

PAW 1061

Chapter 1061: Former classmate's troubles

It was time to knock off.

The sun was setting, and the sky was red. Dong Xuebing followed the address to a neighborhood near the County Party Committee building. He went upstairs and took out his keys.

Dong Xuebing's apartment.

Dong Xuebing looked around and lit a cigarette.

He was prepared for the harsh surroundings. This building is at least thirty years old, and cracks were everywhere. Some of the paint had peeled off. Luckily, the old apartment was clean. Although the TV, PC and air conditioner were old, it was better than none. He knew his apartment was much better compared to other leaders, and he was not unhappy.

Dong Xuebing snubbed his cigarette in the ashtray after he finished.

Dong Xuebing did not expect the higher-ups to give him the County Executive Deputy Mayor position. He thought he would only be a Deputy County Mayor and a County Party Committee member. He almost jumped with joy when he saw the transfer order. An Executive Deputy Mayor is different from a Deputy Mayor. A Deputy Mayor oversees some departments, and an Executive Deputy Mayor assists the Mayor in managing the County Government. A newcomer will typically be in the last or second last position in the Party Committee. However, he is positioned third or fourth as an Executive Deputy Mayor. With results and experiences, he might reach a higher level. How can he not be excited?

Dong Xuebing slowly understood why the higher-ups gave him this position after arriving at Zhen Sui County. He had gotten this position because this place was too poor. He would not get this position if he were posted to another county.

This was an excellent opportunity for Dong Xuebing.

Dong Xuebing must gasp at this opportunity. His starting point will be different if he can achieve results here. He can save a few years of hard work if he can succeed here.

After 6 pm.

Dong Xuebing left his apartment and walked to a bus stop. He looked at the sign, hoping to find a bus to go to Yao Cui's neighborhood. His luggage was still in his Land Rover, and he needed to get it, or he could not sleep tonight.

This bus does not go there.

Hmm... this bus also does not go there.

The county is so poor that the Executive Deputy County Mayor does not have a car, and there are very few cabs around. Dong Xuebing could only wait for the bus.

It has been years since Dong Xuebing took public transport.

The frequency of the buses was slow. Dong Xuebing had waited for a long time when a domestic brand, Chang An, sedan drove past him and stopped. Jiang Fangfang sticks her head out of the car.

Dong Xuebing was surprised. "Mayor?"

Jiang Fangfang looked at the bus stop sign. "Are you waiting for the bus?"

Dong Xuebing nodded. "I left my luggage on the other side of the town. I am going to get it."

Jiang Fangfang nodded and got out of the car. She turned to her driver. "Send Mayor Dong to get his luggage."

The middle-aged driver was surprised. "I will send you to the family quarters first. It's quite far from here."

Jiang Fangfang replied calmly. "I will walk back myself. It's not that far. Just go." She said and turned to Dong Xuebing. "Let Old Wang send you."

Dong Xuebing quickly says. "How can I let you walk back? No...."

Jiang Fangfang smiled faintly. "It's fine."

Jiang Fangfang turned and walked away slowly.

Dong Xuebing rubbed his nose. "Thank you, Mayor Jiang."

Jiang Fangfang waved slowly without turning back.

Dong Xuebing accepted this favor, or he might offend Jiang Fangfang. He waited until she walked away before getting into the car. He sat in the front passenger seat as this was not his car.

The driver, Old Wang, asked. "Where are you going, Director Dong?"

"I am not sure of the exact location. It is towards the west, not far from here." Dong Xuebing replied.

"Ok." Old Wang turned the car and started driving towards the west.

Old Wang glanced at Dong Xuebing while driving and asked. "Mayor Dong, do you know Mayor Jiang before?"

Dong Xuebing was puzzled. "No. What's wrong?"

Old Wang paused for a second. "Nothing. I just felt Mayor Jiang treats you differently. Sigh.... I am not good with words. Please don't be offended."

Dong Xuebing will not get offended and was interested to know more. "Why do you say this?"

Old Wang replied. "Everyone in our County knows Mayor Jiang had never lent others her car and had never asked me to send anyone. Even when the other leaders needed to use a car urgently, Secretary Meng let them use his car. She had never lent anyone for years, and you are the first person. That's why I thought you all knew each other before."

Dong Xuebing replied. "I met Mayor Jiang for the first time today."

Old Wang was puzzled. Mayor Jiang had kept a distance from everyone and always had a calm composure. He had never seen her treat anyone as she did with Dong Xuebing. A Deputy County Party Secretary tried to borrow her car, and he was rejected. Why did she let Dong Xuebing sit in her car? She is a cleanliness freak and does not like others to touch her things. He looked at Dong

Xuebing again and was curious about what was so special about him. Other than he is slightly younger, there was nothing special about him.

Dong Xuebing also noticed something weird from what Old Wang said and thought about the look in Jiang Fangfang's eyes this morning.

I can understand if she wants to pull me to her faction.

But it was not so simple from what Old Wang said.

Never mind. I will know in the future.

They reached the neighborhood.

"You can drop me here." Dong Xuebing opened the door.

Old Wang replied. "I will send you back after you get your luggage."

Dong Xuebing replied. "No need. I still have something on and will take a bus back later."

"Err... ok." Old Wang treated Dong Xuebing respectfully because of Jiang Fangfang's attitude towards the latter. "Call me if you miss the bus. I will come and pick you up."

"Sure. Thank you."

"Don't mention it. I will go back now."

"Ok. Drive safely."

"Yes. Thank you."

Old Wang drove the Chang An sedan away.

Dong Xuebing entered the neighborhood and found his Land Rover. He opened the boot and took out two large suitcases.

The suitcases were heavy. Luckily, Yao Cui's house was not far.

Dong Xuebing dragged his luggage to Yao Cui's house.

Dong Xuebing did not see Yao Cui today and knew she did not come to work. He decided to visit her to show his concern.

Yao Cui's house.

Dong Xuebing put his luggage down and knocked on the door.

"Who is it?" Yao Cui's father asked as he opened the door.

Dong Xuebing smiled. "It's me, Uncle Yao."

Yao Cui's father paused for a second and smiled. "Xiao Dong.... Come in."

Yao Cui's mother stood up. "Xiao Dong, you are here. It's almost dinner time. Have dinner with us."

Dong Xuebing replied. "Huh? I have not taken my dinner. Thank you."

Yao Li was at the dining table, which was full of food. A while later, Yao Cui walked out of her room listlessly. "Oh, Xuebing. You are here." She was in her pajama and looked cute.

Dong Xuebing smiled. "I dropped by for dinner. Haha...."

Yao Cui looked at Dong Xuebing's luggage by the side. "Why did you bring your luggage along?"

"I got my lodging and am bringing my luggage over." Dong Xuebing looked at Yao Cui. "Why do you look so pale? Are you sick?"

Yao Cui nodded. "I caught the flu and applied for a day off from work." She said and sneezed.

Dong Xuebing apologized. "Did you fall sick when you brought me around Zhen Shui County?"

Yao Cui smiled. "It has nothing to do with you. I think I caught the flu last night. Let's eat. You are in for a treat today. We have a lot of food."

Yao Cui's family was hospitable and invited Dong Xuebing to the table.

"Here, try this." Yao Cui covered her mouth and said. "You should stay away from me. Hahaha.... I don't want to spread my flu to you."

Ring... ring... ring.... Yao Cui's phone in her pocket rang. She looked at the caller, and her face changed.

Dong Xuebing looked at her. "What's wrong?"

Yao Cui sighed. "It's my leader."

"Leader?"

"Our County Government Office Department Director, Ma Lin. He must be asking me to drink with him again. He is so irritating." Yao Cui complained, but she had to answer the call.

Chapter 1062: Director Ma is mad

Yao Cui's house.

"Hello, Director Ma."

"Xiao Yao, are you at home? Are you feeling better?"

"Thank you for your concern. I am feeling better, and I can return to work tomorrow."

"Great. We are having dinner with a few leaders from the neighboring County."

"Director Ma, I still have flu and cannot drink."

"I am not asking you to drink. Just come over and accompany them. We are only having dinner. Just put aside whatever you are doing and come over."

"But...."

"Hurry. We are waiting for you."

Du... du... du.... Ma Lin hung up the phone.

Yao Cui's father grumbled. "This Ma Lin is too much. He kept asking Cui Er to accompany his guests whenever he had dinner. What is he thinking? Cui Er is still sick! That guy forced Cui Er to drink lots of alcohol once, making her drunk. Luckily, she is smart and called me to fetch her secretly. She would be taken advantage of if I did not fetch her."

Yao Cui's mother added. "These Government leaders are all bad guys. They always try to take advantage of Cui Er because she is pretty."

Yao Cui interrupted them. "Dad, Mum...."

Yao Li said. "Sis, don't go."

"How can I don't go?" Yao Cui ruffled her hair. "He is my direct supervisor and oversees our Secretarial Section." She covered her mouth and coughed. Dong Xuebing quickly passed her a piece of tissue, and she blew her nose.

Yao Cui's mother looked at her. "You are too sick to go."

Yao Cui's father said. "Just stay at home and eat your dinner. You are not going anywhere today."

"Dad...." Yao Cui replied helplessly. "I am exhausted from work. Director Ma will make things difficult if I don't go."

Ma Lin, Zhen Sui County Government Office Director, serves the County's top leaders and holds much power. He has powerful connections, and Yao Cui's parents know he cannot be offended. But...."

Yao Cui's father let out a 'hmp.' "Just resign if you are unhappy."

Yao Cui retorted. "I had wanted to resign because of these incidents. What did you and Mum say? You all said my brother still has not found a job, and our family needs this income. You all asked me to endure it. Now, you are asking me to resign?!"

Yao Cui's father gave her a stare. "I am afraid something might happen to you."

Yao Li's eyes turned red, and he clenched his fists. "Sis.... It's my fault. I am useless."

Yao Cui knocked on her brother's head and smiled. "I am fine. This had nothing to do with you. Alright. I will not go."

Yao Cui's father said. "Good. Let's eat."

"I have to call him first. Sigh... how should I say it?" Yao Cui held her phone and hesitated. She doesn't dare to call Ma Lin and calls her Secretarial Section's Chief Cai. She knew Chief Cai should be with them. Chief Cai might be a section chief of the Secretarial Section, but she is not holding a Section Chief rank. The County Government Office Department Director, Ma Lin, is only a Section Chief.

Ring... ring....

"Hello, I am on my way. Xiao Yao, have you arrived?" A woman said.

Yao Cui replied. "Chief Cai, I have not recovered and cannot go."

Chief Cai sighed. "Director Ma wants you to go, and he even called you."

Yao Cui pretended to be very sick. "I have a bad headache. Can you help me tell Director Ma? Sorry."

Chief Cai smacked her lips. "Xiao Yao, Director Ma specifically asked you to go, and you are finding excuses. Also, today is our County Executive Deputy Mayor's appointment. He will oversee our County Government, and even Director Ma got to be polite to him. Yet, you did not show up today." Chief Cai reprimanded her and said. "I will let Director Ma know." She said and hung up.

Yao Cui sighed. "I had offended another person." She turned to Dong Xuebing. "Everyone envies civil servants, but they don't know what is going on after joining. The County Government got to entertain all sorts of people, which is frustrating."

Dong Xuebing smiled. "Don't worry. I said you will be promoted within this week."

Yao Cui replied. "Are you still thinking about our bet? I thought it was a joke. Promotion? It's a blessing if I am not transferred out after today's incident."

Yao Li asked. "Sis, what promotion are you talking about?"

Yao Cui replied. "It's a joke by Xuebing."

Dong Xuebing carried on eating and did not explain himself.

"Let's not talk about these things and have our dinner."

"That's right. Let's eat before the food gets cold."

"Xiao Dong, you must eat more."

Dong Xuebing noticed Yao Cui was not in a good mood during dinner. She seemed to be worried about the consequences of rejecting Ma Lin.

Dong Xuebing consoled her. "It's fine, Yao Cui. Don't worry."

Yao Cui forced a smile. "I don't know what Director Ma will do to me tomorrow at work. He.... He is fierce towards his subordinates."

Ring... ring.... Dong Xuebing's phone rang.

Dong Xuebing took out his phone and saw it was Ma Lin calling.

"Sorry, I got to answer a call." Dong Xuebing walked away to answer. "Hello?" After knowing Ma Lin was interested in Yao Cui and constantly forcing her to accompany him to drink, Dong Xuebing's attitude towards him changed.

"Mayor Dong, I am Ma Lin."

"I know."

"I am calling to inform you that a few leaders from a neighboring county are here to discuss cooperation. We will be having dinner at the guesthouse later. Are you...."

“I am having dinner at a friend’s place. You all can go ahead.”

“If the cooperation can succeed, it will....”

“My job scope has not been finalized, and I am unfamiliar with this area. I will not interfere in this cooperation. You can discuss this area with the Deputy Mayor in charge or look for Mayor Jiang.” Ma Lin said he was informing Dong Xuebing but was trying to treat him to dinner. He might accept this invitation this afternoon, but not now.

Dong Xuebing returned and continued to eat.

Yao Cui looked at Dong Xuebing. “Is that your colleague?”

Dong Xuebing nodded. “He invited me to dinner.”

Yao Cui replied. “You should go. You are new and must establish good relationships with your colleagues. You must not be like me, always keep offending others. It would be helpful for your work.”

Dong Xuebing laughed. “It’s fine. I must finish our dinner first, even if I offend them. It’s too delicious.”

Yao Cui’s father laughed. “Xiao Dong is good with words.”

Yao Cui laughed and pointed at Dong Xuebing. “Xuebing is different now. He was reticent during our university days.”

Yao Cui’s mother was surprised. “Are you sure? Xiao Dong seems to be quite cheerful.”

Dong Xuebing smiled. “It’s true. I was an introvert then and only chatted with Yao Cui when eating. Hahaha....”

Dong Xuebing and Yao Cui’s family continued to chat while eating.

Meanwhile.

Ma Lin kept his phone after his call with Dong Xuebing. He was worried and uneasy. Mayor Dong was friendly towards him this afternoon and did not put on airs. Why did he sound cold in the phone call?

Did I offend him?

No.... how is it possible?

Ma Lin thought about it, and his mood changed for the worse.

A middle-aged woman walked over. “Is everyone here, Director Ma?”

Ma Lin looked at that woman and said. “You are here, Chief Cai. They are not here yet. They called earlier and said they would be around 30 minutes late. Oh, where are Xiao Yao and Xiao Zhang? Why are they not with you?”

Chief Cai looked at her watch. “Xiao Zhang should be here soon. Xiao Yao called me earlier and said she was still not feeling well and had a headache. She will not be coming.”

“She is still not feeling well?! She said she was feeling better when I called.” Ma Lin was mad.

Chief Cai paused for a second and said. “Maybe her condition has gotten worse. Should I ask Xiao Yue to come instead?”

Ma Lin replied angrily. “This Xiao Yao is always giving excuses when I ask her out to accompany our guests. What is she thinking? Doesn’t she know the Office Department has to accompany the County guests?”

Chief Cai could tell Director Ma was in a bad mood because of something else and dare not to retort him. “I... I will give Xiao Yao a call again.”

“She is living nearby, right?”

“Yes. It’s not far from here.”

“Let’s go to her house. I must see her.”

Ma Lin was frustrated by Deputy Mayor Dong’s change in attitude towards him. He got angrier when he heard Xiao Yao was not attending. He could not say anything when Mayor Dong doesn’t give him ‘face,’ but he cannot accept Xiao Yao not giving him ‘face.’ Yao Cui is challenging his authority, and the leaders from the neighboring county are arriving later. He decided to visit Yao Cui at her house.

Executive Deputy Mayor Dong Xuebing was not assigned a car, let alone Ma Lin and Chief Cai. They walked towards Yao Cui’s house, and Ma Lin did not say anything on their way there.

Chief Cai knew Director Ma was angry and knew Yao Cui would be in trouble. Sigh.... This Xiao Yao.... It’s just a dinner and accompanying the guests to drink some alcohol. Why must you reject it?

Chapter 1063: Director Ma was scared away

Yao Cui’s house.

Dong Xuebing and Yao Cui’s family sat in the courtyard to have dinner and chatted happily.

“How is work, Xuebing?” Yao Cui asked.

“I reported to work today and am not familiar with the work yet.” Dong Xuebing said while eating.

Yao Cui looked at Dong Xuebing. “What company are you working at? How’s the benefit?”

Dong Xuebing thought for a while and said. “It’s fine. It’s tough, and the environment is not very good.”

Yao Cui laughed. “This place is like this. You will get used to it.”

Yao Cui’s mother looked at Dong Xuebing. “Yao Li still has not found a job. He is too honest, and not many people want to hire him. The ones who are willing to hire him are doing hard labor. We don’t allow him to work hard labor because his body is not very good. He was sick quite seriously when he was young. Does your company need people? He is already twenty and is jobless.”

Yao Cui's father added. "That's right, Xiao Dong. Can you ask around for him?"

Yao Cui interrupted. "Xuebing is new here. How can he help?"

Yao Li felt terrible. "Mum, Dad, don't worry about me. I will look for a job next week."

Dong Xuebing thought for a while. "I will ask around for him. He should not be able to work at my unit, but getting him a job in other areas should not be a problem. Let's talk about it again."

Yao Cui's mother was happy. "Great. Thank you so much."

Dong Xuebing smiled. "It's nothing. Yao Cui and I were classmates for many years."

Yao Cui's father waved his hand. "Here, Xiao Dong. Let's have some drinks."

Yao Cui rolled her eyes and interrupted them. "Enough, both of you. I will get mad if you all drink again. Both of you got drunk the other day."

Yao Cui's father smacked his lips. "Fine... fine... fine.... I will listen to you."

Dong Xuebing recalled that day he got drunk and slept in Yao Cui's room, and they chatted until very late. He was a bit embarrassed, and Yao Cui blushed when she said that. He quickly cleared his throat and talked about something else.

Outside of the courtyard.

Ma Lin and Chief Cai arrived.

Ma Lin stood outside angrily, and Chief Cai walked over to knock on the door. "Xiao Yao! Xiao Yao!"

Ma Lin was determined to get Yao Cui to accompany him to the dinner. He is the County Government Office Department Director, and Yao Cui is a staff member. She must follow his orders and do whatever he says. She must know her place. She had been rejecting him and refusing to drink. Ma Lin had run out of patience, and he must get her to accompany him today. This visit was also a warning to her.

Inside the courtyard.

"Is Xiao Yao at home?"

Yao Cui turned pale when she heard this voice.

Dong Xuebing asked. "Who is that?"

Yao Cui said softly. "It's our Chief Cai. Why is she here?"

Yao Cui's mother paused for a second. "Err.... What should we do?"

"What else can we do?" Yao Cui had no choice. She cannot pretend not to hear them and opens the door. "Chief Cai.... Huh? Director Ma, you are here."

Ma Lin asked angrily. "What are you doing, Xiao Yao?!"

Yao Cui covered her nose and sneezed. "Director Ma, I am sick...."

Ma Lin shouted. "This is an important dinner concerning our cooperation with another county. You must attend even if you are sick."

Yao Cui tried to explain. "I am afraid I would spread my flu to the leaders."

Ma Lin replied impatiently. "Stop giving me excuses! The leaders will be arriving soon. Get dressed and come with us! You got to look at the big picture!"

Yao Cui got mad too. "Director Ma!"

Chief Cai added. "Go and change, Xiao Yao. You will accompany the leaders to have dinner and don't need to drink today. Hurry."

Yao Cui's parents were furious. Their daughter was sick, and these people insisted she accompanies the leaders. They were angry, but they could not say anything. These two are Yao Cui's direct leaders and the county leaders. They cannot afford to offend them.

Yao Li was burning with rage and looked like he was going to punch them.

Dong Xuebing was different from the rest. He was amused by Ma Lin coming over to drag Yao Cui to the dinner.

"What are you waiting for?" Ma Lin said.

Chief Cai signaled to Yao Cui. "Hurry up, Xiao Yao."

Yao Cui clenched her teeth and stood there.

Dong Xuebing knew it was time for him to step in. But he is not going to say anything. He puts his glass on the table hard, loudly letting out a thud.

Chief Cai looked over and wondered who this person was.

Ma Lin frowned and turned towards the sound. His eyes almost popped out when he saw Dong Xuebing, and he froze.

Dong Xuebing did not say a word or look at them. He continued to eat his food slowly.

Yao Cui's mother panicked. She was afraid Dong Xuebing would offend the local leaders and touched his leg lightly.

When everyone thought Ma Lin would blow his top because of Dong Xuebing's actions, they saw Ma Lin breaking out in cold sweat.

F**k!

Isn't this Mayor Dong?!

Why is Mayor Dong having dinner at Yao Cui's house?!

Ma Lin was stunned, and his back was covered in sweat.

Ma Lin finally understood why Mayor Dong's tone was cold towards him over the phone. Mayor Dong knew Yao Cui and had heard everything from his call to her.

Shit!

Dong Xuebing did not look up or say a word, and Ma Lin didn't dare to speak to him. It would be awkward if he went over to speak to him and he pretended not to see him. Ma Lin was thinking hard to salvage the situation.

Yao Cui said. "Director Ma, I..."

Everyone noticed the changes in Director Ma's face but thought nothing about it.

To everyone's surprise, Ma Lin changed to a caring expression and smiled. "Xiao Yao.... Why didn't you tell us you were having dinner? I would not ask you to come if you had told me. It's fine since you are having dinner. We are going now. Take care of yourself, and remember to take your medicine. Don't come to work tomorrow if you are not feeling well. I will give you a few more days off."

Yao Cui was surprised. "I... I..."

Nobody expected Director Ma to change his tone.

Chief Cai was surprised by Director Ma's change and could not react.

Ma Lin continued. "It's my fault. I should be more concerned about our staff. I thought it was nothing serious when you said you caught the flu. I did not expect your flu to be so serious. Sigh.... Your biggest weakness is you are too hardworking and don't take care of your health."

Yao Cui quickly replied. "It's just a cold. Thank you, Director Ma."

Ma Lin said gently. "Put on more clothes and have a good rest after your dinner. Alright. We will not disturb your rest."

Yao Cui was puzzled. "Err.... Please take care, Director Ma."

Ma Lin glanced at Dong Xuebing and left quickly. He almost tripped himself if not for Chief Cai catching him. Chief Cai was puzzled why Ma Lin was panicking and in such a rush to leave. Why was he a different person after coming here?

Inside the courtyard.

Yao Cui closed the door and returned to the table. She was puzzled why Director Ma changed his attitude towards her suddenly.

Yao Cui's mother asked. "Cui Er.... Why is your leader...."

Yao Cui replied. "I don't know what is going on."

Yao Cui's father was also puzzled. "He looked angry earlier. Why did he change suddenly?"

Yao Cui's mother was worried. "Will he bear grudges against you? Will he pick on you tomorrow or transfer you away tomorrow?"

Yao Cui's face changed. "I don't know."

Yao Cui's mother continued. "But there's no reason why his attitude changed so quickly."

Yao Cui's father was mad. "The County Government Office is a good department. How can you take it if he transfers you to a village or town? Zhen Sui County might be poor, but we have been living in the County town. This place is much better than the villages."

Yao Cui smiled helplessly. "You all are making me nervous."

Yao Cui's father said. "Just be careful at work tomorrow. These county leaders are full of bad ideas and will make your life difficult."

Dong Xuebing replied confidently. "It will not happen."

Of course, it will not happen. Ma Lin will not dare to pick on Yao Cui after meeting Dong Xuebing here.

Chapter 1064: Mayor Dong and Yao Cui were classmates?!

Outside of Yao Cui's house courtyard.

Ma Lin was sweating profusely after leaving Yao Cui's house and not saying anything.

"Director Ma." Chief Cai was confused. "You...."

Chief Cai was Ma Lin's trusted aide, and he replied. "You did not see it?"

Chief Cai blinked. "Huh? See what? I don't know."

Chief Cai's rank was not high enough, and she did not see Dong Xuebing's face today.

Ma Lin sighed and said. "Today's newly appointed Mayor Dong was having dinner at Yao Cui's house."

"Ah?!" Chief Cai exclaimed. "Are you sure?"

Ma Lin replied. "I saw him with my own eyes."

Chief Cai remembered Dong Xuebing had put his glass on the table hard earlier. An ordinary civilian would never dare to do that in front of them, and she finds him familiar. She did not shake his hand this morning and only saw his back.

"Xiao Yao knows Mayor Dong?" Chief Cai asked.

Ma Lin forced himself to calm down. "I think so."

Chief Cai replied. "But... it is Mayor Dong's first day here. How...."

Ma Lin was puzzled too. Mayor Dong should not know anyone here. Why was he having dinner at Xiao Yao's house? Why didn't Xiao Yao say she knew him?! Is she trying to embarrass them? If he had known Xiao Yao and Mayor Dong, he would never force her to accompany the leaders.

F**k!

How are these two related?

Ma Lin thought for a while and stopped suddenly. He turned to Chief Cai. "How old is Xiao Yao?"

Chief Cai thought for a second and said. "I think she is twenty-five this year."

Ma Lin took a deep breath. "Mayor Dong is also twenty-five. Call the office now and check Xiao Yao's resume."

Chief Cai reminded Ma Lin. "The neighboring leaders are arriving soon."

Ma Lin replied. "I know. Check her resume first, or I don't feel at ease."

"Alright. I will call the office now. Xiao Li should be around."

Ma Lin knew who was more critical. The neighboring leaders or Mayor Dong. He cannot attend this dinner, but he must know Yao Cui's relationship with Mayor Dong. He needs to know how he offended Mayor Dong as it concerns his future.

One minute....

Five minutes....

Ten minutes....

Chief Cai hung up her phone and looked uneasy.

"How is it?" Ma Lin asked.

Chief Cai wiped her sweat and said. "I found out. Yao Cui studied at a Beijing university. Lian He University and Mayor Dong were from there too. They seemed to be in the same cohort."

University classmates?!

They are university classmates?!

"No wonder...." Ma Lin looked terrible and finally found out how he offended Mayor Dong. He tried to order his classmate to drink with his guests. No wonder Mayor Dong was unhappy with him. He slapped his forehead and regretted calling Yao Cui. He was slightly relieved as he did not know about their relationship. It was not too late to salvage the situation.

Sigh.... It's easy to offend others and to challenge them to build a good relationship with them.

Ma Lin starts thinking of ways to salvage the situation.

Yao Cui's house.

The dinner was over.

Yao Cui's parents and brother were worried about Director Ma's visit and suddenly changed of attitude.

"I am full. Let me help with the dishes." Dong Xuebing said.

Yao Cui's father stopped Dong Xuebing. "No need... no need.... Let Yao Cui's mother clear it."

Yao Cui's mother added. "That's right. You still have to bring your luggage to your lodging. Let Yao Cui send you."

Dong Xuebing replied. "No.... Yao Cui is not feeling well and should not go anywhere. I can manage myself. Thank you for dinner. I will make a move first."

Yao Cui's father nodded. "Be careful on your way back."

Yao Cui added. "Wait for me. I will get change and walk you back."

"No need." Dong Xuebing replied. "Stay home and have a good rest."

"I feel much better after a hot meal. Wait for me." Yao Cui returned to her room.

Yao Cui wore a pair of jeans and a coat when she returned. She looked much better now.

“Are you feeling better now?” Dong Xuebing asked.

Yao Cui laughed. “It’s only a cold. Do I look so sick until I cannot walk?”

Dong Xuebing did not stop Yao Cui and bid farewell to her family before walking to the bus stop with her.

“Sorry to let you see that today.” Yao Cui said.

Dong Xuebing smiled. “It’s alright.”

Yao Cui replied helplessly. “This is what we civil servants face. We must follow the leader’s orders unless we get connections with the higher-ups.”

Dong Xuebing looked at Yao Cui. “I said you will be promoted recently, and I forgot to ask you where you want to go?”

Yao Cui thought Dong Xuebing was joking with her again and laughed. “Promotion?! I will be satisfied if I am not posted elsewhere tomorrow. Haha.... If I am promoted, I want to be our County Government Office Department Deputy Director. No one can order me to accompany or drink with others once I am a leader, and I can also order Chief Cai around.”

Dong Xuebing was amused. “That’s a good ambition.”

Yao Cui laughed. “I am talking nonsense. How can someone like me become a Deputy Director? I don’t follow orders and have no powerful backing. It will never be my turn. Moreover, I should be thankful if I am not posted away after today’s incident.”

Dong Xuebing laughed. “You never know what will happen.”

Chapter 1065: Selecting a secretary

Zhen Shui County Party Committee Building. Dong Xuebing entered the compound slowly. Today was Dong Xuebing’s official first day at work, and many staff greeted him politely.

“Mayor Dong.”

“Good morning, Mayor Dong.”

“Mayor Dong, good morning.”

Dong Xuebing smiled and nodded to them.

The County Government Office building.

Third floor. Executive Deputy County Mayor office.

Dong Xuebing was early today, and most staff were not at work.

Dong Xuebing noticed his office was clean when he entered. He placed his back on the table and started reading documents. The County Party Secretary was not around, and his duties were not assigned. He was unfamiliar with this area and had no connections to start working immediately. So, he started reading Zhen Shui County documents to familiarize himself with this place. He must be prepared to start work once assigned a task, or people will doubt his abilities.

Five minutes....

Ten minutes....

Knock knock.... Someone knocked on the door.

Dong Xuebing puts down the document and says. "Come in."

The door opened, and Office Director Ma Lin entered. "Mayor Dong."

Dong Xuebing looked at him. "Director Ma. What is it?"

"Are you used to your apartment at the family quarters? Let me know if you need anything or electric appliances. I will get someone to get it." Ma Lin said. All the apartments at the family quarters have standard fittings, and the County Government has no money to get additional appliances for the leaders. Although an electric appliance might not be expensive, Zhen Shui County is poor to afford it. However, Ma Lin offended Dong Xuebing yesterday and is trying to mend their relationship. Even if the county government cannot afford it, he would get it out of his pockets.

Dong Xuebing smiled. "No need. Everything is fine."

Ma Lin was at a loss when he heard Dong Xuebing. He wiped his sweat and stood there. "Mayor Dong, I.... yesterday...."

Dong Xuebing interrupted him. "What happened yesterday?"

Ma Lin paused for a second and said. "Nothing.... nothing...."

Dong Xuebing nodded. "Is there anything else?"

Under the guidance of Xie Huilan and after working in the government for so many years, Dong Xuebing had grown up a lot. He would scold Ma Lin for forcing Yao Cui to accompany him in the past and pick on him today. However, he did not do that now. He made Ma Lin guess what he is thinking because he knew this was scarier than raising his voice. He had to change his working style in a new environment. Of course, Ma Lin had not done anything to Yao Cui, or he would raise his fists yesterday. He is still the same God of Plagues who doesn't care about consequences when he is mad.

Ma Lin saw Dong Xuebing's expression and knew he was asking him to leave. He immediately passed a document to him. "One more thing. These are a few deputy Director resumes. Our County Deputy Mayor is not assigned secretaries or communication staff because of the lack of funds. Our departments are working on minimum manpower. However, our county government will assign an Office Department Deputy Director to assist you."

A secretary?

According to the regulations, a County Mayor and Party Secretary are not qualified to have secretaries. Although they have secretaries, their secretaries are not holding secretarial positions. Their positions are Office Department Deputy Directors. Mayor Jiang's secretary's primary duty is to assist Jiang Fangfang and will not interfere with the Office Department.

Different places have different practices for a Deputy County Mayor secretary.

Ma Lin told Dong Xuebing that Zhen Shui County Deputy Mayors do not have secretaries, but he was different. He can have a secretary because he is the Executive Deputy Mayor.

Pick a secretary?

Who should I pick?

This was Dong Xuebing's first step after getting appointed, which is important to him. He is new here and is unfamiliar with this place. His secretary is critical to his work, and it would be best if he or she is local. He preferred someone young and mature. Actually, he had someone in mind.

Dong Xuebing looked at the Office Department deputy directors' resumes and put them aside. "Call the secretarial section and send the staff member files over."

Ma Lin paused for a second and said. "Alright. I will do it immediately."

A while later, a middle-aged woman entered the office nervously with a stack of files. "Mayor Dong. I am Secretarial Section Xiao Cai."

Xiao Cai?!

This woman is at least fifteen years older than Dong Xuebing, and hearing her call herself Xiao Cai was awkward.

Luckily, Dong Xuebing used it. How they addressed themselves depended on their ranks and had nothing to do with their age.

Dong Xuebing looked at her. "Bring it over, Chief Cai."

"It's all here." Chief Cai placed the files with both hands on the table. Her heart was pounding, and she wondered if Dong Xuebing was offended by her last night. She stood beside Ma Lin and waited for Dong Xuebing.

"Alright. I will look at it." Dong Xuebing started looking at the files.

A while later, Dong Xuebing took out a file and nodded. "How is Secretarial Section One's Yao Cui?"

Ma Lin blinked.

Chief Cai was not surprised and said. "Yao Cui is very hardworking and passionate about her work. She is helpful to everyone, and she can endure hardship. She is a graduate, and her education level is considered high in our County." She praised Yao Cui to the skies.

Dong Xuebing waved his hand. "Does she have any weakness?"

Chief Cai thought for a while and dared not tell Dong Xuebing about Yao Cui's weakness.

Ma Lin interrupted. "Her weakness.... Yao Cui's biggest weakness is that she is too hardworking and does not care for her health. She fell sick yesterday."

Dong Xuebing was amused. Are you telling me about her weakness or trying to praise her?

"I will take her." Dong Xuebing said.

Ma Lin replied immediately. "Sure. I will make the arrangements immediately."

Dong Xuebing nodded. "I know Yao Cui well. We were classmates in university."

"Ah? Is that so?" Ma Lin pretended to be surprised.

Chief Cai said. "No wonder Xiao Yao is so outstanding. She is your classmate." What has outstanding got to do with classmates? Moreover, their university is only a third-tier university in Beijing.

Ma Lin said. "Mayor Dong, I will get Xiao Yao to report to you."

Dong Xuebing waved his hand. "No need. You can wait under the paperwork is settled."

Ma Lin nodded and said. "It should be ready today. I will inform the HR department and settle the paperwork."

As the Executive Deputy County Mayor's secretary, Yao Cui will be promoted to Office Department Deputy Director, a Deputy Section Chief position. The County Organization Department must be informed. Most promotions are decided in Party Committee meetings, but the secretary differs. The party committee will approve it unless Yao Cui has serious issues.

Dong Xuebing had decided, and it was settled.

Dong Xuebing had purposely told them Yao Cui was his classmate because he knew he could not hide it. People will find out sooner or later. The second reason is people might gossip behind his back for picking a female secretary. Few leaders will pick a secretary of the opposite sex to avoid rumors. Telling everyone, they were classmates would stop these rumors. Yao Cui was also the most suitable person to assist him. She is a local, and they know each other well.

No one would say anything if Dong Xuebing picked his former classmate Yao Cui as his secretary. He can also help her in her career.

This is killing two birds with one stone.

Dong Xuebing made this decision after meeting Yao Cui in Zhen Shui County and knowing she worked in the Secretarial Section.

Chapter 1066: Yao Cui is going to be promoted

People started to work.

A few staff members were rushing to the office building because they were late.

Yao Cui was one of them. She had overslept because of her flu medication. She rushed to work after waking up and arrived only 5 minutes before work started.

Damn!

I am going to get scolded again.

Yao Cui locked her bicycle outside the office building and ran into it.

County Government Office Department.

Secretarial Section One office.

Yao Cui saw everyone had arrived, and she was the latest.

"Xiao Yao, why are you so late?" A Deputy Section Chief asked.

Yao Cui quickly explained. "I took flu medicine yesterday and woke up late."

The Deputy Section Chief replied impatiently. "You are full of excuses. This is not your first time coming in late."

Yao Cui replied. "Sorry, Chief Chen. I will be early next time."

"Enough... go and print the documents and pour a glass of water for me." Deputy Section Chief Chen instructed.

Most Secretarial Section staff had worked there for more than five years, and Yao Cui had entered the government service for two to three years. Her job was to do miscellaneous stuff like serving tea or photocopying document.

Yao Cui was used to it and quickly went to the printer.

A girl around Yao Cui's age walked over quickly and gave her a document. "Cui Er, here."

Yao Cui nodded. "Sigh.... I will photocopy it now."

Xiao Hong whispered. "Are you feeling better?"

Yao Cui replied. "I took medication yesterday and feel much better now."

Xiao Hong reminded Yao Cui. "Deputy Section Chief Chen is not in a good mood. Don't talk back to him."

"I understand." Yao Cui replied. "Go back to work, or he will get mad when we talk."

Xiao Hong nodded and said. "Let me know if you cannot finish your work. I will try to help. You are late today, and the leader will surely give you lots of work."

"Thanks, Xiao Hong."

"Don't mention it."

"Haha.... I will go and work."

Xiao Hong and Yao Cui were close in Secretarial Section One and were not close to the rest. The reason was simple. They entered the government service together and were ordered around by their seniors. They tried to help each other, but Xiao Hong was not as pretty as Yao Cui. She also does not have a good figure and does not stand out. The seniors got used to ordering Yao Cui around, and her status in the department was the lowest.

Print document....

Serve tea, pour water....

Yao Cui finally finished all the tasks given to her by her leaders.

When she finally got to rest in her seat for a while, she received new orders.

"Xiao Yao, help me type this document."

"Xiao Yao, the flask is empty. Go and top up the hot water."

Two middle-aged staff started ordering Yao Cui again.

Yao Cui was mad but did not say anything. She had offended Ma Lin and Chief Cai yesterday, and Director Ma's weird attitude toward her made her nervous. She was also late this morning and got to stay low.

Xiao Hong stood up and said. "I will type the document."

The Secretarial Section senior staff said. "Then Xiao Yan will top up the flask. Thanks."

Yao Cui had no choice. She took the hot water flask and went downstairs to the pantry. Their county is poor and cannot employ helpers to clean their offices and get hot water for them.

Suddenly, footsteps got louder.

Chief Cai entered the office.

"Chief Cai."

"Chief Cai."

Deputy Chief Chen and other staff greeted Chief Cai.

Chief Cai nodded and looked at Yao Cui, who was about to get hot water with the flask. "Xiao Yao!"

Chief Cai's voice was loud and sharp.

Yao Cui jumped and thought he had done something wrong. "Sorry, Chief Cai. I took flu medication yesterday and woke up late."

Chief Cai replied. "It's alright."

Yao Cai and all the staff were surprised and looked at Chief Cai. They wondered what was wrong with her. Why she looked like she was in a good mood today?

Chief Cai smiled and asked. "Where are you going?"

Yao Cui lifted the hot water flask. "Oh, there's no more water, and Brother Wang asked me to fill up the flask."

Chief Cai's face changed, and she stared at the middle-aged man. "Why are you asking Xiao Yao to get water for you? Can't you get it yourself?! Huh?" She got mad and scolded the staff. "You are just sitting there and not doing anything every day. Are you expecting to be served every day? Who do you think you are? Huh?"

Old Wang was stunned after getting scolded by Chief Cai.

"Err... Chief Cai..." Old Wang stood up and said. "I... Sorry." He dared not to retort Chief Cai as she was his direct supervisor.

Chief Cai continued. "Go and get the water yourself if you are thirsty."

"Yes... yes.... I will go myself." Old Wang walked over and took the flask from Yao Cui.

What's wrong with Chief Cai today?

Why is she speaking up for Yao Cui? Did the sun rise from the west this morning?

Everyone, including Yao Cui and Xiao Hong, was puzzled.

Chief Cai used to order Yao Cui around in the past. Although she did not ask Yao Cui to get water or serve tea to her, she always picked Yao Cui to entertain guests. Why is she....

“Chief Cai, I....” Yao Cui asked.

Chief Cai’s face changed after scolding Old Wang, and she smiled at Yao Cui. “Don’t call me Chief Cai. You are treating me like a stranger. Just call me Sister Cai.”

Yao Cui was shocked.

Chief Cai asked. “What’s wrong?”

“Nothing....” Yao Cui replied. “Sister Cai.”

“Good.” Chief Cai smiled and held Yao Cui’s hand. “Let’s go to my office to have a chat.”

Chief Cai brought Yao Cui to her office.

Office.

Chief Cai turned and poured a glass of warm water for Yao Cui. “Here, Cui Er. Why are you standing there? Sit.” Yao Cui felt uneasy when Chief Cai called her Cui Er.

“Huh? Thank you, Chief.... Sister Cai.”

“Haha.... Don’t mention it. Sit.” Chief Cai pulled Yao Cui to the sofa and patted the back of her hand. “You know how to keep secrets, Cui Er.”

Yao Cui was confused. “What did I hide?”

Chief Cai laughed. “Stop pretending. I know everything. I might not have been good to you in the past. Please forgive me.”

Yao Cui asked. “What are you talking about, Sister Cai? I don’t understand.”

Chief Cai was about to say something when she heard a commotion outside.

“Director Ma.”

“Director Ma.”

Ma Lin arrived.

Ma Lin looked around and asked. “Where is Xiao Yao?”

Ma Lin usually will not go to the Secretarial Section. As the County Government Office Department Director, he will call Chief Cai or give his orders over the phone. He will not come unless it is an emergency or an inspection. But he came today to look for Xiao Yao.

Deputy Chief Chen noticed something was wrong and said. “Yao Cui is in Chief Cai’s office, Director Ma.”

The office door opened, and Chief Cai and Yao Cui came out.

Ma Lin smiled brightly when he saw Yao Cui. “Are you feeling better, Xiao Yao?”

Yao Cui replied softly. "Thank you for your concern. I am better now."

Ma Lin nodded. "Good. How's work? Did you face any difficulties at work recently?"

Yao Cui replied nervously. "No.... everything is good."

Ma Lin replied. "Ok. Have you heard about it?"

Yao Cui looked at him puzzledly. "Heard about what?"

"You still don't know?" Ma Lin laughed. "You might be moving up soon. Be prepared. Hahaha...."

Moving up?!

A promotion?!

Everyone was stunned.

Yao Cui was also stunned. "I.... Director Ma, where am I going?"

Ma Lin did not answer her. He laughed. "You will know in the afternoon."

Transfer or promotion is sensitive in the city or province, and the leaders will not announce it in front of so many people. However, this is not a taboo at the grassroots level, like in Zhen Shui County. The people here are more direct and are not mindful of these procedures.

Many people could not believe their ears when they heard Yao Cui would be promoted.

Xiao Yao has no backing from the higher-ups and does not have a good relationship with the leaders. How did she get promoted?

Even if Yao Cui was going to be promoted, Director Ma and Chief Cai did not need to be so polite to her.

Chapter 1067: Everyone's attitude towards Yao Cui

Secretarial Section One office.

Ma Lin's words shocked everyone, and he left after saying something to Chief Cai. Chief Cai smiled at Yao Cui and returned to her office.

"Cui Er...." Xiao Hong whispered to Yao Cui. "What is going on?"

"I don't know." Yao Cui replied. "I don't know what they are talking about."

Xiao Hong replied softly. "Director Ma says you are going to be promoted. How come you don't know about it?"

Yao Cui shrugged her shoulders. "I don't know if I am going to be promoted. Why am I going to be promoted?"

Xiao Hong looked at Yao Cui. "Maybe this is a misunderstanding... but how can they make this mistake? Look at Director Ma and Chief Cai's attitudes towards you. Director Ma was more polite to you than the Committee Office leaders. He had come to speak to you, and it must be confirmed. Your new position should be important, or they will not be polite to you. These leaders are smart and will not do unnecessary things."

Yao Cui still does not believe she will be promoted. "I don't think so."

Xiao Hong laughed. "Director Ma said you will know in the afternoon. Let's wait and see what happens then. Haha...."

"Ok."

"You must give me a treat if you are promoted."

"Of course, but I still think it's not going to happen."

Not only Yao Cui thinks like this, but everyone in Secretarial Section One also felt it is impossible.

Old Wang returned with the flask of water and heard what had happened. He turned to Yao Cui. "I'm sorry for earlier, Xiao Yao."

Yao Cui replied. "It's ok."

Old Wang continued. "Congratulations on your promotion."

Yao Cui waved her hand. "It's not confirmed yet, and it might be a mistake."

Several co-workers went over to congratulate Yao Cui and asked what had happened. But she could not answer them.

A few moments later, Deputy Chief Chen entered Chief Cai's office. He wanted to know what was going on. Although his rank is not high, he is still a leader and is very sensitive to the changes around him. He sensed Chief Cai and Director Ma's attitude was different, and he needed to prepare himself.

Knock, knock....

Deputy Chief Chen knocked on Chief Cai's office.

He waited for a second and entered the office.

About five minutes later, Deputy Chief Chen left Chief Cai's office and smiled at Yao Cui. "Xiao Yao...."

Yao Cui immediately stood up. "Chief Chen, what is your order?"

Deputy Chief Chen panicked. "Sit... sit.... There are no orders. I.... erm... I want to ask how is your work?"

Yao Cui replied. "I still have a few documents outstanding. I will finish them before noon."

Deputy Chief Chen replied. "You have just recovered. Take a break. I don't want you to fall sick again. Xiao Li, take over Xiao Yao's work."

Staff Member Xiao Li blinked. "Ah... Yes."

Yao Cui replied. "It's alright, Chief Chen. I can finish it."

Deputy Chief Chen ignored. "No.... You must take a break."

Yao Cui was speechless and wondered what had happened.

After Chief Cai and Director Ma, Chief Chen's attitude towards Yao Cui changed. Everyone can tell Yao Cui's status in the County Government had changed.

But... what is happening?

Where is Yao Cui going?

All the leaders became respectful to Xiao Yao suddenly.

A newly promoted Deputy Mayor walked past the Secretarial Section One office, and he turned back. He entered the office and looked at Deputy Chief Chen. "Xiao Chen, is my document ready?"

Deputy Chief Chen replied. "It will be ready in a minute. Please wait for a while. I will send it to your office later."

The Deputy County Mayor nodded. "I need it urgently. Hurry up."

Deputy Chief Chen replied. "Sure. I will ask them to hurry up."

Deputy Mayor was about to leave, and he turned to Yao Cui with a smile. "This must be Xiao Yao."

Deputy Chief Chen replied. "Yes...."

Yao Cui quickly stood up. "Mayor Lui."

Deputy Mayor Lui smiled at her and nodded. "Carry on with your work."

Deputy Mayor Lui did not say anything and left. At his level, he heard and knew everything.

Everyone in the office looked at Yao Cui differently.

A leader from the Poverty Alleviation Office entered the Secretarial Office to get some materials and documents from Chief Cai. He saw Yao Cui and shook her hand with a smile. "Nice to meet you. You Must be Yao Cui."

Yao Cui quickly shook that leader's hand. "Nice to meet you, sir."

The leader smiled. "You don't need to be so polite to me. Haha.... I still have something on. Let's have lunch together when you are free."

"Huh? Yes...."

"Alright. I shall not bother you anymore."

That leader left.

Everyone knew the leaders' attitude toward her confirmed Yao Cui's promotion.

Chief Cai and Director Ma might have been mistaken. Still, the leaders and the Deputy County Mayor treated Yao Cui politely. This should not be a mistake, and her new position should be powerful. Even if she is promoted to Office Department Deputy Section Chief, the leaders should not show this attitude to her.

Chapter 1068: Yao Cui's transfer order is out

Although everyone in the Secretarial Section does not know what happened, their attitude toward Yao Cui changed because of the leaders.

Yao Cui does not need to do anything this morning. The rest did all her tasks.

The other staff took over Yao Cui's duties of serving the leader's water.

Yao Cui had nothing to do and sat chatting with Xiao Hong at her table. She was not used to it and felt uneasy. She still does not believe she would be promoted and tried to do work. But she was stopped immediately by Deputy Section Chen.

Xiao Hong laughed. "Cui Er, you are in luck."

Yao Cui gave her a stare. "Stop teasing me. This might be a mistake."

Xiao Hong replied. "Even Deputy Mayor Lui said hi to you. How can it be wrong?"

Yao Cui replied helplessly. "That's why I am speechless. Deputy Mayor Lui should not be so nice to me even if I am promoted to Deputy Chief. This is weird."

Xiao Hong giggled. "Maybe a leader is interested in you and wants to promote you."

Yao Cui replied. "This is too sudden, and I don't know any leaders."

The County Organization Department staff came to Secretarial Office before lunchtime. He entered Chief Cai's office and called Yao Cui into the office after a while.

This is Organization Department pre-promotion interview.

Everyone looked towards the office.

Ten minutes later.

Yao Cui walked out in a daze.

The Organization Department leader and staff left.

Yao Cui's promotion to County Office Department Deputy Chief spread in the County Government offices. No one would be interested if it were a regular promotion. Still, she was promoted to be the newly appointed Executive Deputy County Mayor's secretary. No wonder even Deputy Mayor and Ma Lin treated Yao Cui politely. The Executive Deputy County Mayor's secretary will represent the Executive Deputy County Mayor's secretary in the future, and her authority will be much bigger than the leaders.

A leader's secretary....

A leader's relative....

A leader's driver....

These groups of people are unique, and everyone will treat them respectfully.

No one expected the Executive Deputy County Mayor to appoint the quiet and unknown Yao Cui as his secretary.

Luck?

Everyone was surprised.

Yao Cui did not expect this and was in a daze.

Everyone in the office treated Yao Cui more politely.

"Xiao Yao, let's have dinner today."

“Director Yao, you are good at hiding secrets.”

“Sister Yao, give me the documents. I will do it.”

“Xiao Yao... no, I should address you as Secretary Yao. Please forgive me for everything in the past.”

Lunchtime.

Everyone crowded around Yao Cui.

Yao Cui spoke to them for a while and left the office quickly.

After leaving the office, Yao Cui walked to the cafeteria with Xiao Hong.

Xiao Hong laughed on their way to lunch. “Our Cui Er had finally risen to the top. The Executive Deputy County Mayor’s secretary.... This is a good position. You will be the secretary of our County Government’s No. 2 and also the secretary of a County Party Committee member. You must not forget me in the future. I am going to follow you. Haha....”

Yao Cui gave her a stare. “Stop teasing me.”

“Hehe.... Our Cui Er is so capable.”

“Stop it. I am still in a daze.”

“Why are you in a daze? You should be jumping with joy.”

“But... I don’t know why I am chosen. I don’t know anything.”

“He is the leader, and he knows what he is doing. Just come to work as usual, and I think the official transfer order will be out tomorrow.” Xiao Hong looked at Yao Cui.

“Oh, I think you should meet the Executive Deputy Mayor first. It is his second day, and he appointed you as his secretary. You should thank and get to know him first, as you will be his secretary.”

Yao Cui thought for a second and nodded. “Ok.”

Xiao Hong was more anxious than Yao Cui. “You should go now. The leader might get mad if you go late.”

Yao Cui nodded. “I will go now.”

“Hurry and call me if you need help.”

“I know. Haha.... Go for your lunch. We will talk later.”

They were about to reach the cafeteria, and Yao Cui turned. She walked quickly towards the County Government office building. Suddenly, she stopped and looked around. She took out her phone to call home.

Ring... ring... ring....

Yao Cui’s father answered. “Hello?”

Yao Cui looked around to make sure no one was around her. "Dad, it's me."

Yao Cui's father panicked. "Why are you calling me at this time? Did the leaders pick on you or post you to other places?"

Yao Cui replied helplessly. "What are you talking about? I am not posted out, and the leaders treated me politely."

"Ah? What happened?"

"The County Organization Department leader spoke to me today."

"The County Organization Department? Isn't it the department who appraises the staff?"

"Yes. They interviewed me earlier and told me I would be promoted to our County Government Office Department Deputy Chief."

"What?! Why are you promoted so suddenly? You don't have any connections in the County Government."

"I also thought it was impossible, but the leader says the transfer order would be out tomorrow. Oh, I am assigned to be our newly appointed Executive Deputy County Mayor's secretary."

"....."

"Dad?"

"....."

"Dad, say something. Are you there?"

Yao Cui's father replied excitedly. "You are in luck. The Executive Deputy County Mayor's secretary.... Do you still remember Old Liu, who lives on the same street? He was the former Executive Deputy County Mayor's secretary. No one dares to offend him and his family in the county."

"You are exaggerating."

"Haha.... My Cui Er has become somebody."

"Enough, Dad. I should not have called you."

"Hahaha.... Ok... ok.... I will hang up now. I need to tell your mother and brother. This calls for a celebration. You must come back for dinner tonight. We will prepare more food."

"No need. We don't need to celebrate."

"How can we don't celebrate? Invite your Executive County Deputy Mayor to our house for dinner too."

“Save it. I have not him yet.”

“Why did he appoint you when you have not met him?”

“How do I know? I was sick and stayed at home yesterday. I don’t even know what’s his name.”

“That’s right. But.... I think he might have met or seen you before. Just go and meet him first and try to invite him to our house for dinner.”

“I know. I will ask him. Let’s talk later.”

Meanwhile.

Yao Cui’s house.

Yao Cui’s father shouted. “Come out! Come out!”

Yao Cui’s mother walked out of the room with a frown. “What is it? Why are you shouting?”

Yao Li also rushed out of his room. “What is it, Dad?”

Yao Cui’s father laughed. “Our Cui Er is promoted to the Office Department Deputy Director and assigned to be our County Executive Deputy County Mayor’s secretary.”

Yao Cui’s mother was overjoyed. “What?! Is it true?!”

Yao Cui’s father replied. “Cui Er called earlier.”

Yao Cui’s mother was excited. “That’s great!”

Yao Li does not know how important this position is and asks. “Dad, Sis is going to be a secretary. Why are we celebrating?”

Yao Cui’s father laughed. “What do you know? How can you compare a normal secretary with a Government leader’s secretary? She is going to be our County’s Executive Deputy County Mayor. This means she is the Mayor’s representative!”

Yao Li was shocked. “So powerful?!”

“Cui Er must have met a benefactor. Haha....” Yao Cui’s father said excitedly. “Let’s start preparing dinner. Maybe our County’s leader might be coming tonight.”

Chapter 1069: You are our new Executive Deputy County Mayor?!

Zhen Shui County.

Yao Cui walked up the stairs nervously. She met other department staff on her way, who greeted her politely.

“Secretary Yao.”

“Have you taken your lunch, Secretary Yao?”

“Congratulations, Sister Yao.”

“Sister Yao, when are you giving us a treat?”

News of the County Organization Department interviewing Yao Cui had spread. Everyone knows Yao Cui was chosen as the Executive Deputy County Mayor's secretary. Everyone congratulated her and tried to be close to her.

First floor....

Second floor....

Third floor....

Yao Cui returned the greetings politely and finally reached the County leader's offices.

Yao Cui turned to her left and walked over.

She took a deep breath and knocked on the door lightly. Knock... knock....

Office.

Dong Xuebing was on the phone with his mother.

"Mum, it's fine here. Don't worry about me."

"I am warning you. You must change the way you work."

"I know... I will be nice to everyone."

"Ok. Try to visit me when you are free. I don't feel at ease when I don't see you."

"Ah, I am not a kid. I understand. I will find time to visit you. How are Huilan and Yunxuan doing?"

"They are fine."

"Great. Call me if there's an emergency. I will return immediately."

"You need to drive for days to return."

"I can take the plane. I can be back within a few hours."

"Ok. Take care of yourself and stop offending people."

Someone knocked on the door, and Dong Xuebing said to his mother. "I know. Alright. Someone is at my door. Bye."

"Bye."

Outside.

Yao Cui waited for a while and knocked on the door again.

A few seconds later, a familiar voice said. "Come in."

Yao Cui was puzzled. How come this voice is so familiar? She opened the door cautiously. "Hi, I am Yao Cui from the Secretarial Section One. I...." She was nervous when she entered the office as she would be meeting the Executive Deputy County Mayor. The Executive Deputy County Mayor can decide many things which affect the whole county, and she was curious why she was chosen.

But she was stunned when she saw the person behind the desk. Her jaws dropped when she saw Dong Xuebing.

“You....” Yao Cui was speechless.

Dong Xuebing laughed. “Hi, my former classmate. Haha....”

Yao Cui gasped. “Why... why are you here, Xuebing?”

Dong Xuebing shrugged. “This is where I work. Sit.”

“Isn’t this the Executive Deputy County Mayor’s office?” Yao Cui was confused and went out to look at the sign. It was the Executive Deputy County Mayor’s office, and she had not gone to the wrong office. She returned to the office and closed the door. “You... you....” She suddenly thought of a possibility and drew a deep breath. “Don’t tell me you are our new Executive Deputy County Mayor?”

Dong Xuebing replied. “Yes.”

Yao Cui almost fainted. “How is it possible?”

Dong Xuebing looked at Yao Cui. “You have not heard about it?”

“About what?” Yao Cui looked at Dong Xuebing. “I only know our new Executive Deputy County Mayor is very young and nothing else.” She paused for a second and continued. “I did not come to work yesterday, and I don’t know... it is you.”

Dong Xuebing laughed. “It was a last-minute transfer.”

Yao Cui was speechless. “But.... we are the same age.”

Dong Xuebing explained. “I entered the government after graduation, and I was lucky. I gained some results and got promoted.”

Yao Cui asked. “Did you promote me?”

Dong Xuebing nodded. “Yes.”

Yao Cui was not nervous and uneasy now. She sat on the sofa and said unhappily. “No wonder I got promoted.”

Dong Xuebing asked. “Are you mad?”

Yao Cui replied. “I am angry with you. Why didn’t you tell me earlier?”

Dong Xuebing laughed and walked over to her. “You did not ask.” He saw Yao Cui staring at her, and he continued. “Alright. We were chatting happily, and I was afraid telling you would affect our relationship. It’s my fault. Sorry.”

Yao Cui ignored him.

Dong Xuebing cleared his throat. “Do you want tea? I brought some from home. It’s delicious. Wait here.”

Yao Cui continued to keep quiet.

Dong Xuebing poured a cup of tea and gave it to her.

Yao Cui took the teacup and swallowed a few mouthfuls. She immediately sticks out her tongue. "Hot...."

Dong Xuebing laughed. "It's hot water. Of course, it is hot."

Yao Cui gave Dong Xuebing a stare. "Do you think keeping me in the dark is funny?"

"No... no...." Dong Xuebing replied. "I wanted to give you a surprise."

Yao Cui replied unhappily. "Why didn't you discuss it with me first? How can you make me your secretary without asking me?"

Dong Xuebing laughed. "Alright, alright.... I will tell them not to make you my secretary."

Yao Cui gave Dong Xuebing another stare. "You had promoted me, and you want to demote me now?! Don't even think about it!" She retorted and laughed suddenly.

Dong Xuebing knew Yao Cui was not angry and was playing along with her.

Yao Cui looked at Dong Xuebing. "You are capable. We have not met for three years, and you have become a Deputy Division Chief. You also become an Executive Deputy County Mayor, a powerful position. What results have you achieved to get promoted so quickly? I think you are the youngest Deputy Division Chief in our province."

Dong Xuebing replied modestly. "It's luck. I was just at the right place at the right time."

Yao Cui smiled. "You are amazing. I remember you borrowing my notes when you skip classes, and I am your secretary now."

Dong Xuebing laughed. "I happened to meet you here, and you are a local. You have also worked in the government service for a few years and know the people here. I am new here, and I need your help."

Yao Cui laughed. "Then should I address you as Mayor Dong or Xuebing? Do I need to clean your office and take care of your living arrangements?"

Dong Xuebing waved his hand. "You can call me Xuebing when no one is around and help me with work. I can take care of the rest. How can I let my former classmate do these things?"

Yao Cui laughed. "That's more like it. Alright. I am not angry with you now."

Dong Xuebing looked at her. "Are you sure you are not angry anymore? Don't bear grudges against me."

Yao Cui replied. "What's there to be angry about? I don't need to serve drinks and photocopy documents anymore. I had also become a leader in the Office Department." She laughed. "Thanks to you, I got promoted." She rolled her eyes and said. "I finally understood why you made that bet when we met. You said I would be promoted within a week. You had planned to make me your secretary then, and I was foolish to accept that bet. You tricked me. You are up to no good."

Dong Xuebing laughed. "I was kidding with you."

Yao Cui replied. "I accepted the bet and lost. Just tell me, what do you want me to do?"

Dong Xuebing replied. "It was a joke. I don't need you to do anything."

Yao Cui said. "No. I must honor the bet."

Dong Xuebing replied. "Alright. I will go to your place to have dinner later. You must cook and let me try your cooking."

Yao Cui laughed. "No problem. Haha.... I called my Dad earlier, and he invited you over for dinner. They don't know you are our Executive Deputy County Mayor yet. Just nice, I can cook for you. Thank you."

Dong Xuebing waved his hand. "Don't thank me. I need your help for my work here."

Yao Cui laughed. "Sure."

Dong Xuebing said. "I will rely on you in the future."

"No problem. I will take care of you." Yao Cui laughed. "I hope you will not regret making me your secretary. I don't know anything."

"Haha.... I can change my secretary anytime."

"I dare you to change!"

They joked, and Dong Xuebing did not feel they had gotten distant from each other after knowing he was the Executive Deputy County Mayor.

Chapter 1070: Yao Cui's family hospitality

Some staff found out that Yao Cui and Mayor Dong were university classmates and were in the same class. They no longer envied Yao Cui and understood why Mayor Dong picked a pretty secretary.

The lobby of the office building.

Dong Xuebing did not leave. He waited in the lobby.

A while later, Yao Cui walked out of the building. She smiled and walked over to Dong Xuebing quickly. "Mayor Dong, have you finished work?" She was more polite when they were in public compared to earlier. Many County leaders and staff were looking at them, and she got to behave. This was the result of working in the Government service for three years.

Dong Xuebing smiled. "I am waiting for you."

Yao Cui pretended. "Do you have any orders for me?"

Dong Xuebing replied. "We have not met for so long. Let's have dinner together. Let's go."

Yao Cui laughed and pointed to a bicycle. "But I only got one bicycle."

Dong Xuebing replied. "Bicycle is fine. We can ride slowly and chat on the way."

Yao Cui laughed. "Alright. I will get the bicycle. Wait for me."

Dong Xuebing could wait for Yao Cui outside the Party Committee Building or meet her at her house. But he waited for her at the office building to show everyone she was his former classmate and make sure no one dared to pick on her.

Along the streets.

Dong Xuebing and Yao Cui walked slowly.

There spoke casually because there were no outsiders around.

"Xuebing." Yao Cui pushed her bicycle. "We are far from my house. It will take at least 40 minutes to walk there."

"How about I ferry you on the bicycle?"

"Save it. When was the last time you rode a bicycle?"

"Huh? I forgot. I had not ridden a bicycle since I started working."

"Just hope on if you don't mind. I will ride."

"Why should I mind? Do you have the strength to ride with me sitting behind?"

"Let's try. It should be fine."

"Haha.... Alright. I am getting on. Be careful."

Yao Cui straddled the bicycle, and Dong Xuebing sat behind. His right hand wrapped around her slender waist. Her tummy was flat and soft.

The bicycle moved off wobbly, and it was fine after a while.

Yao Cui rode the bicycle towards her house with Dong Xuebing sitting behind.

"Oh, you are good." Dong Xuebing laughed. "Did you ferry others often on a bicycle?"

Yao Cui replied. "I ferried our Secretarial Section One Xiao Hong a few times. How is it? Does your butt hurt?"

"It's fine."

"I am going faster. We are reaching soon."

A Deputy County Mayor letting a woman ferry him on a bicycle is a bit embarrassing, but Dong Xuebing thought nothing about it. He finds it attractive. Of course, this got to do with the environment. Many County Party Committee Members rode bicycles to work, which is normal in a poor county. He even thought of getting a bicycle tomorrow.

Ten minutes later.

They reached Yao Cui's house.

Yao Cui stopped the bicycle, and Dong Xuebing was holding his waist. The road was bumpy, and his butt hurt.

Yao Cui laughed. "Are you ok?"

Dong Xuebing clenched his teeth. "It's nothing."

"Haha.... Let's rest inside." Yao Cui pushed the bicycle forward and knocked on the door. "Dad, Mum!"

“Yes. We are coming.”

The door opened, and Yao Cui’s parents came out.

“You are back, Cui Er.”

“Oh, Xiao Dong is here too.”

“I am here to trouble you again, Auntie and Uncle.” Dong Xuebing said.

Yao Cui’s parents looked behind and saw no one else. They asked. “Cui Er, where is your leader? Why is he not here?”

Yao Cui smiled. “Let’s talk inside.”

In the courtyard.

Yao Cui parked her bicycle by the wall.

Yao Cui’s parents looked at Yao Cui anxiously. “Cui Er, is your promotion confirmed?” Yao Li also came out of his room.

Yao Cui smiled. “Yes.”

Yao Cui’s father laughed. “Fantastic.”

Yao Cui’s mother was overjoyed. “Come in, Xiao Dong. I am cooking. We are going to celebrate Cui Er’s promotion tonight.”

Yao Cui replied. “Mum, Dad, Brother. Let me introduce Xuebing to you all.”

Yao Cui’s father was stunned. “Didn’t you introduce Xiao Dong to us before?”

“I need to introduce him again.” Yao Cui pointed to Dong Xuebing. “Xuebing is also a civil servant and transferred to our Zhen Shui County as our Executive Deputy County Mayor.”

“Ah?!”

“What?!”

Yao Cui’s parents were stunned.

Yao Cui laughed. “It was Xuebing who promoted me. He was behind it.”

Dong Xuebing smiled. “Sorry, Auntie, Uncle. I did not tell you all. I don’t mean to hide it from you all. I will drink a few glasses more as punishment.”

Yao Cui’s father gasped. “Xiao Dong, are you that young Mayor everyone is talking about?”

Dong Xuebing quickly replied. “Err.... It’s deputy.”

Yao Cui’s mother exclaimed. “It’s you. Ah....”

Yao Li, who just came out from his room, was stunned.

Yao Cui said. “You all continue to talk. I will cook dinner today.”

Yao Cui's parents did not care about their daughter and continued to talk to Dong Xuebing. "Xiao Dong.... Ah, no.... Mayor Dong. Please sit here."

Yao Cui's father said anxiously. "Yes... yes... yes.... Stop standing there, Xiao Li. Go and bring a cup of tea for Mayor Dong. Hurry!!"