The Chef

by

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INT: CHEF'S KITCHEN - DAY

Here is a large white room with various ovens, dishwashers, pots and pans, etc. on the outskirts. In the middle is a long table with ten meals on it. Behind each of them, stands a different CHEF in a white apron. The SENIOR CHEF (50), fat and also in a white apron stands at the end of the table, in front of CHEF 1. His meal is a curry.

> SENIOR CHEF (to CHEF 1, cheerfully) Hello, young man. You've prepared a curry, I see?

CHEF NO. 1 stands up straight, with respect.

CHEF NO.1

Yes, chef.

SENIOR CHEF

It has a very interesting look to it. It reminds me of the time I was constipated and I kept pooing out all these different pebble-like things. I like the leaves on top of your dish. The coincidence is that my poo was part green too. I must have had an infection.

CHEF NO. 1 scratches his head.

CHEF NO.1

Errr...

The SENIOR CHEF rubs his hands.

SENIOR CHEF Mind if I have a taste?

CHEF NO.1 That's... fine...

The SC removes a spoon from his trouser pocket and then tucks in.

SENIOR CHEF Mmm. Delicious. It has a very appealing texture. It melts in the mouth. You will go far. It wouldn't surprise me if you won this competition...

CHEF NO. 1 nods with a blank face. The SC pockets his spoon and steps to an equally blank CHEF NO. 2. He has made a rice dish. SENIOR CHEF Ahhh, rice. I like the yellowy-white colours. They remind me of the time I saw a pus-filled cyst drained on Youtube. It was very interesting. Can I try some?

CHEF NO. 2 stares and doesn't move.

CHEF NO.2 (monotonously) Go ahead...

The SC gets out his spoon again and takes a bite.

SENIOR CHEF Very well done... Very well done. Now that I think of it, the grains remind me of maggots. Superb.

CHEF NO. 2 coughs up a bit of sick. The SC walks to CHEF NO. 3 and his meal of fish, chips and tomato sauce.

SENIOR CHEF I like the yellow chips and the red tomato sauce. It reminds me of the bloody snot that flowed out my nose when I had the flu. It was such a relief to get it out of my system... However the strange smell it had worried me. It actually kind of smelt like your fish. Mind if I have a chip?

CHEF NO. 3 shakes his head. The SC eats a chip.

SENIOR CHEF Nice and crunchy. Like dried up hemorrhoids.

The SC walks to CHEF NO. 4 and his pork and apple sauce dish.

SENIOR CHEF Ahhh, meats intermingling with fruit. Classic.

CHEF NO. 4 twitches nervously.

CHEF NO.4

Uh-huh?...

SENIOR CHEF When I was on a dead body farm, with scientists making notes on how long it took for bodies to decompose in different weathers... CHEF NO.4

Oh God...

SENIOR CHEF ... and when I saw the maggots crawling over the corpse's faces...

All the CHEF'S eyes start to water.

CHEF NO.4 Please stop...

SENIOR CHEF ... there was a very strange smell. A fruity smell...

CHEF NO. 4 stamps his foot.

CHEF NO.4 I'm begging you!

The SC carries on, cheerfully.

SENIOR CHEF It didn't put off the birds pecking out the eyeballs, but...

CHEF NO.4 I'm quitting this competition!

All nine other CHEFS shout 'Me too!!' in unison.

SENIOR CHEF What?? All I was doing was telling a story! Anyway, when the worms were feasting on...

The nine CHEFS shout 'STOP NOW!!!!'

SENIOR CHEF ... and when the pus was coming out of the...

The CHEFS grab their meals and throw them onto the floor.

CHEF NO.4 We don't care about your sick stories! All you're doing is making everyone feel ill!!

The SC rolles his eyes.

SENIOR CHEF Come on! You're the ones who made your foods look the way they do!

CHEF NO.1

We didn't! Only someone completely demented would say they look like blood, snot and guts or whatever!

SENIOR CHEF

I'm just telling it like it is! Do you want me to lie and say it doesn't resemble septic nails falling from black and bleeding fingers??

The CHEFS storm out of the room, one by one.

SENIOR CHEF

I liked your food, by the way!

Soon the CHEFS are gone.

SENIOR CHEF

Dammit.