

In the Midst of a Demon Parade

- ❖ Translator's note: I do not own any parts of the story, only the translation.
 - ❖ Proofread by niri, slaine
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Part 1



MIRACULOUS Amulet Shop

sweeping

Chief: (Alright, that's enough sweeping for now.)

Ryui: **sigh**... The bastards this time were fucking annoying... What a pain in the ass.

Chief: Ah! Ryui-kun, you're back!

Ryui: 'Sup.

Chief: What did you do this time?

Ryui: A one-off, same as usual.

Chief: I-I see.

Ryui: Job's over now, so you can leave if you want. Thanks for helping out.

Chief: (Ah, right. I just remembered—)

Chief: I noticed something earlier when I was looking after the place...

Ryui: Huh?

Chief: This is a bracelet you've been working on, right?

Ryui: I mean, yeah.

Chief: If it's okay with you, can I help finish it?

Ryui: Huh? Where the hell did that come from?

Chief: Well, I thought I could help around a bit more while I'm here. And... out of pure interest?

Ryui: More like the real reason. I ain't dumb.

Chief: Haha, too obvious? I really am kind of interested in your work though.

Ryui: I can't be assed if you're just bugging me outta plain curiosity.

Chief: I see. You're right. Sorry, I'll go...

Ryui: Aaah, wait, stop.

Ryui: Sheesh. ...I don't mind, dammit.

Ryui and the chief head inside

Chief: (Despite saying all that, Ryui-kun prepared everything we'll need... That means he's giving me the green light, right?)

Chief: (I was actually interested, so I'm glad I got to do this.)

Chief: That being said, how do you make a protective charm?

Ryui: You really don't know shit, huh.

Chief: I guess you could say I've never had a connection with that kind of stuff...

Ryui: Not gonna lie, you're probably better off that way.

Chief: Looks like you twins have had your fair share of troubles.

Ryui: ...Whatever. I'm used to it now.

Ryui: Anyways, back to the charms. Our best-sellers at the moment are the ones you can wear as an accessory, like bracelets.

Chief: I see. You're also wearing one.

Ryui: You better fucking bet. Going up against those bastards unarmed is straight up suicide.

Chief: (He said his job was something like exorcising, or appeasing spirits, but it really does sound like tough work.)

Ryui: So? Are we making them or not?

Chief: Y-Yes! I'm ready to go!

Ryui: I don't normally do hands-on workshops like this, got it?

Ryui: I'll only explain things once, you better listen the hell up.

Chief: Got it.

Ryui: Protective charms were originally magatamas¹ from the Jomon period. Transitioning into the Heian period, they gradually changed into ofudas,² or those pouch-looking ones.³

Chief: Oh...!

Ryui: From there, they further evolved into casual accessories, like bracelets and necklaces.

Chief: I see...

Ryui: And that's what we're gonna make. All you gotta do is thread the elastic with these pebbles...

Chief: Is there any significance behind the order of the pebbles, or their colour?

Ryui: Well, I wouldn't say there isn't... but in the end, your feelings are what act as the foundation for the charm.

Ryui: For starters, just give it a go.

Chief: Got it...!

¹ Curved, comma-shaped beads that symbolized "avoidance of evil" or the "magic of good fortune."

² A talisman, typically made out of paper, believed to be imbued with the power of the deities.

³ The "normal" omamori (Japanese protective charm) that we see today.

Part 2



📍 MIRACULOUS Amulet Shop

Chief: (...I said that, but this is harder than I thought. It feels like I'll accidentally stab myself if I'm not careful...)

Ryui: ...

Chief: (What do I do? Ryui-kun looks like he's concentrating, so I don't want to bother him.)

Chief: (But wow, he's really a pro at this, the finished bracelet looks so nice. If only I could get a tip from him...)

> **Ask him straight up**

Chief: Hey, do you have any tips?

Ryui: Huh? What's with you all a sudden.

Chief: Well, I just thought your's looked really pretty... and wondered if there was a tip, or trick to doing this.

Ryui: A trick? Not really. 'S not like you need to be fast about it or anything. We're not in a rush either. You better not go around knocking things over just 'cause you're impatient.

> **Watch and steal his technique**

Chief: (Upon closer inspection, he's holding the band between his middle and ring finger.)

Chief: (Oh, so it's easier to thread if you hold the tip of it straight...!)

Ryui: Hm? You tryin' to imitate me? Not bad. Do it if you can.

Chief: G-Got it, I'll do my best!

Chief: (I could steal his technique, but it's actually quite difficult to pull off...)

Ryui: I mean, I wouldn't be in business if just anyone could do this. Who cares if you fuck it up.

Chief: Urgh, you have a point...

Chief: (I guess it's less common to get it on your first try... Alright.)

— *Time skip*

Ryui: Leave it there when you're done.

Chief: You're finished already...!

Ryui: It'd be fucking sad if I wasn't. We've been moving at different paces.

Chief: (Ryui-kun's good with his hands, and the pattern is gorgeous...!)

Chief: (He might have a foul mouth, but it's pretty cool how he's able to make such pretty things as well.)

Chief: J-Just a bit more...!

Ryui: ...

Chief: D-Done...!

Chief: (Though it's deformed, as expected...)

Ryui: Pretty good for your first try, I guess.

Chief: Really...!?

Ryui: B-u-t, still too ugly to be put up for sale.

Chief: Haha...

Ryui: 'Kay, we're done here. Your shift's over now. Get going.

Chief: Yup, thanks.

Ryui: ...Mm. And here, take this.

Chief: Wait, isn't this the expensive raisin sandwich from *the* Acura Hotel...!?

Ryui: Toi was craving some, so I picked it up on the way back.

Chief: Ah, so it's a gift for Toi? And you want me to give it to him?

Ryui: The fuck? I'd hand it over to him myself if that's the case! You think I'd let you see Toi's smile?

Chief: ? Then why...

Chief: (...Ah, wait, I don't want to assume anything, but is it for me...!?)

Ryui: ...It's thanks for looking after this place while I was gone.

Chief: In that case, thanks. I'll eat it later.

Ryui: Oh.

Chief: (He might be awkward, but he's actually a good person, I think.)

— *A few days later*

HAMA Streets

Chief: (Alright, next up on the Night Team's message list, Ryui-kun.)

Chief: (I wonder if he's at MIRACULOUS? Can't hurt to take a look.)

MIRACULOUS Amulet Shop

Chief: (Hm? Toi-kun's also here.)

Toi: Ani-sama, the raisin sandwich you gave me the other day was super delicious. Thanks!

Ryui: I'm glad you enjoyed it. Seeing your smile made my day.

Toi: I've always wanted to try that store, but every time I go, it's sold out.

Ryui: If you liked it, I'll go as many times as you want.

Toi: Yay! Thanks! But next time, I wanna go buy it together.

Chief: (They're as chummy as ever. Ah! That's the bracelet I made—)

Toi: Hm? Is this a new item? It's in a pretty noticeable place...

Ryui: Ahh, that's a custom-made order.

Toi: It's a bit different from your usual products, but it's very neat!

Chief: (He said it was ugly, but he put it at the front of the store... I guess this is Ryui-kun's own way of showing kindness?)