

## PAW 1051

Chapter 1051: The God of Plagues is leaving

One day....

Two days....

Three days....

Thursday.

Dong Xuebing finished a few documents in his office. He was about to prepare for a meeting in the afternoon when he heard footsteps and a commotion outside. He looked at his closed door puzzledly.

A few moments later, someone knocked on the door.

“Come in, please.” Dong Xuebing puts down the document he is reading.

It was Inspection First Office Staff Member Zhu Zhu. She entered the office and looked at Dong Xuebing in shock. “Director, the City Organization Department is here.”

Dong Xuebing looked at her. “The Organization Department?”

Zhu Zhu nodded. “That’s right. The Organization Department staff spoke to Director Luo and Director Liu. He asked them about you, and I heard he had visited Secretary He and Secretary Zhan.” After working in the government for a few years, she knew about this procedure. These talks were part of the procedures before a promotion or transfer. She smiled. “Congratulations.”

Dong Xuebing looked calm. “We still don’t know what’s happening.”

Zhu Zhu closed the door after she left.

Dong Xuebing smiled. He had been waiting for this day, but it was too early for him to be happy.

About ten minutes later.

Knock... knock... knock.... Someone knocked on Dong Xuebing’s office.

“Come in.” Dong Xuebing looked up.

It was Fei Fan. He entered the office and greeted Dong Xuebing politely. “Director, Minister Wen is here.” He said and stepped aside.

Wen Shixiang smiled and entered the office. “Director Dong.”

Dong Xuebing quickly stood up to receive him. “Minister Wen.”

Fei Fan quickly left the office and closed the door softly.

Wen Shixiang and Dong Xuebing exchanged some pleasantries and sat on the sofa. Wen Shixiang smiled and said. “I am here to speak to you on behalf of the organization. Haha.... Our Organization Department is different from the Discipline Inspection. Nothing good will happen if you all speak to someone, but it is different for us.” He had not had many interactions with Dong Xuebing before and only met him once when he was appointed. “I will reveal something to you.

Someone in the higher-ups suggested that you be transferred to the grass root level for training. I am here to gather feedback and to seek your opinion.”

Dong Xuebing replied cautiously. “I will follow whatever the organization’s arrangement for me.”

Can he refuse this offer? He had worked hard to get this transfer.

As Wen Shixiang talked to Dong Xuebing, news spread in the City Government Building.

Everyone was shocked.

“What?! The Organization Department is interviewing Director Dong?!”

“Are you sure? Is he going to be promoted again?”

“I think it will be a transfer. Even if it is a transfer to the grass root level, it is also considered a promotion. He will be promoted to Division Chief after gaining experience there.”

“But didn’t Director Dong was promoted six months ago?”

“Maybe it is because of the recent incident, and he got a promotion based on an exceptional basis.”

“But we had not heard anything until now.”

“I heard it was an order from the Provincial Organization Department.”

“The Provincial Government got involved? No wonder we did not hear anything until now.”

“Director Dong is only twenty-five. Sigh.... We can never compare against him.”

Everyone was shocked when Dong Xuebing was promoted from a Sub District Chief to the City Discipline Inspection. Six months later, he is going to be promoted again. He would be promoted to Division Chief after gaining experience at the grassroots level. They were jealous of him, but they knew it was his capabilities. He was the only one who dared to enter the freezing water to save others. He had gotten his credits by risking his life.

Around 10 am.

Wen Shixiang and his men from the Organization Department left the Discipline Inspection.

At the same time, Dong Xuebing’s phone rang. It was Xie Huilan.

“Hello, Huilan.” Dong Xuebing was in a good mood.

“Is your transfer settled?” Xie Huilan asked.

“Yes. But I don’t know where I will be going.”

“Haha.... You still have not told me who helped you. How long are you going to hide from me?”

"I had not told you because it was not finalized. I don't want you to be disappointed." Dong Xuebing does not want to embarrass himself in front of Xie Huilan. "It was the Provincial Organization Department's No. 3 who helped. Deputy Minister Jia is going to retire and has migraine problems. I learned about it from a friend and treated him. He returned the favor and helped me with the transfer."

"You are quite lucky."

"Oh, let's invite Minister Jia and his wife for dinner to thank them. You can also take this opportunity to get to know him. He is the Provincial Organization Department's No. 3, and you might need his help in the future."

"He will be retiring in a few days."

"Oh, that's right. But we still have to treat him."

"Ok."

"We also have to treat Mayor Zhong."

"Yes."

"Also, Secretary Zhan, Secretary He, and other former leaders and colleagues. Sigh.... It's going to be busy for the next few days."

"Yes."

"Huh? Why do you sound like you are not interested?"

Xie Huilan laughed. "Who will cook and wash my clothes for me if you are gone?"

Dong Xuebing knew Xie Huilan did not want him to leave, and he felt the same. They had been together since she was Yan Tai County Mayor and had lived together since they were married. Now, their child was going to be born, and he had to leave. However, this was his only way to get promoted. He also does not want to leave Qu Yunxuan. "Huilan, how about I request to be transferred to a nearby County?"

"Do you think you can decide on your transfer? What are you thinking? Haha.... This transfer is critical for your career. Just go ahead. I can take care of myself."

"But I will be worried."

"Don't worry. I will ask Mum to come over near my due date. I will be fine."

"Err.... I will try my best to achieve some results and transfer back as soon as possible."

"Take your time, and don't give yourself too much pressure. You will be a Division Chief when you are back. Do you think it is easy? I was almost thirty when I became a Division Chief."

"I am different. I become a Deputy Division Chief within two years. Just wait for my good news." Dong Xuebing received a call when he was talking to Xie Huilan. "Huh? I got an incoming call."

"You will be busy since you are going to be transferred. Let's talk when we are back."

"Ok." Dong Xuebing hung up and answered the other call. "Hello, I am Dong Xuebing."

"Director Dong! Hahaha.... I am Liu Dahai."

"Old Liu! We have not met for quite some time."

"Yes. Congratulations on your promotion."

"No.... it's a same-level transfer, and it is not confirmed."

"Don't be modest. I heard everything, and many of your former colleagues in Yan Tai County miss you. We want to give you a treat."

"Haha.... I should be the one treating you all."

"I am waiting for you to say this." Liu Dahai was the Police Station Chief in Huitian village, and they were close.

"I will return in a few days. Gather everyone for a drink."

Liu Dahai paused for a second. "Are you going to be transferred somewhere far?"

Dong Xuebing replied. "I think so. It will be difficult for me to return. That's why I hope we can have a gathering before I go. The next time we meet would be at least one year later."

"Then.... We will go over to find you."

"No need. I will go to Huitian. I must also visit my colleagues in Yan Tai County and my mother's hometown."

Dong Xuebing's phone continues to ring after hanging up.

"Hello, Director Dong. It's me."

"Hello, Director. Congratulations."

"Hello, Xiao Dong. Congratulations on your promotion. When are you giving a treat? I am waiting."

The calls were from colleagues, friends, relatives, and leaders.

Dong Xuebing was famous in Fen Zhou City and was more famous than the City Party Secretary and Mayor. News of his upcoming transfer spread quickly.

Those who offended Dong Xuebing before were relieved and glad he was leaving. Even Ping An Subdistrict Chief Chu Qinghua also called to congratulate him. The God of Plagues is leaving, but Mayor Xie is still around.

Many people were envious of Dong Xuebing's promotion.

Chapter 1052: Farewell

Lu An City, City Party Committee family quarters.

Mayor's apartment. Yang Zhaode and Luan Xiaoping were cooking in the kitchen when Dong Xuebing entered.

"Where is Huilan?" Luan Xiaoping asked.

"She is working and is unable to come." Dong Xuebing replied as he changed into slippers.

Yang Zhaode walked out of the kitchen. "Xiao Bing, you are here. Wash your hands. Dinner is ready."

Dong Xuebing replied. "Let me help, Uncle Yang."

Yang Zhaode laughed and shook his hand. "It is ready."

Luan Xiaoping said. "Xiao Bing, I heard from your Uncle Yang that you will be transferred. Where will you be going?"

Dong Xuebing replied. "I don't know, but it should be someplace far. It will not be easy for me to return in the future."

Luan Xiaoping got mad. "What are you thinking? Why can't you stay in Fen Zhou City? Why must you go to the grass root level? Huilan is pregnant. How can you leave like this?"

Dong Xuebing scratched his head and said. "I...."

Yang Zhaode interrupted. "Let Xiao Bing go. This is a rare opportunity for him. Although the grass root level is tough, it is a good place to gain experience. He can get outstanding results easily and will be promoted when he returns. Not many people can get such an opportunity."

Luan Xiaoping's eyes turned red. "I will miss my son."

Yang Zhaode laughed. "It's not like he is not coming back. He might be a Division Chief within six months with his capabilities." He turned to Dong Xuebing. "Don't forget to visit your mother after you get there. Try to call us every few days to let us know you are safe."

Dong Xuebing replied. "I know, Uncle Yang."

Luan Xiaoping gave Old Yang a stare. "You are always helping him."

Yang Zhaode laughed. "Let's eat."

Luan Xiaoping let out a hmp and entered the kitchen to bring out the dishes.

"I am going to see my daughter." Dong Xuebing heard crying and entered the bedroom. Little Qianqian had grown bigger, and he was excited to see her. He carried her and kissed her. "My precious girl has grown fatter and taller now. Haha.... Did you miss me?"

Little Qianqian was still crying. "Wah... wah...."

"Stop crying. Daddy will lift you." Dong Xuebing carried her above his head and started running around the room.

Little Qianqian likes being carried high up, and she stopped crying. She started to giggle and wave her tiny hands and feet. "Ya... ya... Yi... yi...."

"Do you like it?"

"Ya... ya...."

"You are so adorable. Let's go! Daddy will let you fly again."

"Ah... ya... ya...."

Little Qianqian was overjoyed.

Luan Xiaoping saw them after she came out of the kitchen and immediately gave Dong Xuebing a stare. "Stop playing like this. Be careful not to drop her! Let her down and have dinner first."

Dong Xuebing refused. "I want to carry her a while more."

"You just don't listen." Luan Xiaoping smacked her lips."

Yang Zhaode said. "Xiao Bing will be transferred these few days. Let him play with his daughter for a while. Let's eat first. If the food turns cold, heat it for Xiao Bing later."

Luan Xiaoping gave Old Yang a stare. "Why are you always siding with Xiao Bing?"

Yang Zhaode laughed. Luan Xiaoping is Dong Xuebing's mother, and she can scold her son. But he is not his father, and got to watch what he says to him. He will not scold or criticize him unless it is something serious.

A while later, Dong Xuebing sat at the dining table. But he was still carrying and playing with Little Qianqian.

"Mum, where is Yunxuan?"

"She is working the night shift."

"Oh, is Yunxuan reporting the evening news now."

"Yes. She had been reporting the evening news for some time now. Can you show some concern towards her?"

"Ah, I was too busy recently. I will look for Yunxuan tonight. Ah, I will be busy meeting my colleagues these few days."

Yang Zhaode looked at Dong Xuebing. "Who are you meeting?"

Dong Xuebing replied helplessly. "They are my friends, leaders, and some who have grudges against me. But I rejected some of them. If I meet every one of them, it will take at least two weeks."

Yang Zhaode laughed. "I suggest you meet all of them, including those you are not close with. Your transfer order is not out yet, and you will have time. They want to get closer to you since they called, and you should give them a face. You will go to the grass root level, but your wife, friends, and colleagues are still working in Fen Zhou City. It's better to have more friends than enemies."

Yang Zhaode has worked in the City Party Committee Organization Department for many years and is better at human relationships than Dong Xuebing.

Dong Xuebing thought for a while and replied. "You are right. I will be leaving, but Huilan is still here. I will try to meet everyone and not let Huilan clear my mess."

Luan Xiaoping knocked her bowl with her chopsticks. "Eat... stop talking."

Dong Xuebing and Yang Zhaode laughed. "Ok. Let's eat first."

Yang Zhaode called Dong Xuebing to his room after dinner.

Old Yang said. "I had asked where you are going, but I have not received any replies. I only heard you might be going to a few places. These places are far and considered impoverished areas. There are pros and cons if you go there, depending on your abilities."

"Huh? What should I take note of?" Dong Xuebing asked.

Yang Zhaode thought for a while and said. "You should keep a low profile. You had worked in Fen Zhou City for some time and made many friends here. With Huilan and me around, your enemies will not dare to go overboard. However, things are different when you go to the grassroots level. You have no friends to help you, and you cannot control your men without local backing. I might be Lu An City Mayor, but we have no dealings with the local government there. Huilan and I cannot assist you, and you got to depend on yourself. Think carefully before you act. Going there is equivalent to starting from scratch again. You got to build your contacts again."

Dong Xuebing nodded. "I will remember this, Uncle Yang."

Chapter 1053: Inspection First Office Director candidate

One week later.

Dong Xuebing's transfer order arrived.

Morning. City Party Committee family quarters.

Dong Xuebing woke up to find himself alone in bed. He left his room and saw Luan Xiaoping and Xie Huilan preparing breakfast.

"Mum, when did you come?"

"I arrived this morning. You will leave today, and I want to send you off."

"Ah, didn't we visit you a few days ago?"

“It is different. Go and wash up. Breakfast will be ready soon.”

Dong Xuebing had been busy meeting his friends, colleagues, and leaders these few days. He met Qu Yunxuan, Geng Yuehua, Xu Yan, Yu Meixia, and other relatives. He had to eat four to five meals daily and drink with his colleagues and leaders. He drank until midnight last night with some leaders and was still sleepy now.

Breakfast.

Luan Xiaoping grumbled. “The transfer order is out today. Why are you in such a rush to go? Your appointment date is a few days later.”

Xie Huilan laughed. “He wants to drive there.”

Dong Xuebing nodded. “It’s quite far, and I drove a few days. That’s why I got to leave earlier.”

Luan Xiaoping looked at him. “Why must you drive? Taking the plane is much faster.”

“It’s more convenient to drive. If not, I still got to buy a car there.” Dong Xuebing replied.

“Do what you want. I cannot be bothered with you.” Luan Xiaoping pointed to the luggage at the side. “Come back early. I have prepared your luggage for you. I had thrown away that unnecessary stuff. Oh, I had also packed a few local produce for you. Bring them along and give them to your neighbors and friends. Anyway, you got to take care of yourself.” She said and wiped her tears.

Xie Huilan puts down her chopsticks and holds Luan Xiaoping’s hand. “Mum....”

Dong Xuebing stopped eating. “What are you doing, Mum?”

Luan Xiaoping cried. “You had never left my side since you were born. Now, you are going to a mountainous area.”

Dong Xuebing was speechless. “But we are living in two cities now.”

Luan Xiaoping replied. “How can it be the same? Our cities are next, and I can see you whenever I want.”

“You can also see me after I get there. After I settle down there, you can stay with me for a few days. Can you stop crying?”

Luan Xiaoping sniffled. “You are so clumsy and lazy. I am relieved with Huilan by your side. But you will be alone there.”

Dong Xuebing replied. “I am not a kid, Mum. Don’t worry about me.”

Xie Huilan looked at Dong Xuebing. “Remember to call us after you get there.”

Dong Xuebing nodded. “I will not forget to call you all.”

They chatted for a while, and Luan Xiaoping stopped crying. She started nagging Dong Xuebing to take care of himself. He knew she was worried about him and did not want him to leave. He listened to her naggings and did not stop her.



In the end, Luan Xiaoping said. "Alright. I will leave some time for your wife."

Xie Huilan rubbed her tummy and smiled. "Our son will be born in a few months. You should know education is vital for a child. Haha.... You better achieve outstanding results and transfer back fast, or our son will be closer to me in the future."

Dong Xuebing replied unhappily. "No."

Xie Huilan drank her porridge. "Try coming back after two or three years and see if our child can recognize you."

Dong Xuebing panicked. "Huilan, can you stop threatening me like this? Fine... I will try to return within six months."

Luan Xiaoping interrupted. "Can you return within six months?"

Dong Xuebing paused for a second. "I will try my best."

Xie Huilan looked at the time. "It's time to go to work. You are going back to your office to pack your stuff, right? Let's go."

"Ok. Oh, I need to discuss something with you."

"What is it?"

"Err.... Can you let me drive your Land Rover?"

"Don't you have your car? Why do you want to drive mine?"

"Sigh... I am going to a mountainous region, and the road conditions will be bad. There will be potholes everywhere. How can I drive a sportscar there? Your Land Rover is more suitable for those conditions."

"Hehe.... Nope."

"What conditions do you have?"

Xie Huilan looked at Dong Xuebing and laughed. "Kiss me, and I will lend you my car. Haha...."

Dong Xuebing blushed. "Mum is looking at us." He turned to Luan Xiaoping and pointed at Xie Huilan. "Look at her. She is always teasing me."

Luan Xiaoping smiled. "Just give her a kiss."

"Huh?! Mum, why are you siding with her?" Dong Xuebing was speechless.

Xie Huilan crossed her legs. "Mum had spoken. Did you hear what she said?"

"Fine... fine.... I will kiss you." Dong Xuebing walked over to Xie Huilan and kissed her lips.

Xie Huilan laughed and took out her keys. "Here."

Dong Xuebing gave Xie Huilan his Porsche key. "I will remember this. You must kiss me first before I help you with anything."

“You dare?!”

“You think I don’t dare?! You will know when the time comes.”

“You two....” Luan Xiaoping laughed and shook her head.

The bickering between them livens the mood.

Morning.

Discipline Inspection.

Dong Xuebing packed his stuff and went to every leader's office to bid farewell. Deputy Secretary Zhan Guiping was closest to him and chatted longer. They had a farewell dinner a few days ago, but Zhan Guiping was still reluctant to see him go.

“Xiao Dong, I don’t want to see you leave. However, this transfer is good for you, and I cannot stop you. I told you what to take note of when you get there, and I shall not repeat those.” Zhan Guiping sighed and said. “The Inspection First Office Director position will open after you leave. We are looking for candidates, and I want your opinions.”

Dong Xuebing thought for a while and asked. “Are the candidates from Inspection First Office?”

“Not necessary. We have not decided or reported to the higher-ups.”

“Old Liu’s father incident at ICBC bank was because of me....”

“Yes. That incident had just quieted down, and we can forget about Liu Hanqing for now.”

“Then I will recommend Luo Haiting. Director Luo is capable and has a flexible working style.”

Zhan Guiping thought for a while. “But she got too little experience.”

“Director Luo might have lesser experience in Discipline Inspection, and she had been working in the government for many years. Also, she should be in her forties, right?”

Zhan Guiping nodded. “Aright. I will put her name up, and it should not be a problem.”

“Thank you.”

“Don’t mention it. My daughter’s legs are treated because of you, and this is nothing compared to that. Xiao Luo is a good candidate too.”

After leaving the leader's office, Dong Xuebing was surrounded by many colleagues again.

“All the best, Director.”

“Please visit us when you are free, Director Dong.”

Luo Haiting, Liu Hanqing, and the rest were sad to see Dong Xuebing leave.

Dong Xuebing also felt the same. He patted Liu Hanqing's arm. "Old Liu, you got to take care of your body. I have some wild ginsengs for you if you need them. Director Liao, you got to take care of yourself. Xiao Zhu, why are you crying? I will be coming back."

After bidding farewell to everyone, Dong Xuebing called Luo Haiting to his office.

"Sorry, Sister Luo." Dong Xuebing said. "I had to transfer you to Discipline Inspection because I need someone trustworthy to assist me. But I am leaving after a few months and got to leave you here alone."

Luo Haiting replied. "Don't say this, Xuebing. It's fine. I got promoted when transferring from the County to the City."

Dong Xuebing said. "I heard from Secretary Zhan that they are looking for the Inspection First Office Director candidate. Yes, I recommended you."

Luo Haiting smiled. "I became Deputy Director six months ago and can't succeed you. I don't even dare to think about it."

Dong Xuebing gave a firm reply. "It should not be a problem."

Luo Haiting was surprised. "My experience...."

"Your experience is not a problem." Dong Xuebing continued. "Secretary Zhan is in charge of the Inspection First Office, and the higher-ups will consider our recommendation. I have also talked to Huilan, and she will speak up for you in the Party Committee meeting. Of course, I cannot guarantee you will get this position."

Luo Haiting was grateful. "Xuebing... thank you."

"It's nothing." Dong Xuebing looked at her. "I told my wife to care for the people close to me. If you face any difficulties, look for her. Her position should not change anytime soon, and she has a say in the city."

Luo Haiting nodded. "I will remember it."

"Take care." Dong Xuebing said. "Thanks for all the help."

"I should be the one thanking you. You had been helping me with my career and family." Luo Haiting's eyes turned red. "Let's stop, or I will cry."

Chapter 1054: Thousand people send-off

Dong Xuebing had planned to grab his stuff and leave after bidding farewell to the leaders. But he chatted with Secretary Zhan and Luo Haiting until almost noon, and his Liu Hanqing and the rest of the Inspection First Office staff dragged him to have lunch at the cafeteria.

After lunch.

"I got to leave now."

“Leave in the evening, Director.”

“We will meet again. I will treat you all to dinner when I return.”

“Take care and drive safely.”

Dong Xuebing had packed his luggage in his car earlier, and he walked to his black Land Rover. He entered and waved to everyone.

A few colleagues waved to him.

Something happened when Dong Xuebing was about to drive out of the compound.

A large crowd of almost a thousand people had gathered outside.

“What is going on?”

“Why are people gathering outside?”

“Are they blocking the exit to protest?”

“Shit. Inform security now! Hurry!”

The civilian crowd was getting more prominent, with people joining in from all directions.

After the previous incident, the City Government Building tightened its security. Even City Party Secretary and City Mayor came out of the building. Xie Huilan and a few city leaders followed behind with some security officers. The Public Security Bureau officers also arrived.

What is happening?

No one knows.

Dong Xuebing could not drive out of the compound and stopped at the exit. He got out of his car and looked at the crowd.

Eh?

These people looked familiar.

Dong Xuebing noticed many familiar faces in the crowd.

Isn't that guy the relative of the kid I saved from the freezing river?

That person is the relative of the kid I saved from the Siberian tiger at the zoo.

Those people are the ones I saved during the earthquake.

Dong Xuebing even saw the people he saved when he was the Deputy Chief of Yan Tai County Public Security Bureau. Some were from the landslide, the teachers from the school where the escaped criminals took them, hostages, etc.....

An old man walked out of the crowd. “Director Dong! We heard you are promoted and will be transferred to a faraway place. We are here to send you off.”

Dong Xuebing walked over. “Sir, you are....”

The old man replied. "You saved my son during the earthquake! You dug him out from the rumble with your bare hands."

Dong Xuebing could not remember as he had saved too many people.

However, the leaders and government staff were relieved when they heard about the old man. These people were not here to create trouble.

The old man pointed to the crowd behind. "These people are the ones you saved and their relatives. We heard you are leaving, and we rushed over from different districts and counties."

Dong Xuebing was stunned.

The leaders and staff behind were shocked. Director Dong had saved so many people?!

During the earthquake, Dong Xuebing saved a few thousand people. He saved at least two thousand people at the District Second Hospital.

The crowd continued to grow.

One thousand....

One thousand five hundred people....

Two thousand people....

"Director Dong! You are one of the few good officials!"

"That's right! Please stay in Fen Zhou City."

"What are you all talking about?! Director Dong is promoted! How can you ask him to stay?!"

"That's right. We are here to send Director Dong."

An old lady walked out of the crowd and grabbed Dong Xuebing's hand. "Director Dong, you have worked in Fen Zhou City for slightly more than two years. I know some people dislike you, and some hate you. I don't care about all this. I only know that someone willing to risk his life for the people is a good person and official! I cannot represent everybody in Fen Zhou City, but I can represent the people here. Director Dong, I thank you on behalf of everybody for your contributions to Fen Zhou City. Thank you for saving our relatives and us. We are not fools. We know who cares for the people."

Dong Xuebing quickly said. "Don't mention it. It's my duty."

The crowd cheered.

"Thank you, Director Dong."

"Please come back to Fen Zhou City!"

"We will wait for your return! This will always be your home."

Dong Xuebing nodded. "Thank you. Thank you, everyone."

The crowd's voices could be heard several streets away.

A few reporters arrived and started taking pictures.

Not only was Dong Xuebing moved by the crowd, but many city leaders and staff were also touched. Fen Zhou City or even Hebei Province had never seen a few thousand people sending off a government official.

This was Dong Xuebing's greatest achievement.

Xie Huilan was glad.

About fifteen minutes later.

"Let Director Dong go."

"That's right. We should not block the roads."

"Let's step aside."

The crowd split, forming a path for Dong Xuebing.

Dong Xuebing waved to everyone and drove his Land Rover out of the City Party Committee Building compound. He only moved around ten meters and noticed the crowd following behind.

Dong Xuebing got out of his car and said. "Please go back."

"Let us send you a while more."

"That's right, Director Dong. Just drive, and you don't need to care about us."

Dong Xuebing got back into his car and drove slowly for a while. The crowd continued to follow him.

Dong Xuebing stopped the care again and said. "I cannot accept such treatment. Thank you, everyone. Please go back."

The crowd refused and continued to follow Dong Xuebing's car.

The crowd walked for almost two kilometers before they dispersed.

Dong Xuebing was moved and felt everything he had done was worthwhile.

Chapter 1055: Meeting a former classmate

Dong Xuebing drove for three days and finally reached his location. His appointment date was a few days later, and he did not immediately report to the City Government. He decided to familiarize himself with the County and experience the local culture.

The roads were bumpy, and most of them were dirt roads.

Luckily Dong Xuebing's Land Rover is one of the world's top off-road vehicles.

Dong Xuebing saw an old man by the roadside, and he stopped the car.

Dong Xuebing got out and asked. "Sir, how do I get to Zhen Shui County?"

"Ah?" The old man looked at Dong Xuebing and started talking in the local dialect.

Dong Xuebing could not understand a single word he was saying.

Dong Xuebing repeated his question slowly. "Sir, how do I get to Zhen Shui County? Which way should I go?"

The old man spoke in the local dialect and understood what Dong Xuebing was saying. However, Dong Xuebing does not understand him. They were in the western secluded mountainous region, and their accent differed from the northern region. This old man does not know how to speak mandarin, and he gave up asking him. He thanked that old man and saw a young man.

"Bro...." Dong Xuebing asked. "How do I get to Zhen Shui County?"

"Zhen Shui County?" That young man looked at Dong Xuebing. "This is Zhen Shui County." He spoke with a thick accent, but Dong Xuebing could still understand.

"Here?" Dong Xuebing paused for a second. "Then where is the County town? Is it far?"

The young man pointed in a direction. "It is behind that hill."

"Alright. Thank you." Dong Xuebing got back into his car.

Dong Xuebing had no idea about National Level Impoverish Counties. Although Yan Tai County was considered impoverished, it was only a provincial-level county. This area was much worse than Yan Tai County. He did not see any private cars besides trucks or old vans on his way here. He could not even see bicycles on the roads. The most vehicles he saw were tractors and large plots of farmland. This place looked deserted, and his 4 million RMB Land Rover stood out. Almost everyone would turn and look at his car. He knew the people here could not recognize his car or the value as a 200,000 RMB local car was a luxury item.

This is what a national-level impoverished County looks like.

Dong Xuebing finally saw more people after driving into the County town. A few cars were traveling on the road. However, there were too few cars and people compared to Yan Tai County. He could estimate the poverty level of Zhen Shui County based on what he saw.

This place was too poor.

There were no high-raised buildings here.

Some neighborhoods do not even have main gates.

Dong Xuebing took a deep breath after discovering what an impoverished county looks like. Even a village in Fen Zhou City is more modern than this area.

How can this place be so backward?

Dong Xuebing wonders if he is still in China.

Dong Xuebing was born in Beijing. Although his family was poor, he was still living in the capital. No matter how bad his living conditions were, it was about the same as the counties on the outskirts. After that, he was transferred to Fen Zhou City and had never been to such places. That's why he was not used to it.

This area was a challenge.

However, Dong Xuebing was not afraid of any challenges.

After Dong Xuebing's father passed away, his mother survived on buns and preserved vegetables for a few years, he had experienced hardships before.

Dong Xuebing drove around the county town.

The living condition here was horrible.

Sportscars could not travel on the roads here with all the potholes and cracks.

Dong Xuebing sighed. He knew Zhen Shui County was a national-level impoverished County and one of the country's top ten impoverished counties. He was glad he did not drive his Porsche. This area does not even have money to repair the roads.

Never mind.

There's no point in looking around anymore.

Dong Xuebing found a better-looking neighborhood and paid for a parking lot. He paid one year in advance to the guards for the lot and parked his car there. Most Beijing or Fen Zhou City places would not allow anyone to reserve a parking lot. But this area was different. The one-year fee was only 1,000 RMB, and he didn't need to worry about causing inconvenience to the residents as most people were too poor to afford a car. He listened to Uncle Yang's advice to stay low, and driving a 4 million RMB car to work would attract unwanted attention.

Alright.

Let's find a place to have breakfast first.

Dong Xuebing decided to get a cab after leaving the neighborhood. He waited for twenty minutes and finally saw one cab with passengers passing by. He shook his head and knew he had forgotten where he was. a poor county will not have many cabs as most people could not afford to take them. Dong Xuebing started walking along the road towards the north to look for any breakfast shop.

In front.

Dong Xuebing saw a roadside stall.

His stomach was rumbling, and he walked over quickly.

It was spring, and the temperature differences between day and night were vast. However, it was not cold during the day. Dong Xuebing sat at a table and shouted. "Give me a bowl of bean curd."

"Ah?" The stall owner was surprised.

"Huh? Your bean curd is sold out?" Dong Xuebing asked.

The stall owner shook his head. "We don't have that here."

"Then what about youtiao?" Dong Xuebing asked.

"We don't have youtiao either." The stall owner looked at Dong Xuebing. "Are you from the north?"

"Yes." Dong Xuebing asked. "What do you have here?"

The stall owner replied. "Milk, eggs, and mantou."



Dong Xuebing was speechless. "Give me a bowl of milk and two hard boil eggs. Thank you."

The milk was pure and tasted different from the northern cities. Although the eggs were not tea eggs, they tasted good too. Dong Xuebing was surprised when he settled the bill. It was very cheap and cost less than a quarter of Beijing. The milk and eggs cost only 1 RMB.

The stall owner returned the change and looked at Dong Xuebing. "Why are you here, young man? We seldom have outsiders here, and you don't look like tourists. Furthermore, who would come to this area for a vacation? Are you here for work?"

Dong Xuebing smiled. "Yes. I am here for work."

The stall owner said. "You must have offended someone and got posted here."

Dong Xuebing replied. "No. It was a same-level transfer."

The stall owner sighed. "Sigh.... You had come to the wrong place. Our County is poor and doesn't have anything. You cannot even spend your money here. Which factory are you working at? We have only a few factories here. Are you working at the leather factory or the livestock farm?"

Dong Xuebing did not answer him and smiled. "This is a good place for training."

"You will not think like this in the future. Anyone with capabilities would leave this area or transfer to other places. Who would come here?" The owner sighed again.

Dong Xuebing wanted to know more about the County and asked. "How do I address you?"

"My surname is Yao."

"Then I will call you Uncle Yao."

"Your accent sounds like you are from Beijing."

"Yes. I was transferred from there."

Mr. Yao paused for a second. "My daughter attended a Beijing university a few years ago and returned to be a civil servant here."

Dong Xuebing blinked. "Which department is your daughter in?"

Mr. Yao replied. "She is with the County Government Office."

"Oh, that is a good department." Dong Xuebing said.

Mr. Yao shook his head and lowered his voice. "What's so good? Our County is too poor, and the salary is meager. It is those leaders who have a good life. My daughter is always angry because of work. If it weren't for her mother and me stopping her, she would have resigned long ago."

Suddenly, a woman said from outside. "Dad! Brother!"

Mr. Yao looked up. "Cui er? Why are you here? Why don't you sleep a while more?"

"I am not working today. Let me help you clean up. Brother, pass me the bowls. I will wash it." A woman took a tray and bowls from a young man.

Dong Xuebing looked at that woman and was stunned. "Yao Cui?!"

Yao Cui heard someone calling her name and turned. She was also surprised. "You are Dong Xuebing?!"

Dong Xuebing did not expect to meet his university classmate in this impoverished County.

Chapter 1056: Yao Cui

The stall owner looked at his daughter and Dong Xuebing in surprise. "Cui er, you know each other?"

Yao Cui walked over. "Yes. He is my university classmate, Dong Xuebing. We were in the same class."

Yao Cui's father laughed. "It's such a small world."

Yao Cui looked at Dong Xuebing. "Why are you here, Xuebing?"

Dong Xuebing smiled. "Work transfer. I am transferred here."

"What are you working as? Why are you posted here? Did you offend anyone?" Yao Cui asked in the same tone as her father.

Dong Xuebing was speechless. Who did I offend?

Yao Cui saw Dong Xuebing's expression and felt she might have misunderstood. "It's fine. This area is not that bad. The air is fresher than Beijing." She looked at Dong Xuebing and said. "We have not met since we graduated three years ago. You still look the same. It's windy outside. Let's chat at my house."

Dong Xuebing asked politely. "Is it convenient?"

Yao Cui pointed to a house. "That's my house."

Yao Cui's father said. "Stay over for lunch. I will buy groceries after I close my stall."

Dong Xuebing replied. "Don't trouble yourself. It's alright."

Yao Cui added. "It's not troublesome. It's not easy to meet a former classmate. Stay for lunch at my place."

"Sis, give me the bowls. I will wash them." The tanned young man walked over.

Yao Cui passed him the bowls. "Oh, I have not introduced them. This is my father, and this is my younger brother, Yao Li. My Mum is cooking eggs at the back. I will introduce her later."

Yao Li smiled.

Dong Xuebing nodded to him.

Behind the stall.

Yao Cui's house is a few meters away from the stall in the adjacent street. It's a small house.

The main road outside is asphalt, and the side roads are all uneven dirt roads.

Yao Cui smiled. "This place cannot be compared to Beijing. The County is poor, and the people here are also poor."

"It's fine." Dong Xuebing looked around and then turned to Yao Cui. "Why didn't you stay in Beijing after graduation?"

Yao Cui shook her head. "It is too competitive there, and I want to be near my parents. They are old, and I need to care for them."

"That's right."

"Here, please come in."

"Ok. Sorry to bother you."

"It's a bit messy. Please sit while I pour a cup of water for you."

This might be Yao Cui's room. It is small but clean.

Dong Xuebing sat on a small bed and looked at Yao Cui pouring water for him. She still kept her short hairstyle from her university days and looked slimmer. She was wearing a long flowery skirt and a white blouse.

Yao Cui.

Dong Xuebing remembered her.

Yao Cui was one of the prettiest girls in the university, and Dong Xuebing's father passed away during that period. His family was poor, and he was ordinary. He kept to himself, and many of his classmates did not even know his name. However, Yao Cui was the only person who spoke to him. It was because her family was also poor. They often ate at a small restaurant in the alleyways because it was cheap.

Many years passed.

Yao Cui was still that Yao Cui.

"Here." Yao Cui passed a glass of water to Dong Xuebing. "What are you thinking?"

Dong Xuebing took the water and laughed. "I missed our university days. Do you still remember we always ate together? I remember your favorite dish is Sichuan shredded pork with garlic sauce."

Yao Cui laughed. "Yes. That small restaurant outside our school is dirty, but the food is delicious. I can eat Sichuan shredded pork with garlic sauce for a week, and I still miss it."

"I will treat you when you go to Beijing."

"Sure. I want to revisit Beijing. Oh, how long will you be working in Zhen Shui County? Are you here for a work trip?"

"I will be here for at least six months to a year."

Yao Cui smiled. "Great. Let's keep in touch. Are you living far from here?"

"I am not sure. My accommodation is not confirmed yet. I had arrived early and had not reported to my workplace."

"So you don't have any place to stay now? Just stay at my place. My brother can sleep with my parents, and you can sleep in his room."

"No need. I can stay at a hotel."

"Why spend your money on a hotel room? Our Zhen Shui County's hotels are worse than the worse hotel in Beijing."

"Are you sure?"

"You don't believe me? Just look at our County Government Guesthouses. Those are thirty to forty years old buildings, and you got to be mentally prepared for your assigned lodging by your company. Our industrial, consumer standards and modernization score are the lowest in our country." Yao Cui said and pointed to a small TV on the table. "Many households in the County town cannot even afford this 21-in color TV, let alone those in the village."

Dong Xuebing looked at Yao Cui. "I heard you had become a civil servant."

Yao Cui swiped her fringe. "Yes. I am working at the County Government office."

"How is it?"

"I am only a staff member, and my job is only printing, photocopying documents, and writing reports. Oh, serving tea is also my job."

Dong Xuebing replied. "It's the same for everyone."

"That's right." Yao Cui sighed. "Everyone says being a civil servant is good, and I only know about it after I enter. Let's not talk about work. I get frustrated when I think about it."

"Oh, are you married?" Dong Xuebing asked.

"Not yet. I have not met the right person yet. What about you?" Yao Cui looked at Dong Xuebing.

Dong Xuebing replied. "I got married last year."

They chatted for a while.

Chapter 1057: Chatting at night

Zhen Shui County.

Yao Cui's house.

"Have a seat here, Xuebing. I will help my mum to prepare lunch." Yao Cui laughed.

Dong Xuebing was surprised. "You know how to cook? How come I did not hear you talking about it in university?"

Yao Cui laughed. "We don't have pots and bowls in our dormitory. I cannot cook even if I want to. I will let you try my food now."

Dong Xuebing nodded. "I am looking forward to it. Alright. I will take a walk first and come back later."

Yao Cui replied. "Ok. Just go ahead."

Dong Xuebing told Yao Cui's parents he was going out and left.

Dong Xuebing returned to his car in the neighborhood and took out some Fen Zhou City local specialties his mother had prepared. It was a few big bags, and he carried them back to Yao Cui's house. It's not nice to not prepare gifts when visiting someone's house.

Yao Cui's house.

Yao Cui and Yao Li were carrying out the dishes from the kitchen.

"You are back." Yao Cui looked at the door."

Dong Xuebing entered the house. "Yes. I went to take something."

Yao Cui's parents walked out and saw Dong Xuebing. "Where did you go? Take something?"

Dong Xuebing smiled and passed the bags to Yao Cui's parents. "I worked in Hebei Province and brought some local produce with me. These are not expensive. Please accept it."

The bags contained dried mushrooms and other dried food.

Yao Cui's father looked at the gifts and accepted them. "Thank you."

Yao Cui's mother waved Dong Xuebing over. "Come and have lunch, Xiao Dong."

Yao Cui said. "These are our local food. I am not sure if it suits your taste."

Dong Xuebing sat at the dining table. "It looks delicious and smells great. I will not hold back."

Yao Cui's father laughed. "Don't feel awkward, and eat as much as possible. Here, try this."

"Sure."

"Xuebing, have some of this."

"Oh, I will help myself."

"I cooked this dish. How is it? Hahaha...."

"Hehe, not bad. I didn't know you were so good at cooking."

Everyone chatted happily over lunch, and Yao Cui's father asked his son to bring out a bottle of Baijiu. Yao Cui drank a small glass, and Dong Xuebing and her father drank the rest.

After a few rounds, Yao Cui's father asked.

"Xiao Dong, are you married?"

Dong Xuebing smiled. "I got married last year."

Yao Cui's father turned to his daughter. "Look at him. Twenty-five is the right age to get married. Why are you not anxious? How long are you going to drag?"

Yao Cui replied helplessly. "I still have not met the right person."

Yao Cui's mother interrupted. "Xiao Dong, do you have any university classmates or friends that are single? Introduce them to our Cui er. She is not young."

Dong Xuebing replied. "I had not kept in touch with our university classmates after graduation. I am not sure."

Yao Cui said. "Can we talk about other things, Dad? Xuebing, I will give you a toast."

Yao Cui's father laughed. "You are always avoiding this subject. Alright, let's drink."

After lunch.

The Baijiu was brewed themselves, and it was intense. Dong Xuebing's legs were wobbly, and Yao Cui's father was also drunk. Yao Cui's mother got to help him up.

Yao Cui's mother said. "I will help your father to his room."

Yao Cui nodded. "I will let Xuebing sleep in my room. I got to return to work in the afternoon."

Dong Xuebing replied. "I am fine. It's time for me to leave. I will visit you all another day."

"No." Yao Cui supported him. "How can we let you go out when you cannot even walk steadily? Your company still has not arranged your lodging. Just take a rest in my room and have dinner here later. Just stay at my house for the night. We are classmates, and you don't need to be so polite to me."

Dong Xuebing replied. "No...."

"It's settled. Let's go." Yao Cui helped Dong Xuebing towards her room. "Brother, come and help."

"Ok." Yao Li ran over and supported Dong Xuebing. "Brother Dong, watch your steps."

Kids from poor families mature faster. Yao Cui knows how to care for others. She helped Dong Xuebing onto her bed and covered him with a blanket. "Take a nap."

Dong Xuebing rubbed his temples. "I am getting sleepy."

Yao Cui smiled. "I got to return to my workplace for a while. My brother is in the next room. Call him if you need anything." She had lived in Beijing for a few years and had a Beijing accent.

Dong Xuebing closed his eyes after Yao Cui left.

Dong Xuebing had not to use REVERSE to recover and took a nap.

The alcohol and Yao Cui's scent on her blanket made Dong Xuebing sleepy, and he fell asleep quickly.

One hour....

Three hours....

Five hours....

It was dark when Dong Xuebing woke up. He looked at the time. It was after 8 pm. He sat up and walked out of the room.

The lights in the north room were on.

Dong Xuebing shouted. "Yao Cui."

The door opened, and Yao Cui came out. "You woke up."

"It's already after 8 pm. Why did you wake me?" Dong Xuebing asked.

Yao Cui smiled. "You were sleeping soundly. You must be tired from the traveling, and I did not call you. Are you hungry? Wait for me in the room. I will heat dinner for you."

"No need. I will eat outside."

"I still have not taken my dinner. I was not hungry earlier when my parents were eating. Let's eat together."

Five minutes later.

Yao Cui's room.

They sat at a small table and had dinner.

Yao Cui was still wearing the same attire as this morning. Maybe it was cold at night, and she wore a pair of thick stockings. Her skirt was wrapped around her hips tightly, and Dong Xuebing could see the outline of her underwear.

Dong Xuebing swallowed his saliva and continued eating. "Have you contacted our former classmates after graduation?"

Yao Cui replied. "I returned home after graduation and did not contact them."

Dong Xuebing replied. "I wonder how everyone is doing. We should have a gathering."

Yao Cui looked at Dong Xuebing and smiled. "Xuebing, I felt you were still the same when I met you earlier today. But after spending a few hours with you, I noticed you are more cheerful, and your temperament has changed."

Dong Xuebing asked. "What temperament are you talking about?"

"I don't know how to describe it. It's just a feeling." Yao Cui laughed and sat upright. "Did you notice any changes in me?"

Dong Xuebing looked at her from top to toe. "You changed slightly. You are prettier and more mature."

Yao Cui rolled her eyes. "You are still the same. Always say nice things to others. Hurry up and eat. I will do the dishes later."

After 9 pm.

Dong Xuebing and Yao Cui sat on the bed and chatted.

They had not met for a few years and were polite initially. As they chatted, they got more familiar and started to joke.

"I am quite happy to see you again." Yao Cui said.

Dong Xuebing replied. "Me too. I did not expect to see you here."

Yao Cui laughed. "I think this is fate. Let's keep in touch more often in the future."

Dong Xuebing replied. "Of course. I will be here for at least six months. I will keep bothering you and will visit your house for meals more often. You must not kick me out."

"Just come. We will welcome you."

Dong Xuebing looked at the time. "It's so late now. You should go to bed."

Yao Cui looked at the time. "It's fine. You slept the whole afternoon, and you should be quite awake now. Let's chat more, and you can sleep in my brother's room. I had told him about it."

"No. I can stay at a hotel."

"What's wrong? Are you looking down on your former classmate?"

"No.... alright. I will stay over at your place tonight."

"That's more like it. Oh, it's cold at night."

"A little. The temperature difference between day and night is quite big."

"I am also feeling a bit cold. Let's get on the bed and cover our legs with the blanket."

Yao Cui took off her shoes and got on the bed. She sat against the headrest and covered her legs with the blanket. Dong Xuebing also took off his shoes and sat against the wall opposite her. He also covered his legs with the blanket.

They sat opposite each other with their legs under the blanket.

When Dong Xuebing adjusted his position, he felt his legs touching a pair of legs covered in stockings. His heart skipped a beat, and he quickly moved his legs away.

Yao Cui did not mind and continued to chat with Dong Xuebing.

"Do you still remember Ruhua from our university?"

"Yes. What happened to her?"

"I heard she got married to a handsome guy."

"Ah?! Are you sure?!"

"Of course. I got her wedding photos. Let me show you."

Chapter 1058: Sleeping together

Yao Cui's room.



Both chatted about their university days and their classmates. Dong Xuebing was surprised. "Our university classmates are amazing."

"That's right. I had only followed them online and had not contacted them."

"Oh, we can know their updates online?! I seldom go online."

"I had added them on QQ and saw their pictures and updates."

"Oh, but Ruhua's husband is quite good-looking."

"That's right. Hahaha.... We cannot judge a book by its cover. We never know what will happen in the future. You guys gave her the nickname Ruhua because she is not pretty, but she has a better life than me. Do you know about that guy who likes to boast? That tanned guy?"

"I remember him. He used to woo you."

"Sigh.... Don't bring this up again. Can you guess what he is doing now? He joined the government service and is a leader now. I heard he became a Deputy Section Chief at twenty-five. His rank is the same as my Office Department Deputy Chief. Sigh.... Look at me. I had been working for three years and am still a staff member, and my job is to serve others."

"Bear with it, and you will be fine."

"I will never rise above the others."

"You should not have any problems. Your results in university are good, and the County Government should have overlooked you. Are you on bad terms with your leaders?"

"I feel embarrassed to talk about it."

Dong Xuebing looked at Yao Cui. "Why are they targeting you?"

Yao Cui shook her head. "You don't understand how the government service work. It's complicated."

Dong Xuebing smiled. "Which department are you working in, the County Department?"

Yao Cui replied. "Secretary First Section."

Dong Xuebing remembered it. "You have been working for three years and are a graduate. Graduates might be worthless in Beijing, but it should be rare here. I think you should be promoted soon."

"How can I get promoted? I don't know anyone among the higher-ups." Yao Cui shook her head.

Dong Xuebing laughed. "Let's have a bet. I promise you will be promoted within this week. Remember to give me a treat after you are promoted."

Yao Cui laughed. "I will do anything you want if I get promoted within a week. Hahaha.... How is it possible? If I am promoted, I will be a Deputy Chief, a Deputy Section Chief rank. I know where I stand, and it will never happen."

"Then let's bet."

"On. You always lose when we bet. Hahaha.... You treated me to Sichuan shredded pork with garlic sauce once because you lost."

"Huh? You still remember this? I thought you had forgotten about it."

"How can I forget about it? My family was poor, and we spent almost all our savings to send me to Beijing. I knew I had to go out with my classmates after school to build relationships, but I dare not. I don't want to spend my parent's money. That's why I am not close to my classmates and have few friends. Many people said I am a loner, and you are one of my few friends. Although we did not talk much, I felt we were close. That's why I still remember everything."

"I am also a loner, then."

"That's why we can be friends. Haha... oh, I will bring my laptop over to show you our classmates."

"Ok."

They chatted and forgot the time.

10 pm....

11 pm....

Midnight....

Next morning.

It was morning when Dong Xuebing opened his eyes. The sun was bright and turned away from the windows. He felt his body aching and uncomfortable. He recalled what happened last night.

Sigh....

I was chatting with Yao Cui, and when did I fall asleep?

Dong Xuebing moved and looked around. He was still in Yao Cui's bedroom, and the clock showed it was 6 am. His leg felt something smooth and warm when he was still puzzled about why it was so bright at 6 am. He looked down and got a shock. Yao Cui was sleeping on the other side of the bed!

They were sleeping opposite each other and not side by side. They must have fallen asleep while chatting, and the laptop on the side table was still on.

Dong Xuebing looked under the blanket and saw what his leg touched. Cold sweat broke out from his forehead.

It was Yao Cui's thighs!

Dong Xuebing's leg was positioned in between her legs. Yao Cui's skirt had pulled up to her thighs when she was sleeping, and he could see her pink underwear against his feet.

Sh\*t!

Dong Xuebing quickly pulled back his leg and put down the blanket. This action caused the air under the blanket to gash out. He could smell Yao Cui's body scent.

She smells so good.

This is not the time to think about this.

Yao Cui woke up because of Dong Xuebing's sudden movement and opened her eyes slowly. She yawned. "Huh?"

"You are awake." Dong Xuebing said.

Yao Cui was shocked and quickly sat up. She was relieved when she saw Dong Xuebing opposite her, and they were still wearing their clothes. "I got a fright." She looked down and saw her blouse pulled down slightly, exposing her cleavage. She blushed and quickly hid her body under the blanket to tidy her clothes.

When Yao Cui adjusted her skirt, her legs touched Dong Xuebing's legs. It was a single bed, and they were lying opposite each other. There was no way they could avoid body contact. Luckily, he had better self-control now and did not show weird expressions.

Dong Xuebing said. "You fell asleep last night."

"You also fell asleep. I only remember we were looking at my laptop and chatting about our classmates." Yao Cui replied helplessly. "We were too engrossed."

Dong Xuebing apologized. "Sorry."

Yao Cui waved her hand. "It's fine. Let's get up."

Dong Xuebing nodded. "Yes. It's time to get up."

They did not change into their pajamas last night and did not need to get dressed.

Dong Xuebing got out of bed and wore their shoes. He looked at Yao Cui and saw the crease on her clothes.

"I got to change." Yao Cui looked at Dong Xuebing.

Dong Xuebing quickly replied. "I will wait for you outside."

Yao Cui laughed. "Ok. I am not working today. Let me bring you around Zhen Shui County. Although this place is poor, we still have many interesting places and good food."

"No need. I can go around by myself."

"It's not easy to have a classmate come here. I got to be a good host."

"Err... Ok. I will wait outside."

"I will be out after I change."

When Dong Xuebing was about to leave the room, someone knocked on the door.

“Sis! Sis!” It was Yao Cui’s younger brother, Yao Li.

Yao Cui grabbed Dong Xuebing’s hand subconsciously. “What is it?”

Dong Xuebing felt his heart racing when he held Yao Cui’s hand.

Yao Cui signaled to Dong Xuebing, asking him not to say anything before letting him go.

Yao Li shouted outside. “Are you awake?”

“I am getting up. What is it?” Yao Cui asked.

Yao Li said. “Your friend is still in my room and seems to be still sleeping. Dad and Mum asked me to call you all to eat breakfast, and I don’t want to wake Brother Dong.” Yao Cui had told them Dong Xuebing would be sleeping in Yao Li’s room, and they thought he was still sleeping.

Yao Li was relieved. “Xuebing had driven many hours yesterday and should still be sleeping. Go and help Mum and Dad at the breakfast stall. I will wake him later.”

“Ok. I am going.”

“Yes.”

The footsteps got further, and Yao Li seemed to have left.

Yao Cui relaxed after her brother left. She had lied in front of Dong Xuebing and was embarrassed. “When you go out.... Err....”

Dong Xuebing replied. “I will go to your younger brother’s room and pull out the blanket.”

Yao Cui nodded.

Dong Xuebing walked to the door and ensured Yao Cui’s parents had gone out. No one was around, and he walked out. He closed the door behind him and entered Yao Li’s room. He messed up the bed and folded the blanket before leaving to wash up with Yao Cui.

It felt like he was having an affair with Yao Cui. He looked at her and started imagining things.

Chapter 1059: Dong Xuebing’s appointment

The sky was clear, and the clouds looked like cotton candy.

A City Party Committee Organization Department registration plate car drove into Zhen Shui County. The local Organization Department Executive Deputy Minister Meng Yiguang sat in the rear passenger seat with Dong Xuebing. He had reported to the City Party Committee, and this was his official first day. He saw the condition of the car and got a better understanding of the City’s financial status. Any department’s deputy chiefs in Fen Zhou City were assigned an Audi A6 or a Passat. When Dong Xuebing worked at Yan Tai County Investment Promotion Agency, he drove a Camry, and all departments were given this model. However, the City Organization Department’s No. 2 car was a domestic car worth around 100,000 RMB. Not only Zhen Shui County was poor, but even the local city was also poor too.

“Mayor Dong.” Meng Yiguang said. “I saw your files. You are a graduate of Beijing and have worked around that region.”

Dong Xuebing replied. "Yes. I worked in Fen Zhou City."

Meng Yiguang looked at Dong Xuebing. "I need to warn you. This place is poor, and I believe you have noticed it. You must be prepared as it will be tough. I am not saying you are unable to take on this position. This place, especially Zhen Sui County, is too poor. I am a local and saw what happened to Zhen Sui County over the years. Nothing had changed after so many years. Sigh.... We lack resources and do not have any outstanding industry. The county could not develop, and the past few leaders could not solve this problem."

Dong Xuebing smiled. "I understand, Minister Meng."

Meng Yiguang nodded. "I hope you know what is going on."

"I arrived two days ago." Dong Xuebing said. "I had looked around the county. Although the environment is poor, the people are nice, and I like this place."

Meng Yiguang nodded. "You are right. The locals are nice and down-to-earth. You will know them better in the future."

Meng Yiguang thought nothing about Dong Xuebing as he knew the latter was here to gain experience and would leave in one or two years. He was only surprised by Dong Xuebing's age. He does not know about Dong Xuebing's background and knows it is meaningless to ask. Fen Zhou City was several provinces away, and he could not find out about his background and abilities. The government here seemed to have lost touch with the rest of the country. This place is poor, and the leaders here do not have many friends. They only focused on their area and were not interested in what happened in other provinces, let alone a lowly ranked Dong Xuebing. They were more interested in the Provincial leaders, like what old Yang said. All connections and backgrounds will not work at the grass root level. Dong Xuebing got to start from scratch, and no one here will care if you have a Deputy City Mayor wife.

This is Dong Xuebing's challenge.

Dong Xuebing knew and was prepared. No one knows him, and he can finally get rid of the God of Plagues nickname and start afresh. He can make new connections and get results. This was his plan.

Six months.

Dong Xuebing must achieve outstanding results within six months and return as a Division Chief.

Zhen Shui County.

County Party Committee building.

The guard had informed Zhen Shui County leaders when the car reached. All the leaders and staff quickly walked out.

Main building. The car stopped.

Meng Yiguang and Dong Xuebing got out of the car.

Looking at the County Party Committee building will tell a lot about the County's financial status. Yan Tai County was considered a poor county. Still, the government buildings and Party Committee Building were equipped with the latest LCD TVs and PCs. Dong Xuebing sighed when he saw Zhen Shui County Party Committee Building. The ground and walls were cracked, and some

windows on the second floor were broken. The place was covered with dust, and it seemed like no one had cleaned it for ages.

The cafeteria was a big tent.

This office building was at least 40 years old.

There were almost no cars except for a few vans in the parking lots and a few bicycles and electric bikes outside.

This was the first time Dong Xuebing saw such a rundown government building, and he was shocked. This place was too poor, and the building value.... His Land Rover might be worth more than this building.

Since I am here, I should make the best out of it.

Dong Xuebing wants to bring Zhen Shui County out of poverty. He needs to start somewhere and cannot rush.

“Minister Meng.”

“Minister Meng.”

Many people greeted Meng Yiguang.

Meng Yiguang nodded. “Where are Secretary Meng and Mayor Jiang.”

A staff quickly replies. “Mayor Jiang will be here soon, and Secretary Meng went to the Province yesterday.”

Meng Yiguang nodded. “Let’s go to the meeting room.” He said and walked towards the office building with the County leaders following behind.

Some of the staff looked behind Meng Yiguang and saw Dong Xuebing. There was no one else, and they knew he was the new County leader. They were shocked.

Young....

This guy should be in his twenties at most.

Because Zhen Sui County was too far, only a few leaders knew a capable and young leader would be transferred to their county. However, Dong Xuebing’s resume only states his achievement briefly. Saving others during the earthquake. It’s normal for government staff to save a few people in a disaster. Saving others from drowning is also expected; his resume did not state how long he was underwater. Other than Fen Zhou City people, only a handful knows about him. That’s why no one thinks much about his results. They only focus on his age. Dong Xuebing was the youngest Deputy Division Chief in their province.

A few staff members upstairs saw Dong Xuebing and discussed it among themselves.

At this moment, a slim figure walked out of the building. Dong Xuebing’s heart skipped a beat when he saw her body. High heels, tight pants, and a blouse. He knew this person must be a beauty without looking at her face. He looked up, and his heart almost stopped. This woman looked like she was in her thirties and had a special aura. She could grab everyone’s attention, and Dong

Xuebing was one of them. He did not expect to meet such a beautiful woman in an impoverished place.

Meng Yiguang smiled. "Mayor Jiang."

The woman walked over. "Sorry to keep you waiting. I was in a meeting."

Meng Yiguang replied. "It's fine. Let me introduce myself first. This is Dong Xuebing." He turned to Dong Xuebing. "This is Zhen Shui County Mayor, Jiang Fangfang."

Mayor?

This woman is the Mayor?!

Dong Xuebing did not show any expression and shook her hand. "Nice to meet you, Mayor Jiang. I am new here, and please take care of me." Just a year ago, he had to shake a County Mayor's hand with both hands respectfully. But now, he does not need to do that.

Jiang Fangfang looked at Dong Xuebing for a second and shook his hand. "Secretary Meng had gone to the Province to get funding. I welcome you on behalf of Zhen Shui County and the County Party Committee."

Jiang Fangfang's hand is thin and smooth.

Dong Xuebing could smell her scent, and she smelled good.

Dong Xuebing does not want to let go of her hand. He will be working with her in the County Government, which is better than working with old men.

"Is the meeting room ready?" Meng Yiguang asked.

Jiang Fangfang nodded. "Almost all the leaders are here."

"Secretary Meng cannot return in time?"

"I called him, and he will not be back today."

"Alright. I will read the appointment order first."

Everyone entered the old meeting room.

Chapter 1060: County Mayor Jiang Fangfang

The appointment letter was read out, and Dong Xuebing was officially appointed.

After a welcome lunch at the rundown cafeteria, Meng Yiguang left with his driver. Dong Xuebing noticed he was holding his stomach before he went and seemed uncomfortable. The food at the cafeteria was average, and most of the dishes were vegetables. For a meat lover like Dong Xuebing, he did not enjoy it.

Everyone returned to their offices after the Zhonghua car left.

Dong Xuebing does not know anyone at the lunch as they had not introduced themselves.

"Mayor Dong." Jiang Fangfang called Dong Xuebing.

Dong Xuebing looked at her. "Mayor Jiang.

Jiang Fangfang said. "Let's talk in my office."

Dong Xuebing nodded and followed Jiang Fangfang into the building.

Mayor Office.

It was a simple office, and the PC was very old.

Dong Xuebing thought the top county leader's offices would be different and did not expect them to be so impoverished.

"Have a seat." Jiang Fangfang walked to the hot water flask. "I have run out of tea leaves. Is water fine?"

"Let me do it." Dong Xuebing said and saw she had poured a cup of hot water. "Thank you." He did not see any hot water dispenser or electric kettle in the office, but he saw a pantry on its way up. She must have gotten the hot water from there. The water here is drinkable, but it has an alkaline taste. He did not mind as he was getting used to the environment here.

"You should have seen the situation here." Jiang Fangfang sat on the sofa. "You might not get used to it when you just arrive. You will be fine after a while."

Dong Xuebing nodded and waited for her to continue.

"We don't know each other, and you might not understand me. This meeting is for us to know each other better." Jiang Fangfang said.

Dong Xuebing smiled. "I would like to know you better too."

"Good. I saw your file. You had worked in the Investment Promotion Agency before."

"Yes. I worked in Yan Tai County for around six months."

"Your leader stated in your file that you are outstanding in attracting investments. I hope you can take charge of investments here too."

"Sure. I will try my best."

"You will be in charge of other areas. However, Secretary Meng has gone to the provincial government, and I am not sure when he will return. So, your work arrangements will have to wait for a few days. Let me know if you need anything."

"Ok. I will familiarize myself here as soon as possible."

"I am looking forward to your performance."

They chatted for a while but did not talk much, as this was their first meeting.

Jiang Fangfang picked up the phone on her table. "Director Ma, come to my office." She hung up the phone and turned to Dong Xuebing. She extended her hand to him. "That's all."

Dong Xuebing shook her hands. "I will leave now."



The door opened, and a man in his thirties entered. "Mayor Jiang, Mayor Dong."

Jiang Fangfang said. "Accompany Mayor Dong to his office."

"Yes." Ma Lin extended his hand. "This way, Mayor Dong."

Dong Xuebing was still thinking about Jiang Fangfang's body after leaving her office. He noticed she was calm. She looked calm, had a faint smile and a calm temper, and spoke calmly. It seemed that she was unfazed by anything except for the first time they met. When Minister Meng introduced them, he noticed Jiang Fangfang staring at him for a long time. He wondered what she was thinking, and she returned to a calm state like a puddle of still water after that.

That look in Jiang Fangfang's eyes was abnormal.

Why did Mayor Jiang look at me like that? Was she trying to show her power? What can that stare do?

Dong Xuebing stopped thinking as he could not get any answers. He needs to get to know her better before he can guess what she is thinking. He needs time.

Dong Xuebing turned to Ma Lin. "Director Ma, you are...."

Ma Lin slapped his forehead and smiled. "I forgot to introduce myself. I am the County Government Office Department Director, Ma Lin."

This guy is Yao Cui's direct leader, and Dong Xuebing shakes his hand. "Nice to meet you, Director Ma. I will have to trouble you a lot in the future."

"No problem. Just let me know if you need anything. The Office Department's duty is to serve the leaders."

Dong Xuebing looked into the Secretarial First Section when he walked past, and he did not see Yao Cui. He did not see her in the morning and did not see her during lunch. She must have fallen sick, and he decided to visit her tonight.

They reached Dong Xuebing's office in no time.

Ma Lin opened the door. "This is your office, Ma Lin. I asked someone to clean it two days ago."

The office layout was about the same as the Mayor's office. The computer and table were clean but old.

Ma Lin took out a bunch of keys. "These are the keys to your apartment at the family quarters. I cleaned your apartment too." He paused for a second and smiled. "However, we might not be able to assign you a car. Only Mayor Jiang and Secretary Meng had cars, and the other leaders had to share the county government cars. If you need to use the car, you must book it two days in advance unless it is an emergency. Or else you might not get a car. We only have a few cars and have too many leaders."

"Alright. I understand."

Ma Lin spoke politely to Dong Xuebing. He was only a County Office Department Director. Dong Xuebing is a Deputy Mayor and a County Party Committee member.

There was another important reason.

Dong Xuebing is not an ordinary Deputy County Mayor. He is appointed as Zhen Sui County Government's Executive Deputy Mayor.

An Executive Deputy Mayor is second to the Mayor and oversees the County Office Department. That's why Ma Lin had to watch what he said in front of Dong Xuebing.