

Oyster omelet and meatball are the recipe for love

撈丸飛落蚵仔煎 配出好姻緣



A fascinating love story involving meatballs is doing the rounds online. It all started when a woman visited Hsinchu's Cheng Huang Temple for a snack with a friend. As she chatted, she poked a chopstick into a meatball. At some point during the conversation, she waved her hands too hard and the meatball flew directly onto the oyster omelet of the man sitting at the next table. Although she offered to buy him a new meal, the man had other ideas and said to her, "Just give me your MSN address as compensation." Following this unusual first **encounter** they fell in love and now a wedding is on its way.

Hsinchu Mayor Lin Jung-tzer said that he would love to be the presiding witness to the wedding if they agreed, and that he would buy the couple a big box of five-color lucky meatballs as a gift. He was looking for the two publicly, hoping that the couple could contact him.

According to the owner of Chuang Chia, a café inside the temple, only two cafes sold meatballs and oyster omelets. Since all the tables were **within spitting distance** of each other, such "flying meatballs" are a common sight, she said. The owner added that although the two did not go back to the café to announce their good news, the news of the wedding was still warmly welcomed.

According to the Internet user who first broke the story, her female friend visited her in Hsinchu three years ago. As a Hsinchu local, she took her friend to the temple for some snacks

— including oyster omelets, fried rice noodles, and meatball soup.

Her friend's habit was to poke a chopstick into a meatball when biting it. When the conversation became **animated** she started to wave her hands around, forgetting that the meatball was loosely attached to her chopstick. The meatball flew off and dropped on top of the oyster omelet of the man sitting at the next table. She blushing apologized and offered to get him a new omelet. But rather than accept a replacement dish, the cheeky chap asked her to "compensate" for his loss with her MSN address, and surprisingly she **acquiesced**.

Not long ago, the friend announced that the "meatball couple" were intending to tie the knot next summer. The friend also said that they would definitely offer meatball soup at the wedding banquet, as well as Hsinchu meatballs as gifts to all the wedding guests. She went on to say that as a Hsinchu resident, she was proud to be able to promote the famous meatballs of her hometown. (LIBERTY TIMES, TRANSLATED BY EDDY CHANG)

最近網路盛傳一則有趣的「撈丸情緣」，一位外地小姐到新竹城隍廟品嚐小吃，她用筷子插撈丸來啃，但聊天時比手劃腳，竟讓撈丸飛出去，掉到隔壁桌男士吃的蚵仔煎上，女方想賠他一盤蚵仔煎，男士卻說「把你的MSN帳號給我，就當賠償好了」，兩人相識進而相戀，將走上紅毯另一端。

新竹市長林政則高興地說，如果這對準新人同意的話，他非常願意為兩人福證，並致贈五色撈丸禮盒祝福，他更公開尋人，歡迎這

對準新人和他聯絡。

城隍廟裡面的「莊家」小吃店老闆娘說，廟內同時賣蚵仔煎與撈丸湯的只有兩家店，店內小桌椅排得很近，撈丸「飛來飛去」是常有的事，雖然當事人沒有回到店裡「報佳音」，但能造就一樁奇緣，也算是幸福好事。

網友說，三年前，女性友人到新竹找她玩，身為地主，她帶友人去新竹城隍廟吃蚵仔煎、炒米粉、撈丸湯等小吃。

友人習慣吃撈丸時，用單根筷子插住撈丸，大家聊到好笑的事情時，她一時情緒激動，忍不住揮動手上的筷子，忘了撈丸還在筷子上，且沒有插很深，撈丸就這樣飛出去，落在隔壁桌男士的蚵仔煎上，友人紅著臉道歉，說要賠償一盤新的蚵仔煎，沒想到男士的反應很有趣，說「用妳的MSN帳號來賠償就好了！」後來友人真的給了他帳號。

日前友人說，他們明年夏天要結婚了！婚宴上一定有撈丸湯這道菜，且婚宴給賓客的伴手禮就是一包新竹撈丸！網友說，身為新竹人，能夠成功推銷家鄉名產，真是驕傲！ (自由時報記者蔡彰盛攝)

Top left: A photo of a meatball skewered to a chopstick, similar to the one in the article.

Top right: A photo of a crowded restaurant at Cheng Huang Temple. The owner says that it's not uncommon for meatballs to fly between tables.

PHOTOS: TSAI CHANG-SHENG, LIBERTY TIMES

上圖左：文中提及筷子插撈丸的情況，如圖所示。

上圖右：城隍廟小吃攤座位欄比鄰，老闆娘說撈丸經常「飛來飛去」。

照片：自由時報記者蔡彰盛攝

TODAY'S WORDS 今日單字

1. **encounter** /ɪn'kaʊntə/ n.

偶然相遇 (ou3 ran2 xiang1 yu4)

例：A chance encounter with a priest changed Ian's life.

(偶然遇見一位神父改變了易安的人生。)

2. **animated** /'æna,meɪtɪd/ adj.

熱烈的 (re4 lie4 de5)

例：Katie becomes animated whenever she talks about Egypt.

(凱蒂一提到埃及就眉飛色舞。)

3. **acquiesce** /,ækwi'ɛs/ v.

默許 (mo4 xu3)

例：We reluctantly acquiesced to Roland's suggestion to play baseball.

(我們不情不願地默從羅蘭的建議去玩棒球。)

IDIOM POINT 重要片語

within spitting distance 離...很近

You are **within spitting distance** if you are very close to something. Like many idioms, the meaning does not have to be literal.

Examples: "We were told the hotel would be **within spitting distance** of the beach, but it turned out to be a 10 minute drive away," or "Although he lived **within spitting distance** of some of the best restaurants in the city, Kev seldom ate at any of them."

若說你「within spitting distance」，就表示你和某物距離很近。和許多片語一樣，這個片語也不能只看字面的意思。

例如：「我們聽說這間飯店離海灘很近，結果開車還要十分鐘路程」，或是「雖然凱夫就住在市區最好的幾間餐廳附近，但他幾乎沒去吃過」。