade farewell to the two of them before leaving with Sally.

“Father, can we go to bed now?” Amy was feeling a little drowsy as she turned to Mag. She yawned, and Ugly Duckling also followed suit.

“Wait a little while, Amy, I’ll tuck you in soon.” Mag smiled and nodded. He didn’t sit down, and instead turned to Dicus as he asked, “What are the city lord’s instructions?”

Dicus took a glance at Amy, and didn’t sit down, either. He looked at Mag with a smile, and asked, “The city lord doesn’t have any instructions per se. He would like to reserve the entire Mamy Restaurant tomorrow, and was wondering if that could be arranged.”

“My apologies, tomorrow is the restaurant’s off day, so we won’t be serving any customers.” Mag shook his head without even thinking. He wasn’t going to work on his day off.

Right at that moment, the system’s voice sounded. “Ding! New mission: Add 16 outdoor seats to the restaurant within three days! Due to the large number of customers, and the inability of the restaurant to expand due to its low level, outdoor seats must be arranged to satisfy the customers’ needs. Reward for completing this mission: An outdoor dining area! Punishment for mission failure: 10,000 gold coins!”

“Holy f*ck, you shameless system! You’re going to deduct money for mission failure?! How am I supposed to set up an outdoor dining area? Are you trying to screw me over?” Mag was furious. The only food vendors that operated in the Aden Square itself were food carts, which were very portable. He had never seen any restaurant set up an outdoor dining area in the square, so there had to be rules and regulations prohibiting that.

Mag would obviously be happy to increase the number of seats in his restaurants, and an outdoor dining area would be perfect for customers like the lava demons and Elizabeth. They would be free to exhibit any physical reaction to his food as they’d be outside anyway.

“Please don’t be so quick to turn me down, Mr. Mag. Perhaps you can state your price first.” Dicus didn’t think that Mag would refuse just because it was his off day. After all, it was the city lord that was making the request, and all restaurants would be clambering for a chance to host the city lord for a meal.

_Perhaps the city lord's castle will be able to help me resolve this problem. _Mag began to reconsider as he looked at Dicus, and he asked, "When would the city lord like to reserve the restaurant?"

"Tomorrow at noon." Dicus' eyes lit up. As expected, no restaurant owner would turn down the city lord.

"No!" two voices answered in unison.

Chapter 388: Perhaps You Can Postpone It?

"Hmm?"

Dicus had thought that the deal was as good as settled, only for Mag and Amy to both reject him at once. Furthermore, their voices firm and unyielding, without any intention of negotiating with him.

"I'm inviting my friends over for lunch tomorrow. I already promised them, so no." Amy had been already close to falling asleep, but she immediately snapped wide awake, and shook her head at Dicus with a serious expression.

"Mr. Mag, this is a request made by the city lord himself..." Dicus ignored Amy, and attempted to negotiate with Mag.

"I'm sorry, but I've already promised a lunch party for my daughter and her little friends tomorrow. That's not going to change." Mag shook his head with a smile, and cut Dicus off mid-sentence. He placed his hand gently on top of Amy's head, and wasn't interested in negotiating at all.

Dicus stared at Mag as if he had never heard anything so absurd. He was rejecting a request from the city lord just for a kids' party? How could anyone have such twisted priorities?

"You're the best, Father!" Amy rubbed her cheek against Mag's hand, and stuck out her little tongue at Dicus.

_This restaurant owner really is good to his daughter. But if I have a daughter as adorable as her, I'd probably spoil her like this as well. _Dicus wore a resigned smile on his face at the sight of Mag's firm expression.

He hesitated momentarily before adopting a more serious expression, and continuing, "Mr. Mag, I shouldn't be telling you this in advance, but I feel like I should inform you of this so you're aware of the gravity of the situation. The city lord is not reserving the restaurant tomorrow for his personal affairs. Instead, he wants to hold the first conference between the giant dragons and demons at your restaurant. I can't reveal any specific details, but you should understand how beneficial this event would be to the status and reputation of your restaurant. A kids' party can be postponed, but this opportunity is not to be missed."

_They're reserving the restaurant as a conference venue? _Mag raised an eyebrow upon hearing that. A vast expanse of ocean separated the respective territories of the dragons and the demons, but conflicts between the two sides were still a common occurrence. It was quite apparent what the conference was going to be about, but Mag was confused with regard to why the city lord would hold the conference at a restaurant.

Was he trying to use food to maintain world peace? Mag was perplexed.

“Father...” Amy wore a conflicted expression on her little face as she looked up at Mag. She seemed to have understood what Dicus was saying, and grasped how important the situation was.

“My apologies, I’ve made a promise to my daughter, so I must deliver; that is what I require of myself as a father. Hence, the lunch party must be held tomorrow.” Mag patted Amy’s head with a smile before turning to Dicus, and continuing, “If the city lord doesn’t mind, he could perhaps postpone the conference to tomorrow in the evening. However, I have a few conditions. If the city lord can agree to those conditions, then I can offer a one-time reservation service.

“1. The restaurant can be reserved from 5pm at the earliest, but it must close at 9pm sharp. 2. The reservation fee will be 3,000 gold coins, which covers double penalty rates for my staff to work on their day off, as well as the costs of the ingredients used for the meals. 3. The city lord’s castle must ensure the restaurant’s safety. If the restaurant is damaged during the course of the conference, compensation must be given. Lastly, I have one small request: my restaurant has developed a large customer base, but I have no intention of expanding it for now. Hence, I want to set up a few tables and chairs as an outdoor dining area next to the restaurant. Would the city lord’s castle be able to sell or rent the plot of land next to my restaurant for that purpose?”

Dicus’s mouth gaped open wider and wider, and he was looking at Mag as if he were questioning Mag’s sanity.

_This guy is asking the city lord’s castle to postpone the negotiation between the dragons and the demons just because his little girl is having a lunch party!? What an insane man! _

Setting that aside, even if the city lord agreed to postpone the conference, they still had to agree to a few conditions of his before being allowed to reserve the restaurant.

Conferences between species rarely ever went smoothly, and it was very common for a conference to last an entire day. However, he was only giving them a time limit of four hours, after which he was going to kick everyone out and close the restaurant no matter what.

Furthermore, the reservation fee was astronomical: 3,000 gold coins! That was a reasonable price if they were trying to reserve Ducas Restaurant, but how was that price applicable to such a small restaurant?

On top of that, the city lord’s castle also had to provide him with that plot of land in front of his restaurant to facilitate an outdoor dining area.

Dicus didn’t even know how to put his emotions into words anymore; his vocabulary simply failed him.

Who gave this restaurant owner the confidence to state such demands?

“Those are the only conditions I have; please relay them to the city lord, Mr. Dicus. If that’s all for today, then I have to go and tuck my daughter into bed.” Mag wore a respectful smile on his face, but he was clearly asking his guest to leave.

He didn’t think those conditions were inappropriate. If it weren’t for the system’s accursed new mission, he wouldn’t be willing to work on his day off.

Mag had no interest in maintaining world peace and things like that. Compared to Amy’s happiness, nothing else was important.

“Alright, I’ll relay those conditions to the city lord, and let him make a decision. I’ll be taking my leave now.” Dicus nodded, and didn’t say anything else as he turned to leave.

“Father, you’re so good to me.” Amy was extremely touched as she looked up at Mag. Her lips quivered, and tears began to well up in her eyes.

“You’re the most precious thing to me, so of course I’m good to you. No one and nothing is more important than you, so don’t cry anymore. I love seeing my Little Amy’s beautiful smile.” Mag picked Amy from the ground with a smile on his face.

“Mm-hm.” Amy nodded as a smile reappeared on her face. She wound her little arms around his neck before planting a kiss on his cheek. She looked at him with an earnest expression, and said, “Father is also the most precious thing to me, so I’m going to take good care of Father.”

“Let’s get you tucked into bed. We have to inform Teacher Luna and all of your little friends tomorrow morning.” Mag smiled as he tapped Amy gently on the nose. He held her in his arms, and he felt as if he were holding the entire world.

Chapter 389: Splurging Will Make Your Stronger

“He’s asking me to postpone the conference because he’s holding a lunch party for his daughter? What an interesting guy!” Michael couldn’t help but burst into laughter upon hearing Dicus’ report.

Dicus looked at Michael with a serious expression, and said, “City Lord, I suggest we choose another venue to hold the conference. That restaurant has good decor, but it’s a little small, and is situated in the corner of the Aden Square, so the location isn’t ideal, either. Besides, he isn’t showing much sincerity, and is stating very unreasonable demands. For 3,000 gold coins, we can reserve the Ducas Restaurant for a night, and the service and environment there are both significantly better than in this restaurant. Also, I’ve dealt with them in the past, so it’d be easy to work out a deal with them again.”

The conference between the dragons and demons was naturally of vital importance. There was no way that the city lord would agree to postpone it, and he clearly wasn’t going to spend 3,000 gold coins to reserve such a small restaurant, either. And that wasn’t even taking into account the other conditions that had been put forward by Mag.

“No, go and inform both parties that the conference will be postponed to the next evening at Mamy Restaurant.” Michael shook his head with a smile.

Dicus stared at Michael with incredulity on his face, and he wondered if his ears were playing tricks on him. He only came to his senses after a short while, and said urgently, “But, City Lord...”

“Dicus, I’ve actually been to that restaurant before. On that occasion, the restaurant owner was closing the shop, and I revealed my identity to him before asking for a spicy grilled fish. However, he turned me down as he had to tuck his daughter into bed.” Michael cut off Dicus with a smile.

“He... He turned you down?” Dicus was stunned to hear that. How could a restaurant owner in Chaos City turn down the city lord’s request to dine at their establishment? If this were any other restaurant, the owner would most likely welcome the city lord in even if they had to crawl out of bed to cook for him.

However, the owner of this restaurant had turned him down because his daughter had to go to bed, just like how he was asking the city lord to postpone the conference due to his daughter's lunch party. It was simply unimaginable, yet very justifiable at the same time.

"That's right, he rejected me." Michael nodded with a hint of amusement in his eyes as he said, "I looked at his little girl, who was falling asleep at the counter, and I didn't think his excuse was inappropriate at all. That was something that a father should do. That's why I'm not surprised that he rejected me again for his daughter's sake. What he's doing is something that neither you nor I could do, but it's exactly because he's willing to do this that he's a good father."

Dicus fell silent upon hearing that. He was also a father, but he had to admit that if he were to encounter the same situation, he wouldn't be able to make the decision that Mag had made.

Perhaps Mag seemed a little like a madman, but as a father, he really did put both of them to shame.

Dicus was silent for a moment, but he still persisted. "City Lord, I still think this restaurant is not a suitable conference venue. On top of that, 3,000 gold coins for four hours is too expensive. This conference may last several days, so we have to keep expenditure to a minimum."

"No, among all of the restaurants in Chaos City, this one is the most suitable to be the conference venue. The multiculturalism there corresponds with the philosophy of our Chaos City." Michael shook his head, and placed the book in his hand on the table in front of him. He looked at Dicus with a serious expression, and said, "Also, this restaurant earns over 10,000 gold coins a day. They're allowing us to reserve the restaurant on their off day for a night; when you think about it that way, is 3,000 gold coins really excessive? I don't think that's the case.

"On top of that, for this conference, both sides provided 10,000 gold coins to cover the costs. If the conference is a success tomorrow, the remaining money can go to our city lord's castle. That's only the beginning; if the conference is a success, as the mediator, our Chaos City would reap even more benefits. Sometimes, you have to see the bigger picture, and look ahead into the future rather than just think about immediate costs.

"Make another trip to Mamy Restaurant tomorrow morning, and tell them that we agree to postpone the conference and accept his first three conditions. As for the outdoor dining area, go ask the Aden Square management center to see if that's a viable request. As long as it doesn't have any negative impacts, we'll try to satisfy his conditions to the best of our abilities."

"Alright, I'll get started now." Dicus still had many questions in his heart, but he didn't voice any of them as he turned, and walked out the door.

Michael's astonishingly accurate foresight was an imperative factor contributing to Chaos City's lofty status on the Norland Continent.

Of course, there was another factor that convinced Dicus, and that was Mamy Restaurant's daily revenue of over 10,000 gold coins! Only a handful of top restaurants in the Aden Square could accomplish that, so for such a small restaurant to achieve such a brilliant feat suggested that they were definitely extraordinary in their own way.

The conflicts between the dragons and the demons have always been very difficult to settle. If things progress as they usually do, it'll most likely take over a month for them to come to a resolution. During the process, fights will definitely break out a well. Hopefully, that won't happen at Mamy Restaurant tomorrow. Michael shook his head, picking up his book again. However, he only read a few pages before putting it down, and as he got up to leave the room, he murmured to himself, "I should check on Vivian. As a father, Mag really does put me to shame..."

...

Mag told Amy a bedtime story to help her sleep. He then practiced his sword forms for a while before taking a bath, and going to bed. The soreness from sword practice was washed away by the warm water, and he felt very relaxed as if all of the pores in his entire body had opened up.

There were already some noticeable muscles on his arms. They weren't very exaggerated or pronounced, but they still packed explosive force. His abdominal muscles had also become faintly visible, but he was always wearing his loose chef's suit, so it wasn't very apparent.

Following the strict sword training regimen, his body had been enhanced significantly from its initial 2.0 standard. Of course, it was still quite far away from 2.5, and he wasn't very sure himself just how powerful he was.

From his physical condition alone, it appeared that he was slightly superior to a normal person, but there was still a gap of 0.5 between himself and a 1st-tier knight.

However, if he were to use his Thirteen Swordplay Forms, whose initial five forms he had completely mastered, he shouldn't have any issues defeating a 1st-tier knight, and perhaps even a 2nd-tier one.

A month ago, Mag was still a cripple who couldn't even hold onto a chef's knife. As such, he was very happy with his progress. Furthermore, he had 45,000 gold coins again, so he could purchase his next strength in the next few days.

He could become more powerful through splurging money; that was a very satisfying feeling.

"System, I want to learn how to make ice cream now." Mag closed his eyes, and opened the shiny golden experience bag in his mind.

Chapter 390: This Haagen-Dazs Ice Cream Disgusting!

"System, are you messing with me?"

Mag wore a dark expression on his face, and was silent for a long time as he stared at the ice cream recipe in his mind.

"Please do not falsely accuse the system; the system advocates justice and fairness, and never messes with anyone," the system replied.

"Then where is my Haagen-Dazs ice cream recipe?" Mag spread his hands open.

"The Haagen-Dazs recipe consists of vanilla, mocha, blueberry, and chocolate-flavored ice cream," the system replied in a serious voice.

“F*ck!”

Mag rolled his eyes in response. As expected, he had underestimated how shameless the system was. The Haagen-Dazs ice cream was supposed to have many more than just four flavors, and their products consisted of far more than just ice cream. The higher the expectations, the more crushing the disappointment.

“Keep working hard, and you’ll be able to unlock more Haagen-Dazs products, such as different flavors of ice cream, as well as recipes for things like the Haagen-Dazs ice cream cake.” The system provided some words of encouragement.

Mag rolled his eyes again, but he still carefully examined the ice cream recipe in his mind. Thankfully, the recipe for the two ball ice cream cone recipe wasn’t bad, and it had four flavors to choose from. It would surely provide a pleasant surprise for Amy’s little friends.

Mag took a deep breath to calm himself down before asking internally, “System, how much does it cost for the ingredients to make one serving of ice cream?”

“In order to help you make the best ice cream, the system has prepared the best ingredients, all of which are natural ingredients that have been carefully selected from all over the Norland Continent. The vanilla plants are grown on a plateau in the northwestern region of the Wind Forest, and they’re nurtured by the warm and humid air in the Wind Forest. The entire plateau releases a delightful aroma all year round, and only the finest vanilla is selected from those plants to be ground down into fine powder. Consumption of this ice cream has a potent relaxation effect.

“The mocha is made from West Lake Longjing tea leaves grown on the hills in the northern region of the Twilight Forest. The seeds of the West Tea Longjing plants were selectively bred to create plants that yielded ideal tea leaves, and the leaves are covered under shade 20 days prior to picking. The leaves are carefully selected and processed using steam before being ground into powder using a natural stone mill. Each tea tree can only produce 100 grams of mocha.

“The milk is sourced from the cows that are being bred on the Meheer Island of the Staro Sea. The super-long daily sunshine exposure on the island ensures that there are high quality pastures for the cows to graze on. All milk-producing cows listen to four hours of classical music every day, and the quantity as well as quality of milk produced are strictly regulated.

“As for the eggs...

“Hence, the ingredients for each two ball ice cream cone cost a total of 80 copper coins.”

The system seemed to be very proud of the work that it had done.

“Holy f*ck! You’re using West Lake Longjing tea leaves to make mocha ice cream? Do you not have a conscience? If my father were to hear of this, he would belt you to death!” Mag’s eyes widened upon hearing that. The holy lands of many species were being used as plantations and farms by the system. As expected, the ingredients produced by the system had never disappointed him.

He had never heard of ice cream being produced from such extravagant ingredients. Mag had never been poor, but his imagination seemed to be a little restricted. He didn’t dare to imagine what would

happen to him if he were to use the prized jar of Longjing tea leaves in his father's study to make ice cream.

However, Mag's mood improved significantly after hearing the system's introduction. With such high-quality ingredients, there was no way that the ice cream produced wouldn't taste good.

He wasn't some sort of ice cream enthusiast, and he couldn't recall whether he had once reviewed Haagen-Dazs ice cream. However, the system insisted that he had, so he had no choice but to accept that.

He opened the door in his mind, and a white light flashed, immediately following which he arrived in the test field for the God of Cookery.

He looked around, and discovered that there was a new machine in the corner of the kitchen. It was a two-in-one ice cream and ice cream cone machine that was about a meter tall. Its silver metallic exterior gave off a very futuristic feel, and there was one cone slot as well as four different ice cream nozzles. There was also an LED screen for operating the machine, and the instruction manual had already appeared in Mag's mind.

_This fully automatic operation method is a little bland... but I like it. _After digesting the information from the instruction manual in his mind, a smile appeared on his face. He turned the machine on, and experimented with it for a while before opening the fridge to pull out of the required ingredients.

Three days passed in the blink of an eye in the test field for the God of Cookery. Mag pressed the "Start" button with a solemn expression, and an ice cream cone slid out from its designated slot before it was accurately caught by Mag with a conical paper bag. He then pressed the button for vanilla ice cream, and two light yellow balls of ice cream fell onto the cone one after another, stacking on top of each other. The faint aroma of vanilla immediately wafted through the air.

He put down the vanilla ice cream, and repeated that same process with the mocha, blueberry, and chocolate ice cream before placing the ice cream cones onto the rack beside him. The four flavors of ice cream were all vibrant in color, and even though they were being exposed to the open air, they were all melting quite slowly. Mag was brimming with confidence as he asked, "System, how about this time?"

"Ding! Congratulations, you have successfully mastered the production of two ball ice cream cone, and at the same time, you've unlocked the ice cream machine as well as all of the ingredients required to make the ice cream!" The system's voice sounded.

_Not bad. _Mag looked at the wall to find that only three days had passed, and a smug smile appeared on his face.

"By the way, system, aren't you forgetting something?" Mag asked internally.

"You have already mastered the two ball ice cream cone, so you may leave the test field for the God of Cookery. If you'd like to keep using the test field, then please pay the corresponding fee," the system replied.

"Not that." Mag shook his head. He had already mastered all of the sword forms that he could, and training in the test field for the God of Cookery couldn't enhance his physical properties anyway, so he had no intention of renting the place.

“I’m curious about what kind of review I gave to Haagen-Dazs ice cream in my past life.” An intrigued look appeared on Mag’s face.

The system was silent for a moment before asking, “Are you sure you want to know?”

“Just tell me.” Mag rolled his eyes.

The system impersonated Mag’s voice, and said, “This Haagen-Dazs is disgusting! It’s too motherf*cking sweet!”