

Stay At home 851

Chapter 851 What Are Those? Ugly Ducks?

At the city lord's castle, Michael handed the documents that he was holding over to Dicus as he said, "Take this to the principal. The first batch of funds for Miss Luna's foundation has already arrived. The city lord's castle will only be responsible for supervision, but won't interfere with the operation of the foundation in any way. Also, due to the expected influx of elven children into the city in the near future, the city lord's castle will also be contributing some funds to the foundation so Chaos School can hire more teachers and update their facilities in order to enroll more children."

"Alright." Dicus accepted the documents in a serious manner before turning to leave.

"Make some arrangements; I'm going to pay a visit to the headquarters of the Gray Temple," Michael instructed the employee standing outside the door before also making his way outside. As he did so, a smile appeared on his face, and he thought to himself, Seeing as even Alex has made an announcement, it's time for us to do something. If those demons and orcs dare to try and target Chaos City, they're going to pay a heavy price.

Thus, a black horse-drawn carriage departed from the city lord's castle headed toward the western part of the city, where the headquarters of the Gray Temple was situated.

The headquarters of the Gray Temple was an angular gray stone building that appeared to be quite solemn and intimidating, but all of the people passing through the streets near the building were quite relaxed.

Many of them wore expressions of awe and veneration as they cast their eyes toward the building. Not only did the Gray Temple exist to regulate the actions of all of Chaos City's citizens, they also served to protect the citizens from the outside world.

They represented the order of Chaos City, and also the bottom line that couldn't be breached.

A black horse-drawn carriage stopped outside the gates, and Michael disembarked from it.

An elderly elf in a set of long gray robes, who stood in front of the gray building, nodded to acknowledge Michael's arrival.

Michael looked at the elderly elf with a serious expression, and said, "Rolan, the elven race is undergoing drastic changes, and Alex has reappeared; it's about time we did something."

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As Mag was passing by the Blue Suede clothing store, he stopped outside to take a quick glance at it. He discovered that there wasn't even a single item of clothing within the shop, and that there was a sign hanging from the door that read "new products are in production, please stay tuned".

Even so, there were still noblewomen in lavish clothing constantly visiting the shop, asking the employees for an exact time and date of reopening, to which the employees could only apologetically reply that they didn't know.

At the sight of all of the dejected noblewomen walking away from the shop, Mag shook his head with an amused smile. It appeared that Gloria was already employing hunger marketing tactics to increase the level of interest in her shop. Everything appeared to be heading in the right direction, and all they had to do now was increase production capacity in order to keep up with demand.

Aside from high-end female clothing, a large market also lies in mid-range and low-end female attire. However, production costs are still far too high at the moment. Once the steam engine becomes popularized, an industrial revolution will follow, Mag thought to himself as he continued riding his bicycle back to his restaurant.

With the enormous wealth of the Buffett Family and the skilled laborers provided by the city lord's castle, it most likely wouldn't take too long for the steam engine and the steam train to be popularized.

Furthermore, the Norland Continent was starting to enter a period of instability, so the Buffet Family wanted—more than anyone—to have more useful cards that they could play.

The profitability of banks relied heavily on a stable market, so its income was not always reliable during volatile times.

As such, Mag didn't have to be concerned in the slightest that the implementation of the steam engine scheme would be delayed. Both the city lord's castle and the Buffett Family were clearly extremely interested in this project.

...

Beside a lake in the Buffett Manor.

Scheer sat beside Ian, who was holding a fishing rod in his hand, and she said in an excited voice, "Grandpa, after repeated projections, our brains trust has basically confirmed that popularization of the steam engine and the steam train would completely transform the current energy systems, and impact everyone's daily lives in all aspects. Those inventions will push the entire world into a new era, and all industries will be able to achieve a level of staggering efficiency that would've been unimaginable in the past. Cheap coal mines will become extremely important resources, and as the pioneer behind this revolution, not only will our Buffett Family be reaping significant profits in the long run, our status and position in the world will also enjoy a meteoric rise."

Ian turned to Scheer and appraised her carefully for a moment before smiling as he said, "I've rarely ever seen you this excited, Scheer. The last time I saw you this worked up was back when you were preparing to implement the deposit system."

A smile also appeared on Scheer's face as she replied, "Change always fills one with excitement. Ventures into the unknown can always lead to brilliant opportunities. I'm not a fan of taking risks, but I'm filled with interest in the unknown. However, ever since King Andre's birthday banquet, the Norland Continent has become rather unstable. Alex has returned from the dead, then killed six 10th-tier powerful beings, including Benson, with Irina by his side. After that, Chaos City announced that they'd be offering refuge to all wandering elves, and I've just received news from the Wind Forest that the elven queen has gone into seclusion, and Irina has been deposed as princess. Alex then made a public declaration that he'd be fighting for all wandering elves, thereby establishing a stance against the Wind Forest—the same stance that has been adopted by Chaos City."

A slightly grim expression appeared on Scheer's face as she continued, "During the re-signing of the peace treaty in three months, it's most likely the case that all of the races won't be able to reach a consensus, and another war among species could even break out soon."

"Do you think this will affect our Buffett Family in any way?" Ian asked with a smile.

"The demons, orcs, and forest trolls initially had the initiative and wanted to start something, but they've lost over 10 10th-tier powerful beings in the past three years. In contrast, Alex has returned from the dead, thereby significantly bolstering the power of the human race. It's unknown whether they'll forge a new alliance with the elves and the dwarves, but even if no large-scale wars will break out in the short term, if the peace treaty isn't re-signed, wars will inevitably break out on many borders.

"The relationships between all of the races will also rapidly deteriorate, and that could prove to be a lethal blow to our banks. The protection clauses signed between our banks and all of the races could be void, and war will prevent money from circulating between races, thereby spelling doom for our banks. As such, I think the most important thing for us now is to popularize the steam engine and the steam train as quickly as possible so all races can develop an interest in it.

"When that time comes, the steam engine will become our Buffett Family's most important asset, which could perhaps also save our banks. Even in the worst-case scenario, we'll be able to rely on the steam engine to cement ourselves a place in this world," Scheer analyzed with a solemn expression.

"Do you know what is the wisest decision I've made ever since I decided to enter the business world?" Ian asked with a smile.

Scheer thought about this for a moment before replying, "Founding Buffett Banks?"

"No, the wisest decision I've made is making you the successor to the Buffett Family," Ian corrected with a shake of his head.

...

"Father, what are those? Ugly Ducks?"

Not long after Mag returned to the restaurant, Amy also returned from her lessons.

Chapter 852 Waaah, I Also Want to Become a Little Sister

"That's... about right."

Mag looked down at the pair of Red-top Tricolor Ducks huddled together on the floor, and decided that ugly ducks was quite an apt name for them.

"Meow, meow~" Ugly Duckling was also looking on from the side with a curious expression.

"Did you go off to find parents for Ugly Duckling? They're just as ugly as Ugly Duckling!" Amy's eyes lit up as she picked up Ugly Duckling, then placed it beside the two ducks as she nodded, and said, "They really do look identical!"

Really? Both Mag and Krassu, who had accompanied Amy back to the restaurant, raised their eyebrows in unison.

“This is how a family should be.” Amy nodded in a content manner before turning to Mag with an expectant look on her face as she asked, “Father, are we have roast duck today?”

“Meow, meow, meow, meow~”

Ugly Duckling immediately cried out in a panicked manner, and then frantically pointed at the three ducks with one of its paws before pointing back at itself as if it were trying to announce that they were completely different creatures.

Amy pressed Ugly Duckling’s little paw back to its side, and smiled as she said, “I get it, you’re very happy that you’ve found your parents. I’m also very happy for you, so I think we should have a celebration tonight.”

Ugly Duckling’s stared at Amy with wide, horrified eyes as if it were looking at a terrifying demon.

Mag was quite amused by the interaction between Amy and Ugly Duckling, but he was rather taken aback by what he saw when he turned his attention to Krassu. “Master Krassu, what happened to your beard?”

Krassu held his own beard in extremely high regard, and he’d been very depressed for a long time after half of it had been burned away by a fireball unleashed by Amy. After carefully nurturing it ever since then, the beard had grown significantly longer, but for some reason, it was almost completely gone now.

“Well... I heard that long beards aren’t popular nowadays, so I decided to try cutting it short.” Krassu felt as if his heart were bleeding, but he still forced himself to keep up a cheerful facade. What else could he do? Tell everyone that his beard had been burned away by his own disciple?

“Then why were you crying when you cut your beard, Master Half-beard?” Amy asked as she looked up at him with a curious expression.

“Those... Those were tears of joy.” Krassu was clearly feeling rather uncomfortable with this topic, and he suddenly changed the subject as he turned to the pair of ducks on the ground, and said, “Let’s talk about the roast ducks we’re going to have tonight.”

“Yes, yes!” As expected, Amy’s interest was immediately drawn away by the prospect of roast ducks.

After explaining the situation over and over again, Mag was finally able to convince the two not to eat the three ducks.

He hadn’t opened the experience bag yet, nor had he studied the practiced making the dish in the test field for the God of Cookery, so he was naturally still unable to cook traditional Quanjude Peking Duck.

“Meow~”

Ugly Duckling sidled over to the pair of ducks with a pitiable expression on its face, seemingly resigned to the fact that it had now been categorized as a duck.

The two Red-top Tricolor Ducks opened their wings before encircling them around Ugly Duckling, creating a scene that was akin to a touching family reunion.

Mag cooked some dinner for Amy and Krassu, and following Krassu's departure, Amy stood at the entrance of the restaurant, looking up at Mag with an expectant gaze. "Father, can we go and see the little sister at Uncle Blue Fatty's house?"

"Of course we can," Mag replied with a nod and a smile. The restaurant was supposed to be closed for business for the entire day, so he didn't have to open it for the dinner service. On top of that, he had some affinity with those twins, so he also wanted to pay them a visit.

"Wait for me here; I'm going to prepare some things," Mag said before making his way into the kitchen.

15 minutes later, Mag carried a lunchbox and a small gift box as he rode away on his bicycle with Amy in the back.

Harrison had given him Gjerj's address before, and after asking a few passersby for directions along the way, Mag was able to successfully arrive at his destination.

After being notified of Mag and Amy's arrival, Gjerj hurriedly rushed out of the door with a surprised look on his face, and asked, "Boss Mag, Little Amy! Why are you two here?"

"Uncle Blue Fatty, we're here to see my little sister," Amy said with a smile as she cast her gaze into the courtyard in a curious manner, and asked, "Where is she?"

Meanwhile, Mag handed over the boxes he was carrying to Gjerj with a smile, and said, "This is a portion of Yangzhou fried rice for your wife, and this is a present for your kids."

"Oh, you really shouldn't have, Boss Mag. Please come in." Gjerj accepted the boxes with a smile before turning to Amy as he said, "Your little sister is inside; let me take you to her."

Two servants strode out before carefully carrying Mag's bicycle into the courtyard while Mag and Amy followed Gjerj into his house.

Gjerj was living in what was considered to be an affluent area in Chaos City. The city championed the concept of freedom, but that didn't mean that there was no wealth gap in the city.

Gjerj's family had a few shops and businesses that were quite profitable, but they could only be considered an affluent middle-class family that still couldn't compare with the likes of the Buffett Family.

However, the courtyard was constructed in quite an organized manner, with a little garden that had clearly been taken care of very well, thereby reflecting their wealth as well as Miranda's aesthetic standards.

A little boy who appeared to be around three years of age rushed over to Amy, and he spread open his little arms as he mumbled, "Big Sister... Big Sister... I want a hug! I want to be raised up high!"

"Do you think you'll suddenly become more adorable just because you're calling me big sister?" Amy asked in a calm manner.

Parber's footsteps faltered, and he stared at Amy in a confused manner with his little arms still raised aloft.

“No matter what you say, you still haven’t become an adorable little sister. I hope you can realize that.” Amy shook her head before brushing past Parber in a cool and aloof manner.

“B-Big Sister won’t hug me... Waaah....” Parber lips puckered as he burst into tears.

“Haha, don’t cry, Parber, let’s go and see your little brother and little sister,” Gjerj hurriedly consoled as he bent down to scoop Parber up in his arms.

“I’m really sorry about this. Amy...” Mag began in an apologetic manner.

Gjerj shook his head with a smile, and said, “There’s no need to apologize, Boss Mag. I know that Little Amy is a kind little girl; it’s just that she only likes little sisters.”

Thus, Gjerj and Mag continued into the courtyard. Miranda was still breastfeeding her newborn daughter at the moment, so it was naturally inappropriate for Mag to go in. As such, only Amy followed Gjerj into the room.

Not long after that, Amy’s elated voice rang out from within the room. “Wow! What an adorable little sister! Can I hold her?”

“Waaah, Big Sister is hugging Little Sister, but she doesn’t want to hug me... Waaah, I also want to become a little sister...” Parber’s dejected voice also rang out within the room not long thereafter.

Mag shook his head with an amused smile, clearly not envious of Gjerj’s current situation.

“Father, look!”

The door was opened, and Amy made her way out of the room while carefully holding a small baby that was wrapped up in layers of blankets.

Chapter 853 Father Will Teach You Swordsmanship

The little baby girl in the cocoon of blankets had a faint flush on her soft little cheeks, and she was staring up at Amy with curiosity in her large bright eyes. She reached out with a tiny little hand and strained a little to touch Amy’s face, upon which an adorable smile appeared on her infantile face.

“She’s so adorable!” Amy wore a content smile on her face, then looked up at the smiling Mag with an expectant gaze, and suggested, “Father, should we steal her away?”

“Huh?” Mag faltered slightly before glancing at Gjerj, whose expression had suddenly changed drastically. He had finally gotten the daughter that he’d been dreaming of after overcoming many hardships, and just the thought of having her taken away was like a stab to the heart. Mag hurriedly shook his head with a smile as he said, “We can’t do that. This is Uncle Gjerj’s baby, just like you’re my baby. If you steal this little sister away, Uncle Gjerj will be very sad.”

Amy shook her head with a serious expression, and replied, “That’s alright, if Uncle Blue Fatty misses her, I can permit him to come and see her. This little sister can live at our house, and I’m sure she’ll be super happy to taste Father’s cooking every day.”

“Er...” Gjerj was just about to say something, but he was suddenly at a loss for words. Indeed, being able to live at Mamy Restaurant and taste all types of delicious dishes for free was like heaven on earth.

“We can’t do that.” Mag shook his head with a smile as he looked down at the little baby, and said, “She’s still too small, so she needs to be with her mother. She’ll be happy to be able to eat delicious foods, but she’ll be even happier if she can stay with her parents.”

Gjerj also made his way toward them with a smile, and said, “That’s true. If you miss her, you can come and play with her at any time, Little Amy.”

“Alright...” Amy looked down at the smiling little baby in her arms, and nodded as she said, “I’ll let her stay with Uncle Blue Fatty, then.”

At this moment, Miranda made her way over to the door, and extended a grateful bow as she said, “Boss Mag, thank you; thank you for saving me and my two children.”

“There’s no need to thank me. I’m just glad that both you and your children are safe and healthy,” Mag replied with a smile as he shook his head. He had contributed to bringing these two little babies safely into this world, and that was quite a heartwarming experience for him.

Amy held the little girl, who had been given the name Kerris, and played with her until she burst into tears, upon which she was returned to Miranda to be breastfed.

Amy was less than five years old, but due to the fact that she’d been learning melee magic from Krassu and swordsmanship from Mag, her strength was comparable to that of a normal adult even without using any magic, so it was no problem at all for her to hold a newborn.

It was getting rather late, so Mag bid farewell to Gjerj and Miranda before preparing to leave with Amy.

“Wait!” Right at this moment, a rather tender voice suddenly sounded, following which Parmer suddenly made his way toward Amy. A hint of hesitation flashed through his eyes, but he still mustered up his courage in the end and handed a porcelain plate over to her as he said, “This is for you.”

“Huh? Isn’t that Parmer’s favorite plate? He’s always cherished it and hasn’t even used it once ever since you gave it to him,” Miranda exclaimed in a quiet voice.

“It is. He really values that plate. I didn’t think that he’d give it to Little Amy.” Gjerj was also quite surprised to see this.

“It’s a little ugly, but it matches Ugly Duckling’s appearance, so I’ll use it to feed Ugly Duckling,” After carefully appraising the plate for a while, Amy accepted the offering from Parmer before nodding with a smile as she said, “Thanks.”

Mag glanced at Parmer, whose expression had stiffened slightly, and a faint smile appeared on his face. As expected, his daughter wasn’t someone who could be hit on by anyone. Thus, he made his way out of the courtyard with Amy’s little hand in his, and then placed her onto his bicycle.

“Just you wait, Big Sister! I’m going to become a little sister for sure...” Parber said with a determined look on his face as he stood at the entrance.

“Nonsense! You... You...” Gjerj stared at Parber with a resigned expression on his face.

...

“Amy, Father will teach you swordsmanship when we get home,” Mag said with a smile as he rode his bicycle.

“Yes, yes! I love swordsmanship!” Amy nodded with an elated expression.

Most of the melee magic that Krassu taught her was quite direct and violent, relying on powerful spells and unleashing sudden bursts of explosive power at close range to defeat the enemy.

These battle tactics were the complete opposite of the tactics that magic casters normally employed, and during battle, they would often catch the opponent by surprise and ensure quick victory.

These tactics would most likely be very effective against magic casters of the same tier, or perhaps of an even higher tier than Amy, but if she were to face a powerful knight in battle, her melee magic could prove to be a burden instead.

Krassu was undoubtedly one of the most powerful beings in existence. There was virtually no one on the entire Norland Continent that could directly withstand one of his ultimate fireballs, and as such, he was able to power his way through his opponents’ defenses with brute force alone.

However, Amy clearly wasn’t powerful enough to accomplish that yet. If she could combine some battle tactics employed by knights with her melee magic, and simultaneously cultivate as both a magic caster and a knight, she would definitely become a lot more powerful than she was now.

Amy was still quite young, but she was very interested in swordsmanship, and this was why Mag had decided to teach her so she could become an exceptional knight with brilliant swordsmanship.

No one on the Norland Continent had been able to cultivate melee magic, long-range magic, and knightly swordsmanship yet, just as no one in the history of the continent had managed to reach the 11th-tier. As such, Mag was very much looking forward to seeing what kind of powerful being would culminate after combining all three of those cultivation methods.

After returning to the restaurant, Mamy Restaurant took Amy to the top floor, and the two of them began to practice swordsmanship under the starry night sky.

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At the city lord’s castle, a female employee handed a document and a black metal badge to Firis with a smile as she said, “Congratulations, Miss Firis, you’ve passed our background check and officially become the 820,088th resident of Chaos City. Please take good care of your residence card; that document contains your identification information. If you lose it, you can apply for a replacement at the city lord’s castle. At the same time, the city lord’s castle will provide you with temporary lodging and food until you find official employment.”

Firis looked down with a complex expression at the palm-size metal badge, upon which was inscribed her name and her identification, but she still politely expressed her gratitude toward the employee.

“Thank you.”

“You’re welcome. Is there anything else I can help you with?” the employee asked with a smile. During these past few days, she’d seen many elves who had come to Chaos City to seek refuge. Most of them

were very excited after receiving their residence cards, so Firis' reaction was slightly out of the ordinary in comparison.

However, it was said that this elf had been brought to Chaos City by Alex in person, and according to her self-introduction, she was Irina's servant, so her identity was rather special, which was why she received a bit more attention than others.

Firis hesitated momentarily before mustering up her courage as she asked, "Would you be able to give me a job?"

Chapter 854 Do You Want to Become a True Giant Dragon?

"The city lord's castle has recently organized some jobs that you can choose from. However, whether your application will be successful will be decided by the employers who have provided those jobs. There's going to be an employment convention held right in front of the city lord's castle tomorrow; you can go and have a look there, and perhaps you'll find a job that suits you," the employee replied with a smile.

"Thank you." Firis nodded gratefully in response. Leaving the Wind Forest left her feeling quite dejected, but she felt respected by everyone after coming to Chaos City.

Regardless of whether it was the soldiers on the city wall or the employees of the city lord's castle, all of them had treated her with benevolence and respect, which was a rather strange feeling, yet also one that was very pleasant.

In the past, she had heard about Chaos City from Irina, but she had never believed that there was actually a place in this world where everyone was treated as an equal, nor would she have ever thought that she'd one day truly come to such a place and become one of its residents.

After following the employee to her the living quarters that she'd been assigned, Firis looked up at the starry night sky, and thought to herself, Is the princess doing well? She must be lonely on her own... Is he watching me from the shadows? What kind of job do I have to find to prove that I'm fit to look after the young mistress?

A series of questions flashed through her mind, leaving her feeling rather lost. In the past, all she had to worry about was serving the princess, yet now, she was suddenly having to deal with all of these issues that she'd never even had to consider before.

...

Should I tell her?

Outside the ice cream shop, Elizabeth was staring at Yabemiya, who was serving customers with a warm smile on her face.

Fox seems to be growing quite impatient, and he's summoning me back to the dragon islands. If I don't ever get to come back, she may never find out the truth for the rest of her life...

The smile on Yabemiya's face was so clean and pure, and it wasn't forced in the slightest. This was a smile that reflected joy and bliss from the bottom of her heart.

But will knowing all of this really make her happy? Elizabeth was rather hesitant with how to proceed.

She's here again? At this point, Sally had also noticed Elizabeth's presence, and her brows furrowed slightly as she realized that Elizabeth was staring directly at Yabemiya again. Why is she so interested in Miya?

Elizabeth seemed to have also sensed Sally's gaze, and their eyes met for a moment before Elizabeth strode directly into the ice cream shop.

The snow-and-ice-themed ice cream shop was warmer than she'd expected, and even though it was already nighttime, there were still customers enjoying ice creams in the shop with blissful smiles on their faces.

"Welcome... Oh, it's you!" Yabemiya turned to Elizabeth with a hint of surprise on her face.

She had seen this beautiful woman many times at Mamy Restaurant, and Elizabeth had also asked her some strange questions in the past, so Yabemiya had quite a strong impression of her.

Furthermore, perhaps it was due to the fact that this woman was a giant dragon, but Yabemiya always felt a strange sense of affection toward her.

She had always been quite curious about what this strange feeling was stemming from, but she'd been holding back her curiosity this entire time. She was just a half-dragon, while Elizabeth was a noble giant dragon, and the two of them were on completely different levels.

Elizabeth nodded to acknowledge Yabemiya before taking a seat beside the window. Even she didn't know why she had decided to enter the shop.

"What would you like to order? The flavors of ice cream we have available are all listed on the menu," Yabemiya asked with a smile.

"I'll get a vanilla ice cream," Elizabeth replied in a calm voice, but she had blurted out an answer, almost stumbling over her words in the process. Perhaps she really did need an ice cream just to calm herself down.

"Alright, please wait for a moment." Yabemiya nodded with a smile before departing, and then quickly returning with a vanilla ice cream.

"Thank you," Elizabeth said before taking a lick of her ice cream.

It was still the same familiar entrancing flavor, and icy sweetness of the ice cream seemed to be capable of making one forget all of their worries.

The ice cream operated until 10pm. After the final customer departed, Yabemiya turned off the lights before leaving with Sally.

It was already deep into autumn, so the nights were quite cold, and there weren't many people in the Aden Square at this time.

However, there was a slender figure nearby, looking on as the two of them emerged from the shop.

Yabemiya turned to Elizabeth with a slightly puzzled look as she asked, "Are you waiting for me?"

"What do you want?" Sally stepped forward and shielded Yabemiya behind her as she appraised Elizabeth with a cautious look on her face.

This wasn't the first time that Elizabeth had been observing Yabemiya, and it was very strange that a proud 7th-tier giant dragon would be constantly spying on a half-dragon restaurant waitress.

"I have some things I want to speak to her about. I bear no ill will," Elizabeth replied in a calm manner.

Sally's eyes narrowed, and she showed no intention of stepping aside.

However, Yabemiya made her way around Sally with a smile, and said, "It's ok, Aisha, she doesn't want to hurt me. You can go upstairs and go to bed now; I'll be back soon."

Sally glanced at Yabemiya, and then at Elizabeth before nodding as she said, "Alright, but be careful."

Following Sally's departure, Yabemiya turned to Elizabeth with a smile, and asked, "Is there something you'd like to speak to me about?"

"We're similar in age, so you don't have to refer to me in such a respectful manner[1]."

A hint of elation flashed through Yabemiya's eyes upon hearing this, but she was still rather hesitant as she asked, "Can I really do that?"

Elizabeth nodded in response.

Yabemiya's smile widened upon receiving this confirmation.

At the sight of Yabemiya's smile, Elizabeth was feeling a lot more relaxed, but at the same time, she was becoming even more hesitant.

If she were to know the truth, would she still be able to smile like that? If she were to receive the dragon origin, she'd have no choice but to be swept up into a cruel political battle.

"What did you want to speak to me about?" Yabemiya asked in a curious voice. She couldn't shake the feeling that Elizabeth seemed to have something to tell her.

Elizabeth returned to her senses, and calmly asked, "What kind of person do you think your father is like?"

"I've never met him." Yabemiya shook her head, but her eyes quickly lit up as a smile appeared on her face, and she said, "But I heard from Mother that he's a golden-armor-clad hero who can carry the entire world on his shoulders!"

He may be a hero, but he abandoned two sets of wives and daughters... Elizabeth thought to herself at the sight of Yabemiya's smiling face, but she couldn't bear to tell her that in the end.

"Do you want to become a true giant dragon?" Elizabeth continued.

“A giant dragon?” Yabemiya thought about this carefully before shaking her head with a smile as she said, “I once wished for that, but at the time, I thought that being a half-dragon is really abhorrent, and I even hated myself. I no longer think that now. Even as a half-dragon, I can still bring others happiness and be liked by others.”

Chapter 855 The Parents’ Debt Must be Repaid by the Child

On the balcony of the restaurant.

“Father, I’m thirsty. I’m going down to drink some water; wait for me here, I’ll be back soon.” Amy placed her longsword off to the side before rushing downstairs.

Mag smiled as he wiped the sweat from his forehead. Sword training was one of his daily activities, and practicing every night for an hour before bed had been quite beneficial to his swordsmanship.

We’ve been training for close to an hour now; I’m also getting a little thirsty. Mag also placed his longsword down before heading downstairs. He was still a little worried about leaving Amy on her own, even if she had only gone to drink some water.

After arriving at the bottom of the staircase, Mag was just about to walk into the room when he suddenly stopped before carefully casting his gaze toward the entrance of the restaurant.

As opposed to drinking water, Amy was dragging the two ducks by their necks toward the entrance in a sneaky manner that Mag found to be rather amusing. At the same time, he was rather confused as he thought to himself, What’s Amy doing there?

“Meow~”

Ugly Duckling followed along behind her with an urgent and concerned look in its eyes.

“Shh, be quiet, Ugly Duckling!” Amy glared at Ugly Duckling before shooting a glance at the staircase as she whispered, “It’ll be bad if Father catches us!”

“Meow.” Ugly Duckling gave a feeble cry before falling silent.

She doesn’t want me to find out? Mag stuck out his head again and watched as Amy made her way over to the entrance. Where was she planning to take these two ducks behind his back?

Amy placed the two ducks onto the ground, and both of them began to pant heavily, having just regained the ability to breathe as Amy had released their necks. Both of them then immediately tried to get away from her all horrified.

“Stop!” Amy grabbed onto the ducks’ necks again, and then got up onto the tips of her toes to reach for the door handle. After a brief struggle, she was finally able to reach the handle with her fingertips, and the door was opened.

“Phew.” Amy exhaled before looking behind her in a guilty manner, and then glanced at the two failing ducks in her hands. She hurriedly released them to give them a chance to breathe, and then grabbed onto their necks again before carefully dragging them out the door.

From Mag's hiding spot, he could only see a faint profile of Amy and the two ducks. However, they didn't go very far. Amy placed the two ducks down in front of the entrance, and then said something to them before a ball of flames appeared in her hand.

Is she going to roast them on her own? Mag raised an eyebrow before silently making his way over to the entrance and looking outside.

The two ducks were staring at Amy with sheer horror in their eyes, and Ugly Duckling hurriedly positioned itself between Amy and the two ducks in an urgent manner, but there was also a hint of horror in its eyes as it stared at the fireball in Amy's hand.

Amy looked at the two Red-top Tricolor Ducks and slowly leaned down with an expectant look in her eyes as she murmured to herself, "These fat ugly ducks must be super delicious when roasted. They'll be just like the roast geese from that restaurant. I'll roast them until they're golden brown, then pull off a drumstick to eat; it'll be so good!"

"Quack, quack, quack!!!"

The two ducks flapped their wings in a terrifying frenzy, trying to get away from this demonic little girl. However, their legs had been bound, and they'd been tied together, so they couldn't go anywhere. As such, they could only look on as the ball of fire slowly approached them, sending terrifying waves of scorching heat surging through the air.

"Sigh, I wanted to eat the two of you, but Ugly Duckling clearly doesn't want that, so I'll let you go. I can't let Ugly Duckling experience the pain of losing its parents." After heaving a faint sigh, the flames in Amy's hand were compressed to around the size of a chopstick, and she used it to slice through the ropes that had bound the two ducks, reducing the ropes to piles of ashes.

The two ducks collapsed to the ground in fear as they felt a burst of scorching heat flash between their feet, and both of them wore blank expressions, seemingly yet to comprehend had just happened. In fact, they were so frightened that they'd even forgotten to run away.

"If you don't go now, I'm going to change my mind. Father is going to cook both of you into roast ducks tomorrow!" Amy threatened as her eyes began to light up again.

"Quack, quack!!!"

Both the Red-top Tricolor Ducks seemed to have returned to their senses at once, and they flapped their wings as they flew toward the plaza as quickly as they could. One of them was so panicked that it almost crashed into a tree, sending a flurry of dead leaves falling onto the ground in the process before the two ducks vanished, turning into black spots in the distance.

"Meow, meow~!"

Ugly Duckling looked on with excitement in its eyes at the sight of the two departing ducks, then turned toward Amy, and rubbed its little head against her foot.

So she was worried that Ugly Duckling would be sad. Mag shook his head with a smile. It turned out that she was quite kind-hearted, after all.

“Alright, I know you’re really happy,” Amy stroked Ugly Duckling’s head and looked at the blissful expression on its face with a smile before she suddenly asked, “But have you heard of the saying that the parents’ debt must be repaid by the child?”

“Meow~”

Ugly Duckling looked up at Amy with a perplexed look in its eyes.

“It’s alright, you’ll understand in the future.” Amy picked up Ugly Duckling, and then looked up into the sky before entering the restaurant remorsefully as she murmured to herself, “It’s so said seeing these two roast ducks fly away. What am I going to tell Father? He spent an entire day to catch them...”

Having seen all there was to be seen, Mag silently went upstairs again. Amy had clearly released the two ducks behind his back as she’d been worried that he wouldn’t agree to let them go. However, he was rather intrigued to see what kind of excuse she would come up with to inform him of this.

“Please have some water, Father.”

After waiting on the balcony for a while, Mag turned to discover Amy carefully making her way toward him, holding a cup of water in her hands that she was raising above her head to offer to Mag.

“Thank you, Amy.” Mag smiled as he accepted the cup of water before taking a sip. It appeared that she was trying to soften him up before delivering the bad news.

Amy looked up at Mag with an apologetic expression on her face as she said, “I’m sorry, Father, I let the two ugly ducks go because I thought Ugly Duckling would be sad.”

“That’s alright. It’s a good thing that you’re considerate of your friends’ feelings.” Mag shook his head with a smile as he looked at Amy with approval in his eyes.

Not only was she learning to be considerate of the feelings of others, more importantly, she hadn’t tried to tell a lie. It was very important to him that Amy had chosen to be honest in this situation.

A smile appeared on Amy’s face as she nodded, and said, “But it’s alright; even though I let them go, we still have their child, so they’ll have to come back sooner or later.”

Mag gave a slightly resigned smile as he patted Amy’s head, and said, “Let’s practice for a bit longer, then go to bed.”

“Alright.” Amy nodded before picking up her longsword before imitating Mag as practice resumed.

...

The next morning, Mag had just finished making everyone’s breakfasts when Yabemiya greeted him outside the restaurant, and asked, “Boss, what’s this stinky tofu?”

Chapter 856 Is It That Bad?

Amy, Sally, and the others were also all looking at Mag with curiosity in their eyes. The new dish hadn’t been prepared for breakfast this morning, so all of them were wondering just what this new “stinky tofu” dish was.

“Is it tofu pudding that smells bad?” Amy asked.

“Is it when you remove the brains from tofu[1], then make it stinky?” Babla also chimed in with an inquisitive look on her face.

“Is it actually stinky?” Sally asked in a rather concerned manner. As an elf, she had a mild case of mysophobia.

How do I put this... Mag thought to himself as he looked at everyone’s intrigued expressions. Stinky tofu was a very contentious and controversial dish. Those who loved it treated it like a prized treasure, while those who didn’t avoided it like the plague.

Mag had once been one of the people that belonged to the latter group. There were some misunderstandings involved there, but if it weren’t for the fact that he’d been forced to bask in the putrid aroma of stinky tofu in the test field for the God of Cookery for so long, he most likely still wouldn’t have been able to accept its stinky odor.

However, after making a portion of the perfect stinky tofu, Mag had completely changed his mind. Stinky tofu was a very prevalent and renowned dish, and there had to be a reason for this.

Mag contemplated his answer for a moment before replying, “This is a dish with a distinctive and pronounced flavor. It’s very stinky, but if you were to carefully pick apart its aroma, you’d find that it has a rich and unique fragrance. After tasting it, you’ll realize that it’s an irresistibly delicious dish. It may not suit everyone’s tastes, but those who like it will love it. However, it’s not very suitable to be consumed for breakfast, so I didn’t make it for you.”

“I want to eat it! I want to eat it!” Amy raised a little hand high up into the air as she yelled, “I can only smell the rich and unique aroma! I really want to eat stinky tofu!”

A gentle and doting look appeared in Mag’s eyes as he looked at Amy’s expectant expression. He then turned to everyone else, and asked, “Does anyone else want to try it? Before you make your decision, I must warn that the flavor of this dish is quite heavy, and those who are sensitive to foul odors should exercise discretion before deciding whether to try it or not.”

“I’ll pass.” Sally immediately shook her head.

“I’ll pass as well.” Babla also shook her head. She liked things that smelled good, and she couldn’t accept foul-smelling foods.

“C-can I try it?” Yabemiya asked in a cautious and feeble voice as if she were worried that she’d made the wrong decision.

“Alright, so that’s two portions of stinky tofu. I’ll make them separately for the two of you after breakfast.” Mag nodded with a smile. A dish with such an overpowering flavor should be eaten at the end of a meal. Furthermore, there was no guarantee that the two of them would still have the appetite for breakfast if they were to eat stinky tofu first.

After breakfast, Mag entered the kitchen to make stinky tofu.

Amy and Yabemiya were looking at Mag through the entrance of the kitchen with expectant expressions on their faces, while Sally and Babla were standing slightly further away, casting their eyes toward the kitchen with slightly wary expressions.

“System, activate the molecular isolation system. Isolate the area where stinky tofu is made from the rest of the kitchen, and also isolate all of the individual tables in the restaurant,” Mag instructed internally, and then removed the lid of the brine jar after receiving an affirmative response from the system.

An overpowering stinky odor immediately wafted through the air. However, Mag was a true man who had even drunk this brine before, and he’d also spent dozens of days embroiled in this very same odor in the test field for the God of Cookery. As such, he was instantly able to pinpoint the unique fragrance of the brine before inhaling deeply in an intoxicated manner.

Among the pieces of tofu that he’d placed into the jug this morning, he pulled out around a dozen to find that they’d already turned black. He rinsed them under cold water before setting them off to the side to be dried.

After that, he poured a large amount of camellia oil into a pot and heated it up until it took on a red color, and then placed the pieces of tofu into the pot. The tofu was deep-fried for five minutes over low heat, and when the surface of the pieces of tofu had taken on a golden brown hue, he removed them from the oil before placing them on plates.

He then poked a hole into the center of each piece of stinky tofu with a chopstick, and used a small spoon to scoop some chili oil, soy sauce, and sesame seed oil into those indentations. After that, he sprinkled some minced garlic and coriander over the dish before pouring a ladle of secret sauce over each plate of stinky tofu, and the dish was complete.

“Why can’t I smell anything? It doesn’t smell good, and it’s not stinky, either,” Amy said with a curious look on her face as she outside the entrance of the kitchen.

“I can’t smell anything, either.” Yabemiya also wore a perplexed look on her face. Mag had made it sound like this dish was extremely putrid, and she’d also changed her mind about tasting it as a result. However, it appeared to almost be complete now, but she still couldn’t smell anything. That was really strange.

“I set up a magic formation in the kitchen, as well as the entire restaurant, that can isolate aromas. That way, the aromas of the dishes in the restaurant won’t intermingle with one another, and customers will be able to enjoy their dishes without being affected by the aroma in the air,” Mag explained as he loaded two portions of stinky tofu onto two platters, and then placed a dome-shaped metal cover over each plate. He then emerged from the kitchen with a smile, and said, “Take a seat.”

Amy and Yabemiya immediately sat down at the table closest to the entrance to the kitchen, and then stared at the platters in Mag’s hands with expectant looks in their eyes.

Sally and Babla also made their way over to the table. According to what Mag was saying, the aroma of the dishes should be restricted to the scope of the table, so they didn’t have to worry about smelling the dish.

“Even if your first impression of the dish is that it’s unbearably stinky, you have to repress the urge to give up on it. After a while, your impression of it might change,” Mag said as he placed the platters down onto the table, and then removed their lids.

A rich stinky aroma immediately wafted through the air, and Yabemiya almost reflexively jumped up from her seat. Her dragon tail immediately appeared, flinging her chair over in the process.

This abhorrent odor had dealt her a very heavy blow. She had worked in damp and dark kitchens for many years, and during that time, she’d been forced by her employers to take care of countless rotten ingredients and dishes, and even been assigned the duty of unclogging underground sewage pipes. However, none of those horrific odors could compare with what she was smelling right now.

If it weren’t for Mag’s earlier warning, she would’ve already rushed out the door to desperately gulp down some fresh air.

Is it that bad?

Sally and Babla were both given a fright by Yabemiya’s reaction, and at the same time, they were quite glad that they’d chosen not to sample the dish. This reaction was far more violent than when Yabemiya was eating roujiamos, and she’d taken on her half-dragon form uncontrollably in the blink of an eye. Just how putrid did this dish have to be to draw such a reaction from her?

In contrast, Amy was staring at the dish before her with an entranced look on her face as if she couldn’t smell its abhorrent odor at all. Instead, she picked up her chopsticks as if she were about to dig in to an extremely delicious dish.

Everyone then cast their eyes toward the pieces of black tofu, which had been placed on long rectangular plates. Their centers were filled with condiments, and their surface was covered in rich brown sauce, as well as pieces of coriander, thereby creating a rather alluring sight to behold.

Is something that stinky really edible? The same question flashed through Sally’s and Babla’s mind at the same time.

Amy carefully picked up a piece of stinky tofu with her chopsticks, making sure that not even a single shred of coriander fell from it, before taking a bite.

After biting through the crispy exterior, the spicy and supple sauces created a delicious explosion of flavor in her mouth. Amy’s eyes immediately narrowed in a blissful smile, and after swallowing her first mouthful of tofu, she stuck out her little tongue to lick the sauce around her lips, and then ate the remaining portion of that piece of stinky tofu in a single bite.

Chapter 857 Its Stinkiness is Just a Ruse

“Gulp.”

Everyone swallowed in unison at the sight of Amy’s blissful expression. They knew that this stinky tofu was astonishingly putrid, but they still couldn’t help but try to imagine its delicious flavor as they looked at Amy’s joyful reaction.

Amy made everything she ate look extremely delicious, but even Sally and Babla were quite curious about just what this abhorrent stinky tofu could taste like.

Yabemiya was just about to run away when a hint of surprise also suddenly flashed through her eyes. Her agitated dragon tail settled down, and she closed her eyes as she carefully inhaled the aroma wafting through the air. "This is not just a purely stinky aroma; I can smell a special fragrance hidden deep within it. The more I delve into that special aroma, the more pronounced it becomes, and it's very warm and mild, making me want to explore it even further."

After a brief hesitation, Yabemiya sat back down in her seat before appraising the stinky tofu dish before her.

Just like all of the dishes that Mag had made in the past, this stinky tofu was very appetizing in appearance.

The black tofu didn't appear to be hideous in the slightest, and after being stuffed with condiments and drizzled with that rich brown sauce, it appeared to be very alluring instead.

The overwhelmingly putrid aroma had already transformed into a rich and unique fragrance that was extremely captivating.

What will this dish taste like? Yabemiya glanced at the blissful Amy beside her, and then also picked up a piece of stinky tofu with her chopsticks. The black exterior of the tofu had been fried to a slightly yellow tinge, and its center was stuffed full with condiments. The green coriander that had been sprinkled all over the dish provided a perfect finishing touch that gave the dish a refreshing appearance.

"The best way to eat stinky tofu is to eat an entire piece per mouthful," Mag suggested with a smile.

One piece at a time? Yabemiya looked down at the piece of tofu between her chopsticks, only to find that it was just the right size for an adult mouthful, but it most likely wouldn't be very elegant to eat an entire piece in one mouthful.

After some brief hesitation, Yabemiya still placed the entire piece of stinky tofu into her mouth before biting down on it.

The spicy juices encapsulated within the stinky tofu instantly flourished within her mouth, and for a split second, her mind went completely blank.

Her body's first reaction was to spit out the stinky tofu right away. However, she then discovered that there was an unimaginably delicious flavor intermingled with the intense spiciness.

Beyond the crispy exterior was an extremely soft and smooth tofu interior, and the spicy juices instantly made all of her taste buds come alive. The abundance of condiments and also presented her with a diverse variety of textures, and she felt as if a delicious pot of warm soup were bubbling within her mouth.

"Rip!"

Two buttons immediately flew off the front of her maid uniform, revealing a section of her fair and alluring cleavage.

Even so, she still couldn't bear to spit out the stinky tofu in her mouth. She raised her head upward as she panted with her mouth open, and her cheeks were bulging, but she no longer had any spare capacity to worry about her appearance.

The stinky tofu was extremely hot, but far too delicious for her to bear spitting it out!

The scorching temperature in her mouth quickly receded along with the spicy flavor, but another unique and delicious flavor instantly flourished to take its place.

This was an extraordinary dish that had the crispiness and fragrance of deep-fried tofu, and its interior was only slightly firmer than tofu pudding, but it was so delicious and refreshing.

On top of that, the condiments and secondary ingredients gave the dish a soul, and made it absolutely irresistible.

After swallowing her first mouthful of stinky tofu, Yabemiya's eyes remained closed for a long while.

All of the stinkiness had vanished, and a rich intoxicating fragrance lingered in her mouth as well as in the surrounding area.

This fragrance filled every single nook and cranny in the air around her, and she felt as if she'd been completely enchanted.

Only after a long while did Yabemiya open her mouth, and as soon as she did so, she exclaimed, "This is too delicious! Words fail to describe this delicious flavor. This is something that you'll never forget after eating it once. In particular, when the flavor first flourished inside my mouth, that was an incredible feeling!"

A smile appeared on Mag's face upon seeing this. The aroma of stinky tofu had been unforgettable to him, even though he'd never eaten it in his past life, so of course it was even more unforgettable for those who'd actually tasted it. It appeared that the dish that he'd made certainly lived up to stinky tofu's lofty reputation.

His gaze then lingered for a moment on Yabemiya's chest. It appeared that it was time to make a slightly larger uniform for her; this type of fanservice was way too much for him!

Is it really that good? Sally and Babla were both quite intrigued, even though it was very difficult for them to imagine that such a foul-smelling dish could be so delicious.

However, Yabemiya didn't continue in her description. Instead, she picked up another piece of stinky tofu with her chopsticks before placing it in her mouth like a devout believer. She immediately fell into the hot and spicy trap again, having to pant to alleviate the heat, and then swallow the mouthful of tofu at the most perfect moment.

This was a very special experience, and it would be a completely different culinary experience if one were to taste the dish after it had cooled.

Inside the restaurant, Amy and Yabemiya sat across one another with blissful expressions on their faces while enjoying their stinky tofu. Meanwhile, Mag, Sally, and Babla looked on in silence from outside the molecular isolation barrier.

"Do you want to try it?" Mag asked the two of them with a smile.

"No." Sally still shook her head in a firm manner.

However, Babla's expression had become rather hesitant. She'd already lost count of the number of times that she'd had to surreptitiously gulp down her own drool, and she knew that she might not be able to handle the abhorrent aroma of the dish, but she still couldn't help but be tempted at the sight of Amy and Yabemiya's blissful expressions. It was as if there were a demon sitting on her shoulder, constantly trying to goad her into trying the dish for herself.

She was a princess who had to have fresh fragrant flowers placed in her living room every day, and she'd always avoided foul-smelling objects, but in that instant, she was really tempted to sample this dish.

"Big Sister Babla, even though my stinky tofu is super delicious, I can let you taste a piece." Amy picked up a piece of tofu with her chopsticks before turning to Babla with a smile on her face.

A drop of rich sauce dripped down onto her plate from the piece of tofu, and at that moment, the black and putrid piece of tofu was so alluring in Babla's eyes that it was as if a golden halo had appeared around it.

"Gulp."

Babla swallowed another mouthful of drool, and she'd even taken a small step forward before she'd realized it. However, she stopped just before she was about to step into the isolated space, and she crossed her arms with a determined look on her face as she said, "I definitely won't eat any stinky foods."

"This is a truly delicious dish! Its stinkiness is just a ruse." Amy shook her head as she moved her chopsticks closer to Babla's mouth, and then smiled as she said, "It really is super delicious."

A rich aroma immediately wafted toward her, and it was so strong that for a split second, she couldn't even tell whether it smelled good or not. However, one thing was for sure: this was definitely an aroma that she wanted to run away from.

However, just as Babla was about to refuse again, her mouth suddenly opened and accepted the piece of stinky tofu, almost against her will.

Chapter 858 Is it That Serious?

"It's so good!"

A tsunami of deliciousness was crashing into Babla's soul, making her entire being tremor with bliss. The incredible sensation culminated in those three simple words that served as the most truthful representation of her feelings at that very moment.

After swallowing the mouthful of stinky tofu, a rich aroma continued to linger in her mouth, and Babla licked the sauce from around the lips as she exhaled with elation.

Everyone was looking at her with amused expressions on their faces. In the face of truly delicious food, none of her vows or declarations could repress her innermost desires.

Sally had already retreated to two tables further away, but she also wore an amused smile on her face.

Babla immediately blushed from the widespread scrutiny that she was receiving, and she wanted to burrow into the ground to hide her shame.

But this stinky tofu dish was simply far too delicious!

Within just that small piece of tofu was such a rich and diverse profile of flavors. The hot juices within her mouth and on the tip of her tongue completely intoxicated her, and she couldn't help but turn her attention to Amy and Yabemiya's plates, each of which only had one piece of stinky tofu left.

"This one's for me." Amy picked up the final piece of stinky tofu on her plate with her chopsticks, and then placed it in her mouth with a blissful smile on her face.

Babla turned her gaze away from Amy's plate in a reluctant manner before turning to Mag.

Mag glanced at the clock on the wall before smiling as he shook his head, and said, "If you want some more, then you'll have to wait until after the breakfast service; I have to take Amy to her morning lessons now."

Babla cast her gaze down toward the two empty plates with a dejected sigh.

After that, Amy and Yabemiya picked their plates and licked the juices clean. Even then, they still looked like there were left wanting more.

"Take a short break, then prepare to welcome the customers," Mag said with a smile before dabbing at Amy's mouth with a napkin, and then pushing the bicycle out the door.

The system's molecular isolation system had indeed proven to be very effective. It was able to isolate the aromas within a certain space, and it also had an air cleansing effect that made sure all of the aromas had been cleared out for the next customer.

"This aroma isolation system is so extraordinary! The smell of the stinky tofu hasn't spread to the rest of the restaurant at all, and even within this area, the aroma has completely disappeared!" Yabemiya said with a hint of amazement in her eyes as she cleared the table.

Babla also tried walking into the area, and then inhaling deeply, only to find that she felt as if she were standing in a forest that was filled with fresh air, and the aroma of the stinky tofu had completely vanished.

What kind of spell formation is this, and why have I never heard of it before? Could it be that the magic has been developed to such an incredible extent on this continent already? Babla thought to herself with furrowed brows and a hint of bewilderment in her heart.

During this time, she had read many books detailing the history of the Norland Continent, thereby developing a certain level of understanding of this world.

In the books of the moon nation, very rarely did the term "Norland Continent" appear, and she had only seen the term once on a coverless ancient tome in her father's study. The tome had been sealed by magic, and she could only flip open the first page, which only contained a short excerpt that gave an extremely brief description of the Norland Continent.

At the time, she had only been intrigued that there was a continent outside of the moon nation, and never would she have thought that she'd end up there one day.

What kind of connection is there between the Norland Continent and the moon nation? What is that ancient tome sealed in father's study about? Why is it that there's an ancient teleportation formation in the royal palace of the moon nation that leads to the Norland Continent?

A series of questions weighed heavily on her heart, and she pored over countless books to try and find the answer.

Even though she couldn't find an exact answer, she was able to ascertain one thing: the history of the moon nation and the Norland Continent overlapped for a period of time in the distant past.

It wasn't a coincidence; the events that had taken place in those two parallel stretches of history were completely identical.

The historical records of the two lands during that time were almost exactly the same, so there had to be some kind of special connection there. What she wanted to do was to figure out what this connection was before she returned to the moon nation.

Even though there wasn't much of a difference in the military strength of the two worlds, the usage of magic in the moon nation was clearly more advanced. Magic casters of the moon nation were able to use magic to create some things that could increase efficiency in daily tasks as opposed to using them solely in battle.

However, this firm belief in her heart had been completely flipped on its head by this molecular isolation system.

This was an extraordinary spell formation that could isolate aromas and cleanse the air in small areas. As a 7th-tier spatial magic caster, she could repair an ancient teleportation formation on her own, and her talent in the area of spell formations had received glowing praise from her royal instructor.

However, even she was completely unable to comprehend how a spell formation like this could've possibly been set up.

...

When Mag returned after dropping off Amy, a long line had already gathered in front of the restaurant.

The regular customers all greeted Mag, and Mag also smiled as he responded in kind. He was able to remember the names or nicknames of all of the customers who had introduced themselves to him in the past, so his greetings always made one feel very comfortable and appreciated.

"Boss Mag, I heard you're releasing a new dish; what is this stinky tofu? Is it actually stinky? Does it have something to do with tofu pudding?" Harrison asked.

All of the other customers also instantly fell silent as they turned toward Mag for an answer. This was a question that they all wanted to ask.

"Stinky tofu isn't stinky tofu pudding, but it does have quite a strong flavor. I'd advise those who can't stand foul odors or are mysophobic to exercise caution before ordering the dish. At the same time, due

to the special nature of stinky tofu, I'd like everyone to decide whether you'd like to order the dish before entering the restaurant so my staff can do their best to seat all customers wishing to try the dish at the same tables. In doing so, we'll be sparing the other customers from the strong aroma of the dish," Mag said with a smile as his gaze lingered momentarily on Elizabeth, who was the third in line. He hadn't thought that she would come to line up in front of his restaurant early in the morning.

"Is it that serious?"

All of the customers were rather surprised to hear this. Everyone was very excited that Mamy Restaurant was releasing a new dish, and they'd all come to line up very early. If it weren't for the limited catering capacity of the restaurant, the line outside could easily be twice as long as it currently was.

However, everyone knew how Mag liked to do things, and the fact that he was issuing this warning and even organizing designated tables for customers wishing to order stinky tofu was making people rather uneasy. Some of the customers who had been determined to taste the dish were growing rather hesitant.

If it actually stinks, won't that make the restaurant stink as well? Elizabeth's brows furrowed slightly.

"As for what it tastes like, you'll know when you taste it." Mag opened the restaurant doors with a smile, and said, "Welcome."

Chapter 859 Woah!!!

The customers at the front of the line made their way into the restaurant with mixed emotions, but they didn't immediately take their seats, as they were still rather hesitant about how to proceed.

"Those who wish to order stinky tofu can take a seat at one of the tables on the far left of the restaurant over there; the rest of you can sit wherever you like. Aside from today, stinky tofu will only be served during dinner service, and only 100 portions will be served each day, so it's going to be a first come, first served arrangement," Mag said with a smile.

The customers who had decided not to try the stinky tofu quickly took their seats, while the rest were still rather hesitant. Mag had given them quite a serious warning, but at the same time, his new dishes had never flopped before. If it really were both stinky and disgusting to eat, there was no way that he'd serve it in his restaurant.

"Hello, Miss Elizabeth," Yabemiya greeted Elizabeth with a hint of surprise and elation on her face. Seeing as she was about to take a seat on the right side, she couldn't help but urge in a quiet voice, "Stinky tofu is super delicious; I strongly recommend it."

Elizabeth was rather taken aback upon hearing this, but after seeing the sincerity in Yabemiya's eyes, she chose to sit on the far left side of the restaurant after some brief hesitation.

"There's someone actually willing to try the dish?"

Elizabeth's actions immediately attracted a lot of attention. Not only was she the first customer to have taken a seat on the far left, she was also an icy beauty.

Mag also cast a surprised glance at Elizabeth. Could she really handle such a foul odor? On top of that, she seemed to have changed her mind after Yabemiya had said something to her; were they that familiar with each other already?

Seeing as someone had led the way, many of the indecisive customers also made up their minds and sat on the far left.

Harrison sat down across from Elizabeth before giving her a polite and reserved smile. He was just a normal human being, but as a merchant, he had a sharp discerning eye, and he knew that despite this woman's alluring beauty, she was not someone that he could mess with. She was the type of woman that would kill someone for doing anything that was even slightly over the line to her.

If it weren't for the fact that there were no seats left on the far left side of the restaurant, he really wouldn't want to sit here.

Sitting beside Elizabeth was Xixi, while Lulu sat across her.

"Hello," Xixi greeted Elizabeth and Harrison with a smile as soon as she sat down. She then took a deep breath, and said, "Thank heavens we managed to get the last two seats. I can't believe there are people who are actually hesitating about trying out Boss Mag's new dish."

"Hello to you too," Harrison replied with a smile. As a regular customer of the restaurant, he was quite familiar with this couple, and their arrival at this table instantly made him feel a lot more relaxed.

"Hello," Elizabeth also replied with a slight nod. Her gaze then lingered on Xixi and Lulu for a moment before she looked away. These two weren't humans, but they weren't elves, either, and she was struggling to identify them.

As a proud giant dragon, Elizabeth had never shared a table with humans before, but ever since she'd begun coming to Mamy Restaurant, she found herself regularly having to share tables with humans, elves, and even demons.

This restaurant seemed to have a mystical atmosphere that made all customers completely absorbed in the food they were eating, thereby forgetting all of their racial disparities and preconceived biases. In their eyes, only their food existed, and they didn't care with whom they were sharing a table.

"I'll get a sweet tofu pudding, a Yangzhou fried rice, and..." Elizabeth looked up at Yabemiya, and said, "A stinky tofu."

All of the customers began to make their orders while Mag entered the kitchen and began cooking.

"Boss, should we go and taste Boss Mag's new dish?" Kiel asked in an excited manner as he stood outside the restaurant.

"Isn't it stinky? I hate stuff that stinks, so I'll pass," Mond replied with a shake of his head.

"Let's look at the price first. The third group of our brethren is already on their way, and we have to prepare enough holy roujiamos for them. If we were to buy this new dish, it could mean that we wouldn't have enough money to buy holy roujiamos," Sargeris said with a cautious shake of his head.

At this moment, a customer beside them opened the menu, and said, “Stinky tofu is 300 copper coins per portion, just like roujiamo.”

“We’re buying holy roujiamos instead!” Sargerass immediately decided upon hearing that.

“I concur!” Kiel raised a hand with a serious look on his face.

Everyone else in the Burning Legion also nodded in agreement.

Most of the customers behind them in the line also decided against ordering this new dish. 300 copper coins wasn’t much, but if this stinky tofu really was abhorrently putrid and ruined their mood for the entire day, it would simply not be worth it.

Elizabeth’s Yangzhou fried rice and tofu pudding were brought to her first, but the stinky tofu was held back. Only after she’d finished both dishes did Yabemiya carefully carry a platter with a metal lid toward her.

All of the customers immediately turned their attention to the platter, craning their necks to see just what this stinky tofu looked like and whether it was actually as foul as Mag had made it sound.

However, the metal lid covered everything, making impossible for them to see the dish.

“Here’s your stinky tofu,” Yabemiya said with a smile as she set the platter down before Elizabeth, and then grabbed onto the handle of the lid.

Harrison drew back reflexively upon seeing this; he was feeling rather uneasy. He’d just had all this delicious food, and his happiness meter had spiked. If his mood were to be ruined by this dish, then that would be quite a travesty.

In contrast, Xixi drew closer to Elizabeth with a glowing expectant look in her eyes as she stared at the platter. She was a devout foodie who was determined to taste all the delicious cuisine across the entire continent even while running for her life. As long as the food tasted good, she didn’t care what it smelled like.

“I didn’t think there would really be people who want to eat stinky food in this world.”

“Indeed. I have great confidence in Boss Mag, but I just can’t imagine myself liking a stinky dish.”

“I’m a bit worried about whether the foul odor will spread to us and ruin our appetite after that lid is lifted.”

All of the customers were discussing quietly among themselves, and some of the customers who were still eating were growing rather concerned.

Elizabeth’s expression remained quite calm, and she seemed to be unconcerned, but there was an unmistakable hint of apprehension in her eyes. She looked up at Yabemiya, and thought to herself, She says it’s good, so it must be quite delicious, and it’s probably not going to smell all that bad.

Yabemiya gripped onto the handle of the lid, and then lifted it with a smile on her face.

An abhorrent odor immediately wafted through the air in all directions.

“Woah!!!”

Harrison sprang out of this chair and jumped back two meters, almost crashing into the table behind him as a result.

The bashful smile on Lulu’s face vanished, and he reared back reflexively, causing his chair to creak and groan as if it were about to fall apart.

Even the expectant Xixi immediately pinched her nose as her anticipation turned to shock and disgust.

“What?!”

Elizabeth’s calm facade completely shattered, and a wall of ice instantly rose up before her to cut her off from the table.

Chapter 860 Completely Defenseless

Everyone in the restaurant was waiting to see the new dish, but the reactions of the customers sitting at that table came as quite a surprise.

What kind of putrid odor could make a fatso spring back two meters out of his chair and force a giant dragon to conjure up a wall of ice?

Even the customers on the neighboring tables were reflexively leaning away, trying to get further away from that table in case they were also afflicted by the abhorrent odor.

Mamy Restaurant’s new dishes always drew resoundingly positive reactions, but on this occasion, everyone looked as if they wanted to flee for their lives.

Is it that bad? Mag thought to himself as he looked at the slightly chaotic restaurant. He’d already gotten Amy and Yabemiya to try the dish this morning, but it appeared that he’d still underestimated the impact the aroma of the dish was going to have.

He was even beginning to regret not opening the curtains during breakfast. Otherwise, he could get Amy to eat the dish behind the floor-to-ceiling window, and there would’ve been no need for him to advertise the dish; Amy’s reaction alone would’ve had customers scrambling to order stinky tofu like moths to a flame.

“I’m willing to bet that no one can eat this stinky tofu! This smells way too horrible! It’s like...” Harrison stared at the stinky tofu on the table with a hint of fear in his eyes, and he was at a loss for an apt analogy. In the end, he announced, “There’s no way anyone can eat this! If anyone does, I’ll run a lap around the Aden Square in the nude!”

Thus, everyone was even more convinced that this dish was truly as abhorrent as Mag had warned it would be. After all, this was a testimonial from a direct witness, so it had a very high level of credibility.

Those who had decided against ordering stinky tofu all smiled as they commended themselves for their wise decision, while the customers on the far left were wondering whether they should refrain from ordering the dish or cancel the orders for stinky tofu they’d already made.

At this moment, a customer exclaimed, "Wait, why can't we smell anything? Come to think of it, it seems like the aromas of the dishes on this table can't be smelled as soon as we leave this area!"

All of the other customers also began looking around upon hearing this. Many of them had already sensed that the restaurant seemed to be different today somehow, but they couldn't put a finger on just what was different about it. Now that the stinky tofu had been brought out, everyone discovered that its odor had been limited to just that table alone, while no one else in the restaurant was able to smell anything.

It was as if the aromas had been cut off by invisible walls that were undetectable even to powerful magic casters. This discovery filled everyone with a sense of amazement.

Of course, they were much more relieved than they were amazed. If the aromas had been isolated, then no one would have to worry about their appetite being ruined. Boss Mag really was a thoughtful restaurant owner who was always looking out for his customers.

"What if she doesn't eat the dish? Does that mean Boss Mag's new dish will be a flop?" a customer asked in a quiet voice.

Everyone's attention was drawn back to the stinky tofu before Elizabeth again. The black stinky tofu had been embellished with a pinch of green coriander and placed on a decorated long dish in an orderly manner. The rich brown sauce that had been drizzled over the dish also served to make it appear even more alluring.

If it weren't for the putrid aroma emanating from the dish, it would be quite enticing to everyone.

However, after smelling the aroma in person, Harrison was willing to make a bet with such high stakes, proclaiming he would streak around the Aden Square if someone were to eat the dish. As such, most of the customers had already decided that they wouldn't be ordering this dish.

Boss Mag was a genius who had created one incredible dish after another. His unique cooking methods and brilliant ingredient combinations culminated in delicious, revolutionary dishes, but even geniuses could make mistakes, so this was quite understandable.

"I'm already beginning to look forward to the next new dish," a customer said with a smile before scooping a spoonful of fried rice into his mouth.

Many customers were still looking at Elizabeth, wanting to see just how she was going to react.

Ever since Mamy Restaurant had been opened, no one had ever been dissatisfied with the taste of the dishes that had been served. However, having conjured up that wall of ice, it didn't appear Elizabeth was going to eat the stinky tofu no matter what.

But it's really good! It's super delicious... Yabemiya thought to herself in an urgent manner. The stinky tofu was so good, yet it was being completely misunderstood.

She had found it to be unbearable as well prior to tasting it, but after sampling the dish, she'd fallen hopelessly in love with its flavor. However, these customers were going to turn their backs on this dish based on the smell alone; all of Mag's effort in inventing this new dish was going to go to waste!

Elizabeth furrowed her brows as she sat behind her wall of ice. For an instant, she'd almost reverted back to her dragon form—such was the shock inflicted on her by the abhorrent aroma of this dish. She had never smelled something so terrible in her life, and she'd been caught completely off guard.

Frost Dragons were the most mysophobic among all dragons. The Frost Island was covered in ice all year round, so there were no visible impurities nor any strange and putrid odors on the island. All of the food they ate also bore no strange aromas whatsoever.

As such, this stinky tofu dish had completely exceeded her tolerance range. If it weren't for the fact that Yabemiya were standing right beside her, she would've stormed out of the restaurant already.

"This stinky tofu—" Elizabeth began in a slightly dark voice.

"It's not actually stinky; it's just an extremely rich fragrant aroma, and it only stinks because the aroma is overly rich. If you carefully delve into the aroma, you'll find that it contains no impurities whatsoever, and that it's extremely alluring," Yabemiya cut her off in an urgent manner as she looked at Elizabeth with sincerity and a hint of hope in her eyes.

There were many regular customers in the restaurant, but in that moment, Yabemiya chose to place her trust in Elizabeth, the cold and aloof Frost Dragon who would always come to the restaurant alone and ask her some strange questions from time to time.

Elizabeth was already preparing to reject this dish, but at the at the sight of Yabemiya's earnest and beseeching gaze, she hesitated momentarily before appraising the stinky tofu before her again.

Behind the wall of ice, the aroma had been hampered significantly, and it wasn't as overwhelming as it had been when the lid on the dish had first been lifted. Setting aside her first impression of the dish, she discovered that there really were traces of a more fragrant aroma that lay beyond the foul odor.

As she began to focus on that unique fragrance, it slowly became richer and richer, and as opposed to being unpleasant, it became rather alluring instead. Elizabeth's furrowed brows gradually smoothed out.

"Ding!"

The wall of ice was shattered and vanished. Thus, the aroma that had been restricted wafted toward her again in full force.

However, she didn't conjure up another wall of ice this time. Instead, she closed her eyes to truly experience the aroma.

In doing so, she discovered that it was indeed fragrant to the extreme rather than putrid.

The entire restaurant had already fallen silent as all of the customers stared at Elizabeth with bewilderment in their eyes. They clearly didn't expect her to withdraw the wall of ice and directly face that unbearable odor.

"What is she doing?" Harrison murmured to himself in a perplexed manner.

Elizabeth opened her eyes, and then plucked a piece of stinky tofu into her mouth with her chopsticks.

