



"I'm dead tired,...but grilled shrimps are great."

"Erwin-sama, we've also grilled shellfish. Sprinkling them with the soy sauce we received from sensei...tad-ah!"

"This is also quite delicious."

We've managed to secure the planned amount of seafood within a few hours, and thus we've decided to grill them over a net and eat them as lunch.

Erw, who has been diving all the time since morning, seems to be completely exhausted, but once he received grilled shrimps and shellfish from Betty, he heartily dug in. He should also be delighted over being waited upon by a cute girl.

"Sensei, is around this much okay?"

"It's not good to catch too much."

There are limits as to how much the prep school's students can cook and sell in a day, and if we catch too much, the seafood around here will be completely gone.

"Sensei, what are we going to do if they're sold out?"

As might be expected of someone having a big bro who runs a restaurant, Betty pays attention to such things, too.

Given that her brother has been like this in the beginning, she thinks that it'd be better to be able to provide food for as many customers as possible.

"It's an event lasting one day, and it won't be professional restaurants either, so it's better to make sure to not have left over too much instead. Having slightly too little might also turn into a great recipe for people to get excited over the next years."

It's because the guests will come again to get to eat at the school festival's stalls next year for sure.

"Besides, the guests, who will still be hungry, will go to the nearby restaurants on their way back home. Since it's not our main occupation, it's a bad idea to steal all of the pie from the neighboring restaurants. After all it's also an event for the sake of mingling with each other."

"I see! As expected of you, sensei!"

"For you to have thought about it so deeply!"

"Amazing!"

Maaan, it's just old man's wisdom, including some parts from my previous life, but it sure feels nice to be praised by my pupils.

"Seriously, how skillful of you to come up with such fake reasons for the sake of satisfying your own greedy desires."

"Humph!"

"Uguh...I hit bull's eye, eh!?"

Erw, who received my elbow strike, continues to further counterattack while revealing a pained expression.

What a persistent guy.

"Umm, Earl Baumeister-sama, how did you fare today?"

At that point, an elderly fisherman, who lives in the nearby port city, shows up to check on our situation.

He's the one who provided the information about this place, but it looks like he's been curious about the outcome of the seafood gathering.

"It was a big help thanks to you."

"I'm glad to hear that."

We continue to chat while also offering some of the grilled seafood to the fisherman.

"Which reminds me, it seems you didn't manage to catch any of the 『Devil's Familiar』."

"Devil's Familiar?"

"Yes. The places where you can catch them are limited, but they're as big as a person, possess eight legs, and their body's surface is slimy. Since its outward appearance is abominable and eerie, the locals call it familiar of the devil."

Hmm, it must be that creature, no?

They are normal in the northern regions, and the people of Mizuho love them too.

"It actually has a light consistency if you boil and eat it. This will taste quite good."

There's no mistake.

Going by his story, it's slightly bigger than the ones in the north, but I guess they live here as well, huh?

An edible octopus.

"I suppose it's unusual seafood. We will catch it and go back home."

"You've decided way fast there!"

Erw raises his voice in surprise due to my prompt decision.

Or rather, Erw, even though we've been hanging out together for such a long time, you believed that I'd make any compromises when it comes to food?

"But, sensei, I've searched most of this area, but didn't find such creatures."

"I haven't seen anything like that either."

"Me neither."

Agnes' group tells me that they haven't spotted any octopuses.
Come to think of it, I haven't seen any myself.

"The Devil's Familiars live inside holes in rock walls, anyway, places where it's easy to hide.
Searching while focusing on places where a Devil's Familiar might be is the trick behind catching them."

I see. You search by concentrating on spots where an octopus would want to hide.
I guess you could call it searching by understanding an octopus' feelings.

"Well then, let's at once..."

"Sensei, I will do it!"

Agnes volunteers, resulting in her going to dive first.

"I think around this area?"

"Understood, sir."

Following the elderly fisherman's advice, Agnes dives into the sea.

And then, after several minutes have passed, "Is that girl going to be alright?"

"Yeah, she's fine."

I mean, Agnes has secured her some air to breathe by covering her head with a spell that uses an application of 『Magic Barrier』.

"To be able to dive for such a long time, magic sure is handy to have."

The fisherman admires Agnes, saying that there's only few even among the diving masters, who can stay underwater for such a long period of time.

"She's coming up."

As we've been chatting, Agnes seems to have caught something.
Once she surfaces, Agnes splendidly lands on the sandy beach after further using 『Flight』...as I thought that, something was wrong with her.

"Senseiii——! I can't get it ooo——ff! Somehow it's slimyyy——!"

Oh, I got it.

I grasp the situation in an instant.

A huge octopus that's bigger than Agnes is coiled around her body.

The octopus' legs are crawling across her one-piece swimsuit. With the octopus' mucous being slippery, it's turned into a considerably terrible situation.

"Ooohh! This is great!"

"Is that the right time to say that!?"

"Ouch!"

I drive my elbow into Erw who blurts out incomprehensible stuff.

It's really bitter that I can't drop my fist on his head due to our difference in height.

"I recall my younger days...with grandma..."

By the way, the fisherman geezer was the same type as Erw.

Or rather, just what the hell did you do with your wife in your younger days!?

"It's not a situation to think about such unnecessary stuff! Agnes, calm down and let sensei handle it!"



"Okay."

Given that I can't get close if Agnes keeps struggling, I first tell her to calm down. Because she's become docile right away, I stab a long auger, which I took out of my magic bag without a moment's delay, between the eyes of the big octopus. A scheme of using a long auger is necessary since it's a big octopus.

"Agnes, you okay?"

"Sensei, you saved me."

I feel like she's exaggerating way too much, but since a big octopus looks like that, it might be very disgusting for a girl.

"Somehow I'm slimy all over."

"It will be fine if you wash it away with ocean water."

"Sensei, you're a calm, adult man, aren't you? Thank you very much."

Agnes thanks me and starts to wash herself in the ocean.

"By the way, this thing is quite eerie."

He might have seen a big octopus for the first time. Erw looks as if saying, 『Is this really edible?』.

"It's very tasty, but because of its appearance, it's unpopular. Since the church' priest in the port city preaches, 『It's the Devil's Familiar!』, this term has become its nickname."

As obvious if you look at Agnes, it's difficult to catch them, and they won't sell either. Because of that it's an ingredient that's only being enjoyed by the fishermen or locals, the old fisherman explains.

"It's something you will understand as soon as you try tasting it."

We decided to cook this big octopus at once.

"You just have to remove its intestines and its mouth part, and properly rub the slimy patches with salt."

"Wend, you're strangely well-informed about this."

"That's because it's easy to imagine."

Of course I actually knew about it, though.

"We prepare it in the same way, too."

"Sensei, I've boiled water in a big pot."

"Thanks, Betty."

Once the big octopus' slime comes off, I put it into the pot with the boiling water, legs first. It'll take some time since it's a big octopus, but the preliminary preparations will be done once it's completely boiled.

"Let's sample it."

I cut off the tip of its legs with a knife, and eat it after dipping it in soy sauce. My first octopus in a long time was delicious. It might have been even better if I had wasabi.

"It's got a deliciousness that doesn't match its appearance."

"It was worth all the trouble."

"The moderate consistency is nice. Since its taste is light, it might be usable for many various dishes."

"Sensei, I want to eat more of it."

We enjoyed the boiled octopus body to our hearts' content.

"Then, next I will go as well!"

There's still a lot of the octopus left, but the amount is definitely lacking to use it for a stall at the school festival.

Accordingly Cindy declares that she will catch a big octopus as well, and starts getting ready.

"Cindy, Agnes has gone through such an experience, so I don't think it's necessary for you to be unreasonable."

"No! This is also an ordeal to improve my magic! Given that Agnes has accomplished it, I will also do my best!"

"But..."

"I'm off!"

Cindy throws my objections to the wind, and dives into the sea. And once again, several minutes later...

"Senseiii——! Why is it clinging all over my bodyyy——!?! Is it because it's a devil's familiaa——r!?"

A predictable tragedy has struck again.

Cindy, who had a big octopus cling to her whole body, forcibly uses 『Flight』 and lands on the beach.

It's a spectacle that makes me kinda feel like some kind of instinct is triggered at the bottom of my heart.

"Oohh! It appears like something inside me is changing..."

"Don't!"

I delivered an elbow strike against Erw who blurted out something weird, following the same pattern as with Agnes.

"In my youth, with the neighboring widow..."

Come on, geezer, I'm telling you that no one cares about stories of your youth. I bring down the octopus once again by stabbing the long auger between its eyes.

"Sensei, thank you."

"I'm next. Leaving aside big bro, I might be able to teach Rosa-san about a good ingredient. I'm off!"

"It's not like you have to catch it yourself, though..."

As Betty seems to feel left out as she's the only one who hasn't taken on the ordeal from me, she ignores my objections, and jumps into the sea. And then, as expected...

"Why is it twining itself around a place like thaa——t!? You damned devil's familiar! Don't touch that place!"

Unfortunately, what has happened twice, happens thrice. Betty also lands on the beach while having her whole body covered by octopus legs.

"Don't put your legs into my swimsuiit!"

"Go for it, Devil's Familiar!"

"That's not what you'd cheer on here!"

How many times does it make today? After delivering an elbow blow against Erw, I kill the octopus with the long auger.

"I see, if I get young women to catch devil's familiars from now on..."

This fisherman is planning something outrageous there! Agnes and the other two were fine since they could escape the ocean with 『Flight』, but for people, who can't use magic, that's a dangerous way of fishing.

"Really? Won't it be fine as long as they stab the octopus between the eyes with a long auger?"

"That's true, but..."

Afterwards, the catching of big octopuses proceeded well, and we succeeded in catching a lot more than expected during the ingredient gathering of that day.

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