

E8 - A Challenge

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SIGN Ginza Shopping Center

SIGN Ginza M's Building

[00:02] Ryu

What? You want... *me* for that?

[00:06] Miwa

Yes. My grandfather absolutely insists.

[00:10] Taizo

Mm-hmm. I'd like you to.

[00:12] Ryu

I don't think it's my place to comment on who you hire at the hotel.

[00:17] Taizo

Well, I'm not asking you to act like you work in the HR department.

[00:23] Taizo

You've heard of the Cocktail Award, right?

[00:27] Ryu

Yes. Some bartenders I know are competing.

[00:31] Ryu

I've been hearing a lot about it.

[00:34] Taizo

The Cocktail Award is a competition for original cocktails.

[00:39] Taizo

It isn't just about demonstrating your abilities to the judges.

[00:43] Taizo

It's also a test of your imagination in creating a new cocktail.

[00:48] Taizo

The hotel's lounge bar is a kind of stage where one performs for a large audience.

[00:52] Taizo

I'm not looking for mere skill.

[00:55] Taizo

I want a bartender
who's willing to try new things.

[01:00] Miwa

Well, yes, that's about it.

[01:03] Miwa

So we'd like to ask you to observe the
Cocktail Award finals and share your opinions.

[01:10] Taizo

You don't need to put
too much thought into it.

[01:12] Taizo

All we ask is that you tell us
which contestants you found interesting.

[01:18] Miwa

So, would that be all right with you?

[01:22] Ryu

You always ask the impossible
as if it's nothing.

[01:25] Ryu

I'm sure this is difficult
for the contestants too, though.

SIGN Glass of God

[03:02] Kyoko

Have a good evening.

SIGN Minami

[03:04] Minami

Good work today.

[03:05] Minami

Are you going to stay and practice again?

[03:07] Kyoko

Yes. I'll be sure to clean up afterward.

[03:11] Minami

Don't wear yourself out, okay?

[03:14] Kyoko

All right.

[03:18] Kyoko

*That's easy to say, but I've got to practice
a lot more to compete for the award.*

[03:26] Kyoko

*I've got to make a cocktail
in front of all of those judges,*

[03:30] Kyoko

*so I'd better be confident
about what I'm doing.*

[03:34] Kyoko

Ouch.

[03:36] Kyoko

*If they see how clumsy I am, it'll tarnish
the reputation of Bar Minami.*

[03:43] Kyoko

Anyway, it's all about practice!

[03:48] Uehara

So, how's it going? Decide on a recipe yet?

[03:51] Yuri

Not yet.

[03:53] Uehara

Oh? Are those past winners?

[03:55] Yuri

I thought they might give me a hint.

[03:58] Uehara

The award is a competition
for original cocktails.

[04:01] Uehara

That "original" part is
the real tricky part, huh?

[04:04] Yuri

Yes. Every year, many
new recipes are submitted.

[04:09] Yuri

I have to make something different
from all of them. A real original.

[04:12] Uehara

I guess, historically speaking,
the most famous one was Snow Country.

[04:17] Yuri

It seems so.

SIGN m 0 0 | 17 0 13 5 0 5

SIGN m 0 0 | 100 0 100 70 0 70

SIGN RECIPE

SIGN Snow Country

SIGN Yukiguni

SIGN Japanese Craft Vodka HAKU (White)

SIGN Hermes White Curaçao

SIGN Suntory Cocktail Lime

SIGN 1. Shake, then pour into a cocktail glass that
has been rimmed snow-style with sugar.

SIGN 2. Decorate with a mint cherry.

[04:19] Yuri

1959, huh.

[04:22] Yuri

How old were you then?

[04:24] Uehara

Oh, I wasn't born yet. That was even
before Okinawa was returned to Japan.

[04:29] Yuri

Is that right? What a surprise.

[04:31] Uehara

What's a surprise?

SIGN 1. Shake and pour into cocktail glass.

SIGN 2. Garnish with candy, heavenly bamboo leaf, glass noodle, dragée, black olive.

SIGN Umemiyabi

SIGN m 0 0 | 17 0 13 5 0 5

SIGN m 0 0 | 100 0 100 75 0 75

SIGN RECIPE

SIGN Suntory Plum Liqueur 20ml

(Blended with Sakura Barrel-Aged Plum Liqueur from Yamazaki Distillery)

SIGN Lejay Crème de Cassis 15ml

SIGN Calvados Boulard Grand Solage 10ml

SIGN Fresh Orange Juice 10ml

SIGN Sandeman Ruby Porto 5ml

[04:33] Uehara

What's that one?

[04:34] Yuri

The cocktail that won last year.

The Umemiyabi.

[04:37] Yuri

"The plum wine-based Japanese craft cocktail that enchanted the world," huh.

[04:43] Uehara

People sure think up some interesting drinks.

[04:46] Yuri

The recipe is hard enough, but the part I'm struggling with most is the name.

[04:52] Yuri

It has to be memorable, easy to order at a bar,

[04:56] Yuri

and have some kind of story behind it.

[04:58] Uehara

You always have an eye for details like that.

[05:01] Uehara

Don't you think eye'm right?

[05:03] Yuri

If I could just figure out the name, everything else would fall into place.

[05:07] Uehara

Well, don't overthink it, or else

you're gonna make your chiburu yamu.

[05:12] Yuri

Nobody says "head hurts"
in the Okinawan dialect anymore.

[05:17] Uehara

Nankuru nai! It'll all work out!

[05:19] Yuri

Okinawan dialect, huh...

SIGN Ryukyu Aged

SIGN Shimakiku

SIGN Ryukyu Awamori

30 Percent

SIGN Oukyu

SIGN Ryukyu

Awamori

SIGN Umikaze

SIGN Imaizumi

SIGN Ogura

SIGN Sharpen

Up

SIGN Minami

[06:00] Kyoko

Have a good evening.

[06:06] Minami

Good work today.

[06:07] Kyoko

Oh, Minami-san!

[06:09] Kyoko

I'm sorry. I start to worry
when I'm not practicing.

[06:14] Minami

Two things that are crucial for a
bartender are to see and to be seen.

[06:20] Minami

Your customers are also watching you,
just like the judges will.

[06:25] Minami

You mustn't make your guests
feel uncomfortable.

[06:28] Kyoko

Right.

[06:29] Minami

Why don't you actually take a look
at yourself? To see how you look?

[06:35] Kyoko

Huh?

[06:38] Kyoko

Good idea.

[06:39] Kyoko

If I watch a video of myself, I may spot some mistakes and things I need to change.

[06:47] Kyoko

I shouldn't get so nervous recording myself.

[06:53] Ryu

So you already went to the semi-finals?

[06:55] Kyoko

Yes. Last weekend.

[06:58] Miwa

How did it go?

[06:59] Kyoko

I think it went well.

[07:02] Kyoko

Now I just have to wait for the judges' decision.

[07:05] Kyoko

While I continue practicing, of course.

[07:08] Kyoko

I've been shaking that big shaker so much that I built some muscle!

[07:12] Miwa

That must have been really tough.

[07:15] Kyoko

Oh, that's right.

He was one of the contestants!

[07:19] Ryu

Huh?

[07:20] Kyoko

Chen-kun! Chen-kun. I was so surprised.

[07:25] Ryu

Chen-kun was there?

[07:26] Kyoko

Yes. I heard that he quit Bar K, but I wonder if he's been training at another bar.

[07:32] Miwa

How did he seem then?

[07:35] Kyoko

Well, he was unfriendly, as usual,

[07:39] Kyoko

but what really frustrated me was that...

[07:45] Kyoko

he was still so hot.

[07:49] Miwa

Sasakura-san, have you heard anything?

[07:53] Ryu

No. I haven't heard anything
since the meeting with his father.

[07:58] Ryu

But I guess he didn't give up
on being a bartender.

[08:14] Miwa

I'm so glad that everybody
made it into the finals!

[08:19] Ryu

So am I. They've spent every waking moment
practicing for their big performance.

[08:26] Miwa

I hope everything goes well.

[08:38] Uehara

Haisai, gang!

[08:42] Uehara

I brought something for you all to eat.

[08:45] Uehara

Sata andagi.

[08:48] Uehara

Try to keep your composure.

[08:50] Uehara

Don't get so flustered you
can't speak a *ward*. Yeah.

[08:54] Uehara

Just go grab that *award*.

[08:57] Contestant

What was that? Some kind of dad joke?

[09:01] Uehara

Yuri-chan.

[09:03] Uehara

Chibariyo!

[09:06] Yuri

I will!

[09:14] (Flashback) Chen

I want to live my life as a bartender!

[09:22] Chen

If Dad doesn't want to allow it,

[09:29] Chen

*then I'll have to force him
to accept the fact*

[09:33] Chen

that I'm a bartender!

SIGN Glass of God

[09:49] Announcer

*Ladies and gentlemen,
thank you for joining us today.*

[09:53] Announcer

*It's time for the Suntory
Cocktail Award finals to begin.*

[09:59] Announcer

*But first, we would like to ask
the representative from the judges,*

[10:03] Announcer

Kuzuhara Ryuichi, to say a few words.

[10:07] Kuzuhara

In 1931, The Cocktail Award was established
as the first cocktail competition in Japan.

[10:15] Kuzuhara

It was held to facilitate the spread
of Western cocktail culture in Japan.

[10:19] Kuzuhara

What we ask of you bartenders
is your unfaltering discipline

[10:24] Kuzuhara

and creative innovation.

[10:27] Kuzuhara

We hope that each of you can fully
demonstrate the fruits of your labor today

[10:31] Kuzuhara

and wish you the best of luck.

[10:35] Announcer

*Well then, on to entry
number one: Kinjo Yuri.*

[11:11] Announcer

And now, please present your cocktail.

[11:15] Yuri

This cocktail is called the Chimugukuru.

SIGN Chimugukuru

SIGN m 0 0 | 80 0 80 60 0 60

SIGN Japanese Craft Vodka 30ml

SIGN Lejay Pear 10ml

SIGN Hermes Blue Curaçao 10ml

SIGN Suntory Sudachi Watsunagi 5ml

SIGN Fresh Lime Juice 5ml

[11:19] Yuri

When I left my home in Okinawa and was
struggling to fit into a new environment,

[11:24] Yuri

my bartending senpai, who was also
from Okinawa, came to my rescue.

[11:29] Yuri

The name is an Okinawan word
that means "heart" or "empathy."

[11:34] Yuri

The drink expresses the warmth
of friendship with a vodka that,

[11:38] Yuri

like Okinawan Awamori,
is made from rice. Haku.

[11:41] Yuri

It is also made to be
reminiscent of the blue sea.

[11:46] Announcer

Thank you very much.

[11:53] Announcer

Next up is entry number two: Kawakami Kyoko.

[11:59] Kyoko

The glasses are chilled.

[12:01] Kyoko

*The positioning of the shaker,
measuring cup, and bottles is okay.*

[12:06] Kyoko

Now I just have to do what I practiced.

[12:22] Kyoko

Why... can't I move?

[12:26] Kyoko

I practiced so much for this.

[12:30] Kyoko

I'm gonna run out of time.

[12:33] Kyoko

If I fail now, it'll look bad for Bar Minami!

[12:40] Kyoko

Minami-san... came to root for me?

[12:48] Kyoko

*He's the one who sent me to the
competition to represent his bar.*

[12:54] Kyoko

He believes in me!

[13:18] Kyoko

My cocktail is called the Headwind.

SIGN m 0 0 | 80 0 80 60 0 60

SIGN Headwind

SIGN (Mukaikaze)

SIGN Suntory World Whiskey Ao 30ml

SIGN Kimia 10ml

SIGN Drambuie 10ml

SIGN Suntory Ginger Watsunagi 5ml

SIGN Fresh Lemon Juice 5ml

[13:21] Kyoko

Since deciding to become a bartender,

I've faced a lot of challenges and setbacks.

[13:27] Kyoko

I decided to face that wind of pain
and confusion head on and inhale all of it!

[13:33] Kyoko

That's why I made this drink.

[13:35] Kyoko

The flavor has a big kick to it.

[13:38] Kyoko

But don't give up. Face it head on!

[13:53] Announcer

Next up is entry number 12: Kelvin Chen.

SIGN Kelvin Chen

[14:05] Miwa

His movements really are graceful.

[14:08] Ryu

Yeah. But...

[14:16] Chen

*I thoroughly researched cocktail contests
around the world, not only those in Japan,*

[14:20] Chen

*and studied what points
they were evaluated on.*

[14:23] Chen

*Movements have to be big, but smooth.
Use your whole hand, down to the fingertips.*

[14:29] Chen

*That said, I never expected
Kuzuhara-sensei to be one of the judges,*

[14:33] Chen

*but he isn't the type of person to let
personal feelings cloud his judgment.*

[14:36] Chen

There's no need to hesitate.

[14:39] Chen

I'll serve an equal amount with each pour.

[14:44] Chen

*I sent my dad the address for the online
video stream. This is my response to him.*

[14:50] Chen

Now they'll all have to accept me.

[14:52] Chen

The judges... as well as my dad!

[15:08] Chen

I've failed?

[15:10] Chen

I can't expect a decent result now.

[15:15] Chen

Is this the end of my life as a bartender?

[15:27] Miwa

Huh?

[15:30] Miwa

Why?

[15:33] Chen

I named this Lion City.

SIGN m 0 0 | 80 0 80 65 0 65

SIGN Lion City

SIGN Japanese Craft Gin 20ml

SIGN Lejay Framboise 20ml

SIGN Suntory Yuzu Watsunagi 10ml

SIGN Suntory Grenadine Syrup 10ml

SIGN Fresh Pineapple Juice 20ml

SIGN Fresh Lemon Juice 10ml

[15:36] Chen

I wanted to make a cocktail that would represent my home, Singapore.

[15:43] Kuzuhara

May I ask a question?

[15:44] Kuzuhara

Why did you only finish one cocktail?

[15:48] Kuzuhara

Even if you couldn't make the required five cocktails, you at least could have made four.

[15:56] Chen

I decided to participate in the award because I wanted to be praised and accepted.

[16:05] Chen

But I realized that, for a very long time,

[16:07] Chen

all I've cared about is being accepted by others.

[16:12] Chen

But that wasn't because I wanted to improve myself.

[16:15] Chen

I think I was simply afraid of not being accepted.

[16:20] Chen

However, after I made that mistake, I still strongly felt that I didn't want to give up.

[16:28] Chen

Even if I am disqualified for this, I wanted to complete the cocktail that I created.

[16:33] Chen

I put all of those feelings
into this one glass.

[16:38] Kuzuhara

Well then, why did you use a recipe
different from the one you submitted?

[16:43] Kuzuhara

That recipe shows only one chrysanthemum,

SIGN Kelvin Chen

SIGN Lion City

SIGN m 0 0 | 80 0 80 65 0 65

SIGN Japanese Craft Gin 20ml

SIGN Lejay Framboise 20ml

SIGN Suntory Yuzu Watsunagi 10ml

SIGN Suntory Grenadine Syrup 10ml

SIGN Fresh Pineapple Juice 20ml

SIGN Fresh Lemon Juice 10ml

[16:47] Kuzuhara

but your final drink is garnished with two.

[16:52] Chen

I made this cocktail to represent Singapore.

[16:56] Chen

However, I then realized that wasn't enough.

[17:01] Chen

I don't have one home country.

[17:04] Chen

I also have roots in the country
with a flag of red and white. Japan.

[17:09] Chen

In addition to my pride in my fatherland,

[17:12] Chen

I want to show my respect to the country
that taught me how to live as a bartender.

[17:15] Chen

To the culture of Japan.

[17:17] Chen

And this is the cocktail I wanted
to make. This is my cocktail.

[17:23] Kuzuhara

I have no further questions.

[17:27] Miwa

Chen-san!

[17:34] Announcer

Well then, it is time to present the winner.

SIGN Keypad

SIGN Speaker

SIGN Others

[17:44] Chen

Hello?

SIGN Chimugukuru

SIGN Kinjo Yuri

SIGN Congratulations!

Winner

[18:00] Uehara

Yuri-chan, one more Chimugukuru.

[18:03] Yuri

Coming up.

[18:08] Miwa

I wonder what happened
to Chen-san after that.

[18:12] Ryu

I hear he's continuing to train
as a bartender in Singapore

[18:16] Ryu

at the bar in his father's hotel.

[18:18] Miwa

Really? I'm glad.

[18:22] Ryu

Have you decided on a bartender
to work in your lounge yet?

[18:26] Miwa

Yes. Following your recommendation,
we made an offer to Kyoko-san.

[18:31] Miwa

My grandfather was happily saying, "I bet
she'll put a new wind in this bar's sails."

[18:38] Ryu

I'm glad to hear it.

SIGN Minami

[18:43] Minami

Kawakami-kun.

[18:45] Kyoko

Yes?

[18:46] Minami

I'm going out for a bit.
Keep an eye on things.

[18:49] Kyoko

All right.

[18:54] Kyoko

It's been four years
since I first came to this bar.

[19:01] (Flashback) Kyoko

Oh, shove it! I'm not drunk at all!

[19:05] Kyoko

I drowned my sorrows a little too much

and was an awful customer.

[19:11] (Flashback) Minami

Do you know what kind of job
bartending really is?

[19:16] (Flashback) Minami

It's to make sure that
when a guest goes home,

[19:21] (Flashback) Minami

they're just a little happier than
when they walked through the door.

[19:26] (Flashback) Minami

That's what this work is for.

[19:30] (Flashback) Minami

As such, perhaps it's best to
make that your last drink.

[19:37] Kyoko

And now I'm standing here behind the bar.

[19:44] Kyoko

Welcome.

[19:45] Kyoko

Uh. Minami-san?

[19:48] Minami

I came alone. Is that all right?

[19:52] Minami

I'd like a Horse's Neck.

[19:56] Kyoko

Uh, sure. As you wish.

[20:03] Kyoko

Could this possibly mean...?

[20:08] Kyoko

Here you are. A Horse's Neck.

[20:23] Kyoko

Um...

[20:24] Kyoko

I, Kawakami Kyoko, would like
to move on from Bar Minami.

[20:29] Kyoko

Is that all right?

[20:31] Minami

A bartender never moves on.

[20:35] Minami

From day to day, from second to second,
a person is always changing.

[20:39] Minami

The cocktails you mix for guests
should also always be changing.

[20:44] Minami

Bartending is a job with
a beginning but no end.

[20:50] Minami

Thank you very much. I wish you
the best of luck at your new position.

[20:56] Kyoko

Sir!

[20:58] Kyoko

Was I able to make you just a little happier
than when you walked through the door?

[21:08] Minami

Yes.

[21:14] Kyoko

Thank you very much.

[22:49] Taizo

So, how did things go
with that fellow from Singapore?

[22:53] Kuzuhara

He was extremely immature. Very green.

[22:57] Taizo

That sounds like he has promise.

[23:00] Taizo

The Western cocktail was
originally an imported culture,

[23:03] Taizo

but Japanese bars made
their own new developments,

[23:06] Taizo

and now young people come
from overseas to study that.

[23:09] Taizo

How the times have changed.

[23:13] Kuzuhara

Speaking of green, do you still have
your sights set on that one bartender?

[23:19] Taizo

There's nobody else worth
opening up the counter bar for.

[23:26] Kuzuhara

Do you think he'll eventually
make his way there?

[23:27] Taizo

With the Glass of God?

[23:30] Taizo

We're certainly making progress toward that.

[23:34] Taizo

But he is moving very slowly.

SIGN We apologize for the inconvenience caused by construction. We are conscious of the local environment and are taking pains to work as safely as possible, so we hope you can please forgive this temporary intrusion.

SIGN Planned Work Days This Week

SIGN Monday

SIGN Tuesday

SIGN Wednesday

SIGN Thursday

SIGN Friday

SIGN A Message to the Neighborhood

SIGN Episode 9

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