

17 - The Umami Tightrope

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SIGN The Third Plate

SIGN Seventeen

[00:03] Hayama

You will lose a third time, too—

[00:05] Hayama

An even worse defeat than before.

[00:11] S

Hey, Hayama.

[00:12] S

You look kind of glum for someone who managed to win a seat in the Elite Ten.

[00:17] S

You even got in bed with Central

[00:20] S

to get what you wanted in the Elite Ten.

[00:22] S

You should at least look like you're having fun.

[00:24] Hayama

I didn't join Central to have fun.

[00:27] Hayama

I joined Central...

[00:30] Hayama

...for Jun.

[00:33] S

What do you mean by that—

[00:34] Hayama

That's none of your business.

[00:36] Hayama

Stop bothering me.

[00:39] Hayama

This match is only a checkpoint for me.

SIGN Food Wars

SIGN The Third Plate

SIGN Totsuki Train Arc

SIGN Baths

SIGN Men

SIGN The Umami Tightrope

[02:15] Kuga

Hey, Yukihira-chin!

[02:17] Kuga

Why'd you come back with
your tail between your legs?

[02:19] Kuga

That was your chance to
challenge him to a Shokugeki!

[02:21] Kuga

It's so easy!

[02:23] Kuga

"Let's do a Shokugeki at this exam!"

[02:25] Kuga

That's all you had to say!

[02:26] Kuga

You wanna crush Hayama, don't you?

[02:29] S

Well, sure, but...

[02:33] S

Hm?

[02:37] D

Hm?

[02:38] S

Dojima-senpai...

[02:39] D

What's wrong, Yukihira?

[02:41] D

You look like something's on your mind.

[02:46] D

How the Shiomi Research Group was shut down?

[02:49] S

Yeah.

[02:50] S

Do you know how it happened, Dojima-senpai?

[02:52] S

Did Hayama not challenge Central to a
Shokugeki for the research group's survival?

[02:57] Kuga

What's any of this got to
do with you, Yukihira-chin?

[03:01] Kuga

Who cares about a loser who's become
the Azami administration's lap dog?

[03:06] S

Well, I just have a hard time imagining someone like Hayama taking orders

[03:10] S

from an enemy without a reason.

[03:12] D

As you'd guessed, that wasn't his plan.

[03:16] D

At least, not at first.

[03:22] (Flashback) Jun

Hayama-kun!

SIGN Shiomi Research Group

Creative Curry Laboratory

[03:25] (Flashback) Jun

We did it!

[03:26] (Flashback) Jun

A lot of corporate reps just came over

[03:28] (Flashback) Jun

and said they'll increase the budget for our joint projects—all of them!

[03:32] (Flashback) H

Huh.

[03:33] (Flashback) H

Well, that's no surprise given all your accomplishments.

[03:37] (Flashback) H

You may not look it, but you used to be in the Elite Ten.

[03:39] (Flashback) Jun

What's that supposed to mean?!

SIGN Shiomi Research Group

Creative Curry Laboratory

[03:41] (Flashback) Jun

Hey, are you listening to me, Hayama-kun? Hey!

[03:44] H

I guess we'll be neck deep in research again...

[03:47] (Flashback) H

What do you mean, you want to terminate the business partnership?

SIGN Big Curry Products Business Development Division

[03:50] Corp

We do apologize for the inconvenience.

[03:52] Corp

The details will be specified in the letter.

[03:53] (Flashback) H

Hey, wait...

[03:55] Corp

We do apologize. Please consider the contract null and void.

[03:58] Corp

We understand it's a major inconvenience,

[04:00] Corp

but we are withdrawing our sponsorship effective immediately.

[04:03] (Flashback) H

Why?!

[04:04] (Flashback) H

Tell us why!

[04:05] (Flashback) Azami

Because all autonomous groups in Totsuki Academy will be disbanded.

[04:11] (Flashback) Azami

Central will be the only public face of Totsuki.

[04:18] (Flashback) Azami

Welcome, Hayama Akira-kun.

[04:20] (Flashback) Azami

Your culinary sensitivities are

[04:21] (Flashback) Azami

worthy of inclusion in the world of true gourmet food I envision.

[04:24] (Flashback) Azami

I want you to join Central.

[04:26] (Flashback) Azami

I'll give you an entire laboratory facility for your personal use.

[04:30] (Flashback) Azami

That is, if you'll accept the disbanding of the research group

[04:34] (Flashback) Azami

and swear fealty to me.

[04:35] (Flashback) H

This is stupid, old man.

[04:38] (Flashback) H

I'll never let you shut down Shiomi Research Group—

[04:40] (Flashback) Azami

That research group has no future as long as I'm here.

SIGN Data Oct-Nov '12

[04:43] (Flashback) Azami

Neither do these, in fact.

[04:46] (Flashback) H

Give them back!

[04:47] (Flashback) H

You have no right to them!

[04:49] (Flashback) H

That's our—the research group's—research data!

[04:53] (Flashback) Azami

This is where we begin negotiations.

[04:57] (Flashback) Azami

If you'll do as I say,

[04:59] (Flashback) Azami

I'll allow you to add Professor Shiomi
to your research facility.

[05:03] (Flashback) Azami

You can choose to engage
in a Shokugeki for the

[05:05] (Flashback) Azami

continued existence of your research group,

[05:07] (Flashback) Azami

but even if you win, your corporate
partnerships are long gone.

[05:10] (Flashback) Azami

Professor Shiomi's activities will
most likely be restricted, too.

[05:21] (Flashback) Azami

In the coming days, there will be a battle
royale to fill the vacant Elite Ten seats.

[05:26] (Flashback) Azami

I do hope to see you there.

[05:28] D

Hayama participated in the battle
royale and became the ninth seat.

[05:34] D

That is all I've heard.

[05:37] D

It's likely that forcing Hayama Akira to

[05:39] D

become an ally was Nakiri Azami's
objective from the very start.

[05:43] Kuga

Azami's such a bastard!

[05:45] Kuga

Unbelievable!

[05:46] Kuga

Seriously?! I feel really
bad for Hayama-chin!

[05:51] D

Hayama must defeat you in order to reach his goal.

[05:56] S

I see.

[05:57] S

So that's why he said it's a checkpoint.

[06:02] Kuga

Hey, Yukihiro-chin?

[06:05] S

Hayama!

[06:08] S

Hayama!

[06:09] S

Hayama!

[06:11] S

Hayama!

[06:12] S

Hayama!

[06:14] S

Hayama!

[06:21] S

Hayama, I heard what burden you're carrying.

[06:25] S

If you can beat me in the advancement exam,

[06:27] S

you can keep on doing what you want to do.

[06:30] S

So this match is just a checkpoint for that, right?

[06:34] H

Sounds about right.

[06:39] S

You should really stop underestimating me.

[06:44] S

I'm here to redeem myself.

[06:46] S

I don't care what the actual reasons are—

[06:48] S

I'm really looking forward to facing you for real.

[06:51] S

Don't you dare be distracted by anything but what you'll be cooking, got it?!

[06:55] H

Huh?

[06:56] H

Any match needs a goal.

[06:59] H

You have no idea what's going on, anyway—

[07:00] S

Wasn't the research group important to you?

[07:03] S

And you couldn't even fight to save it.

[07:07] S

The hell I'm gonna lose to
a pathetic loser like that!

[07:10] H

Yukihira!

[07:12] H

Fine.

[07:13] H

If you're that eager to suffer defeat...

[07:16] H

I'll hand it to you on a silver platter.

[07:22] Kuga

Yukihira-chin, you might
get expelled for this.

[07:26] Kuga

Do you understand that?

SIGN Day of Stage Three Exam

[07:30] S

*So your stage three exam also
involves facing the Elite Ten?*

[07:32] Alice

Yes, both Ryo-kun and I are heading over now.

[07:37] Alice

Who would've thought that
Hayama-kun would turn against us

[07:40] Alice

after we worked hard at the
Moon Festival together?!

[07:45] Alice

Has he forgotten the mindset we developed
in the White Coat Trio team I led?

[07:50] Alice

He's got a lecture coming!

[07:52] S

Oh, you do that.

[07:54] S

Oh, if you have a message
for me, I can tell him.

[07:57] Alice

No, that's not necessary.

[08:00] Alice

We'll *all* pass stage three and meet up at the next exam location.

[08:05] Alice

Then we can *all* complain to Hayama-kun.

[08:09] S

Right, we *all* will.

[08:13] S

Good luck!

[08:14] S

All right!

[08:16] S

Everyone else's fired up, too.

[08:18] S

I've gotta keep up!

[08:20] Kuga

Yukihira-chin, you understand this, right?

[08:23] Kuga

You're all up against the Elite Ten.

[08:25] Kuga

It's impossible for all the rebels to make it through this round.

[08:31] Kuga

A normal person would think that, at least.

[08:36] S

Well, that's up to them.

[08:40] S

I can only work on my upcoming match.

SIGN Green Room Tadokoro Megumi Takumi Aldini

[08:45] Takumi

Everyone else is about to start their exams, too.

[08:49] M

Yeah.

[08:50] Rindo

Hey, now isn't the time to be worrying about anyone else!

[08:54] Rindo

After all, I'm the one you'll be facing!

[09:01] Rindo

Well, let's get cooking!

[09:09] E

Everyone...

[09:20] E

I can only have faith

[09:23] E

in the abilities of the chefs I've come to trust.

[09:35] D

I trust you're both ready.

[09:38] D

Let me introduce the judges to you.

[09:40] BS

Stare...

[09:41] S

Huh?

[09:43] Sh

Hey, Berta. The other one's better looking, isn't he?

[09:46] B

Yes, he is, Cilla.

[09:48] Sh

But maybe I don't really like men who are too good looking.

[09:52] Sh

This unsophisticated-looking guy might be more reliable.

[09:55] B

You just don't get it, Cilla!

[09:57] B

Guys like him can be more passionate!

[10:01] Sh

Really?

[10:02] Sh

Then I'll cheer him on, too!

[10:05] B

Yup, yup.

[10:06] BS

So, good luck, handsome!

[10:09] S

Wow, I feel like I've already lost before we even got started.

[10:12] Kuga

Hey, Dojima-senpai.

[10:15] Kuga

Where's the impartiality here?!

[10:17] Kuga

And they're both just kids!

[10:18] Kuga

How can they be judges?

[10:21] Sh

I hate rude people!

[10:23] B

What's your complaint, shorty?

[10:25] Kuga

Who you calling "shorty"?!

[10:27] D

Allow me to introduce them.

[10:29] D

They are Cilla and Berta, geniuses
whose knowledge of brain physiology

SIGN Nakiri International Research Staff

Cilla & Berta

[10:33] D

and culinary sensitivity led them to
be recruited by Nakiri Leonora-dono.

[10:38] D

Their ability to judge
dishes is unquestionable.

[10:41] D

The chair of the judging panel

[10:43] D

is the founder of Totsuki International,
the academy's research institute.

[10:48] B

Oh, Nassan.

[10:49] Sh

Good morning, Nassan!

[10:51] S

"Nassan"?

[10:52] D

He's delegated most of the institute's
day-to-day operations to his wife, Leonora,

[10:57] D

to focus his efforts on
negotiating external contracts.

[11:00] D

He is Nakiri Soue-dono.

SIGN Founder, Nakiri International

Nakiri Soue

[11:03] S

Oh, I see, the "Na" in Nassan is from Nakiri.

SIGN Senzaemon

SIGN Leonora

SIGN Soue

SIGN Azami

SIGN Alice

SIGN Erina

[11:06] S

So he's Leonora-san's husband,
Nakiri Alice's dad,

[11:10] S

Nakiri Erina's uncle,

[11:11] S

and the former director's son!

[11:14] D

Thank you for coming all
the way here, Soue-dono.

[11:17] Soei

It's been a while, Dojima Gin.

[11:19] Soei

I trust you've been well?

[11:21] S

Wow, he's really uptight.

[11:23] Kuga

But wait, he's a relative
of Nakiri Azami's, isn't he?

[11:27] Kuga

How can we trust him?!

[11:28] Soei

Do not underestimate me, Kuga Terunori.

[11:30] Soei

As a judge, I swear I will
exercise absolute impartiality.

[11:33] Soei

Even if this were a match involving
my own daughter, Alice,

[11:36] Soei

I would be fair in my judgment.

[11:38] Soei

Why?

[11:40] Soei

Because even should she be defeated,

[11:42] Soei

Alice is the most adorable
thing in the entire world.

[11:44] Soei

Oh, but Leonora is the most adorable
thing in the entire world, too.

[11:48] Soei

Their charm is the sole mystery I can
never solve, even in a lifetime of research.

[11:55] S

It turns out he's a doting
father and husband, I guess.

[11:57] Soei

So...

[11:58] Soei

Hayama Akira. Yukihiro Soma.

[12:01] Soei

Look.

[12:02] Soei

Here is the bear meat
that is the topic today.

[12:08] Chinese RS

What a thick layer of fat!

[12:10] Soei

The bear was caught by a first-rate hunter.

[12:13] Soei

The carcass was butchered and drained
of blood with flawless expertise.

[12:16] Soei

You will face each other using this meat.

[12:19] S

Got it.

[12:20] S

Hayama, let's do a taste
comparison of each other's food,

[12:23] S

just like we did in the prelims.

[12:24] H

I have no idea what you're
planning to prepare,

[12:27] H

but there's nothing to
compare between us anymore.

[12:29] H

We are worlds apart.

[12:31] D

It's time.

[12:33] D

Let the cooking begin!

[12:38] Chinese RS

What part is Hayama going to use?

[12:40] Chinese RS

Looks like loin.

[12:42] Chinese RS

He's chopped the meat into large chunks,

[12:44] Chinese RS

and is coating them with a puree
of garlic, ginger, and onion.

[12:48] Chinese RS

He's going to tenderize the
meat with that marinade.

[12:51] Chinese RS

Meanwhile, he's making batter

from eggs and starch...

[12:55] Chinese RS

And oil?

[12:57] D

He's going to fry it.

[12:59] H

Fried chicken is a dish with a long history,
born in the American south.

[13:05] H

I'll serve you a version of the dish
that is appropriate for this venue.

[13:11] Chinese RS

"Fried chicken" made with bear meat...

[13:13] Chinese RS

So chicken-fried bear?

[13:15] Chinese RS

Hayama's going in for the kill.

[13:18] Kuga

*If he can concentrate the bear's
umami within the batter,*

[13:22] Kuga

*he'll create the ultimate dish
that'll knock your brains out.*

[13:26] Kuga

*But on the flip side, if he botches the
removal of gaminess from the meat,*

[13:29] Kuga

*all the unpleasant flavors will be
trapped within the batter.*

[13:33] D

Will it be umami or smelliness that's left?

[13:36] D

It's big gamble!

[13:42] D

Hayama has no intention of playing defense...

[13:45] D

*He intends to bring the
fight to close quarters!*

[13:47] Soei

It seems he has absolute confidence.

[13:50] Soei

He believes he can control every
single aspect of the ingredient.

[13:54] Chinese RS

Look!

[13:55] Chinese RS

Yukihira-dono's also

preparing breeding and oil!

[14:02] (Flashback) Kuga

Even a smell that may be totally
fine when out in the open

[14:06] (Flashback) Kuga

can turn into an unpleasant
odor in a more confined space.

[14:09] (Flashback) Hunter

That does mean that if you can't take
advantage of the smell that remains,

[14:12] (Flashback) Hunter

it's because you're a bad chef.

[14:15] S

*I finally get it now, after listening
to Kuga-senpai and the hunter guy.*

[14:18] S

*I have to take full advantage
of the bear's flavors,*

[14:21] S

*even if I have to risk trapping
bad odors in the dish!*

[14:23] S

*If I don't, I'm never going to
stand a chance against Hayama.*

[14:27] S

And this...

[14:30] S

...is my answer!

[14:31] Chinese RS

So they both chose a fried dish in the end?!

[14:35] D

*One could say the gloves
are off on this fight.*

[14:38] D

*It'll be a fierce slugfest between
two boxers at close quarters!*

[14:51] S

Combine different parts of the bear—

[14:53] S

*loin, boned rib, round, and
fatty and lean meat—*

[14:55] S

into ground meat.

[14:59] S

Season with schisandra, onion, and salt.

[15:02] S

One misstep and the umami

will turn into smelliness.

[15:05] S

Stay sharp.

[15:07] S

Keep dealing the best hand you can think of!

[15:14] D

Yukihira's pouring bear broth into the meat!

[15:18] D

So he's adding even more of
the bear's essential flavors

[15:20] D

when the meat already has
a strong wild flavor.

[15:24] D

You can't help but get drawn in...

[15:26] D

...by the two's tension.

[15:30] D

There's no way anyone can look away.

[15:32] D

What they're doing...

[15:35] D

...will easily lead to self-destruction

[15:37] D

with a single misstep!

[15:38] D

What a nerve-wracking tightrope walk!

[15:43] D

But...

[15:49] D

*When it comes to a tightrope
of flavor and fragrance,*

[15:51] D

Hayama Akira is the greater expert!

[15:55] Chinese RS

There it is!

[15:56] Chinese RS

Hayama's original Cajun spice blend!

[16:00] S

He must be making a sauce.

[16:03] H

Yukihira, don't tell me you have the
time to lay eyes on anyone else.

[16:06] H

Don't worry.

[16:08] H

I'll make enough for you to try.

[16:10] H

You can do all the taste comparing you want.

[16:13] B

What is that smell?

[16:14] B

Is it something like cypress?

[16:15] Sh

It's a smell unique to conifers, Berta.

[16:18] B

You're right, Cilla.

[16:20] B

It's probably terpenes and phenols.

[16:22] Sh

They stimulate the cerebral cortex and aid relaxation.

[16:26] Kuga

I thought so.

[16:28] Kuga

The core component of the fragrance Hayama is trying to create

[16:31] Kuga

is the genièvre.

[16:33] S

Geni... èvre?

[16:34] BSh

Juniper berries.

[16:36] Sh

They're a spice that's been used ever since ancient Egypt.

[16:40] Sh

Right, Berta?

[16:41] B

Yes, Cilla.

[16:42] B

It has the astringency of pine resin

[16:44] B

and a fragrant sweetness.

[16:45] B

Some spiciness, too.

[16:47] H

Thicken bear broth with flour and milk,

[16:52] H

then season the sauce once it is fragrant and has deepened in color.

[16:56] H

Add the spices for fragrance, and then...

[17:02] H

You have a gravy that will
further enhance the fried bear.

[17:06] Sh

No way!

[17:07] Sh

This is impossibly complex and fragrant
compared to normal gravy!

[17:12] B

I want to taste just a tiny bit!

[17:14] H

You want to try it?

[17:17] H

Sure.

[17:20] H

Here.

[17:24] Sh

What rich, wild bear flavor!

[17:26] Sh

But there is no smelliness!

[17:30] B

*The juniper berry's spiciness
is spreading throughout my body!*

[17:34] Sh

What a masculine, aggressive flavor!

[17:37] B

*I'm being schooled by
this enthralling fragrance!*

[17:40] BSh

Even we...

[17:41] BSh

are easily...

[17:45] BSh

domesticated!

[17:50] D

What a terrifying chef.

[17:52] D

Who would've thought that the sauce
alone would be enough to subjugate them?

[17:57] S

All right, my sauce is done, too.

[18:00] Chinese RS

Oh!

[18:00] Chinese RS

Yukihira-dono's getting to
the frying process first.

[18:06] S

How strange.

[18:08] S

Thinking back,

[18:10] S

I'm actually glad I lost that day.

SIGN Hayama Akira

[18:14] S

Thank you, Hayama.

[18:17] S

If I hadn't lost to you,

[18:19] S

I wouldn't be the chef I am now.

[18:22] Kuga

He's improved the hamburger
he tested earlier,

[18:26] Kuga

and added the breading

[18:28] Kuga

to further concentrate and
strengthen the bear's flavors.

[18:30] Kuga

It's a minced meat cutlet!

[18:34] S

Now, judges.

[18:36] S

Here's the best bear dish
I could come up with.

[18:40] Sh

Wow, Berta!

[18:43] B

Cilla!

[18:44] B

It's fried to perfection!

[18:45] B

The brilliance of the
essential fatty acids is

[18:47] B

making my visual optic nerves really happy!

[18:49] S

Hayama, I'll make yours
right before you try it.

[18:53] S

Just let me know when you
have a minute to spare, okay?

[19:01] D

Well, then. Soue-dono, Berta-dono,
Cilla-dono, please try the dish!

[19:06] Chinese RS

Can he win against Hayama Akira?

[19:08] D

*More importantly, did you win
your own wager, Yukihira Soma?*

[19:13] D

*How did you do on your tightrope walk
across not letting any flavors escape,*

[19:16] D

while not permitting unpleasant odors?

[19:17] Sh

I want to try it while
it's still piping hot...

[19:20] B

...but what if it's really gamey inside?

[19:24] Soei

May I have a napkin?

[19:26] Sh

Nassan?!

[19:27] B

You'll go first?!

[19:29] Soei

Is this too impolite?

[19:31] S

Not at all!

[19:32] S

That's the best way to
eat a minced meat cutlet!

[19:35] S

Please take a big bite!

[19:38] Soei

I will.

[19:42] Sh

I'll try it, too!

[19:43] B

Me, too, then!

[19:45] Sh

So hot!

[19:48] BSh

Here we go!

[19:57] BSh

What is... this?

[20:01] B

It's delicious!

[20:03] Sh

*The sweet and strong meat juices
explode in your mouth—*

[20:07] Sh

The umami is enough to rattle your brains!

[20:10] B

*Sourness, bitterness, sweetness,
spiciness, and saltiness...*

[20:14] B

*The schisandra's various
flavors are converting*

[20:16] B

*the bear's gaminess into
umami in a balanced way.*

[20:20] Sh

*This is like getting slapped
by the richness of flavor!*

[20:23] Soei

This is a watershed between the two extremes
of flavor, the best and the worst.

[20:26] Soei

Not to mention, he has made a dangerous
gamble far beyond one's imagination.

[20:31] Soei

Yukihira Soma,

[20:32] Soei

you were fearless and generous with your
use of meat that lay close to the bone.

[20:38] D

I see.

[20:40] D

*The closer meat is to the bone,
the more gamey its flavor!*

[20:43] D

*This tendency is even more pronounced
in the meat of wild game!*

[20:49] Kuga

So Yukihira-chin threw the smelliest
parts of the bear into the cutlet.

[20:55] Kuga

He discerned the limit of
preventing smelliness

[20:58] Kuga

and easily stepped over the line normal
chefs would not be able to cross.

[21:03] B

Why did you take such a big risk?

[21:04] S

Well, smelliness has a powerful
potential to lead to umami.

[21:10] S

Of course you go all in!

[21:13] S

That's where the potential
for delicious taste lies.

[21:18] Sh

Hey, Berta.

[21:19] Sh

I thought he was unsophisticated...

[21:22] B

Yeah, I guess we thought wrong, Cilla.

[21:25] BSh

A dangerous man who takes big risks to win...

[21:28] BSh

How wonderful!

[21:30] Soei

Yukihira Soma...

[21:31] Soei

*He combined several different parts
of the bear into the ground meat.*

[21:35] Soei

*Doing so further emphasized the variance in
the strength of flavors within the cutlet*

[21:40] Soei

and successfully created a umami gradient.

[21:44] Soei

*That is how he created
such a complex richness.*

[21:47] Soei

*He crossed quite a tightrope
with this dish...*

[21:51] Soei

*The determination of a chef
to endure such risks—*

[21:54] Soei

is bursting me open!

[21:57] D

Oh, look!

[21:59] ---

He Who Inherits the Chest-Baring

[22:01] ---

seems to have acknowledged Yukihira's dish.

[22:03] S

Yeah!

[22:07] Kuga

I knew I believed in you.

[22:09] S

Oh, I wouldn't be so sure.

[22:16] H

Thank you for waiting.

[22:18] H

This is the ultimate bear dish.

[22:25] Chinese RS

What?!

[22:26] Chinese RS

What is this... brilliance?!

SIGN Totsuki

SIGN Food Wars

SIGN The Third Plate

SIGN Next Episode For Whom

[24:06] M

The train will be barreling into a blizzard!

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