

PAW 1071

Chapter 1071: Younger Brother's unemployment troubles

Yao Cui's house.

Dinner started in the courtyard.

Yao Cui and Yao Li carried the food out from the kitchen. Their parents were sitting beside Dong Xuebing nervously.

"Dinner is ready."

"Please go to the table, Mayor Dong."

"That's right. Try our Cui Er's cooking."

"The tea is cold. Xiao Li, add hot water."

"Xiao Li, get Mayor Dong another cup of tea. The tea leaves are on the coffee table."

Yao Cui's parents did not give Dong Xuebing a chance to speak.

Dong Xuebing saw Yao Cui had brought out all the food and turned to her parents. "Aunt, Uncle, don't be so polite with me. I am not used to it. Yao Cui and I were classmates for many years and got along well in school. Please don't treat me like an outsider. Just treat me like how you did yesterday."

Yao Cui's mother smiled. "Yesterday? We didn't know you were our Deputy Mayor yesterday."

Yao Li sat at the table nervously.

To Yao Cui's family, a Deputy County Mayor is a high-ranking officer, and there are only a few Deputy Mayors in the County. They hold Deputy Division Chief rank, and Dong Xuebing is the most powerful Deputy Mayor among them. He is the Executive Deputy County Mayor and also a Party Committee Member. The other Deputy Mayors got to listen to his orders. They could feel something weighing down on their shoulders when sitting beside him.

Dong Xuebing replied. "It's alright. Only outsiders will call me Deputy Mayor. Yao Cui and I are not outsiders. Just call me Xiao Dong. Will do."

Yao Cui's mother replied. "No... no... no.... We cannot address you that."

Yao Cui's father added. "That's right. We cannot do that."

Yao Cui laughed and interrupted them. "Dad, Mum, stop being so polite with Xuebing. You all are making him uncomfortable. If you don't want to address him as Xiao Dong, you call him Xuebing, and Xiao Li can call him Brother Dong."

Dong Xuebing laughed. "Yes. It's settled."

Yao Cui's father nodded. "Alright."

Yao Cui's mother noticed Dong Xuebing had not put on an air and knew their family had met their benefactor.

Yao Cui's father raised his glass. "Mayor... Xuebing. Let me offer you a toast. Thank you for promoting our Cui Er."

Dong Xuebing quickly raises his glass. "I am the one who needs Yao Cui's help. I cannot accept your thanks. Let me offer you this toast instead."

"Non... no.... I should be offering the toast."

"You are my elder, and I should offer the toast."

"No, I must offer this toast."

"Let's just drink."

"Alright. Cheers."

Both emptied their glasses, and Yao Cui stood up with her glass. "Xuebing, I will offer you a toast."

Dong Xuebing replied. "No need. You just recovered and should not be drinking."

Yao Cui's father added. "Cui Er must offer this toast."

Yao Cui nodded. "I must finish this glass today. I will not say much. Thank you."

"Don't be like this. Fine... I will finish this glass while you take a sip." Dong Xuebing replied.

When Dong Xuebing was drinking the alcohol, he noticed Yao Cui had finished her glass.

Dong Xuebing had mentioned he was new here and needed a local like Yao Cui to assist him this afternoon. He repeated it when he entered the courtyard. However, Yao Cui and her parents knew he could get anyone to assist him. Furthermore, she was the county's lowest staff member and did not know much. They all knew Dong Xuebing was trying to help her by promoting her and appointing her as his secretary.

They must return this favor and drink this glass of alcohol.

Yao Cui suddenly said during dinner. "Xuebing, you still have not told me what you did to get promoted so quickly after we graduated. How did you climb so fast?"

Dong Xuebing laughed. "It's luck. I told you before."

Yao Cui laughed. "Save it. Haha.... I don't believe you."

Dong Xuebing replied. "It's hard to tell you in a few sentences, and I don't know where to start. I will tell you in the future."

"Ok. Let's eat. How's my cooking?"

"It's delicious. It tastes much better than my cooking."

"Eat more. Here.... Try this dish. This is my specialty."

An hour later.

Dong Xuebing finished the dinner and left.

Yao Cui wanted to send Dong Xuebing back, but he rejected it. He walked towards the bus stop.
Inside the courtyard.

Yao Cui returned, and her parents called her to the room.

“Cui Er, your classmate is successful.” Yao Cui’s father said.

“He is more than successful. You might not know how the government service works. Most promotions will occur every three years, and he has only worked for three years to get to his current position. I am sure all his promotions are exceptional. You cannot find another twenty-five years old Executive Deputy County Mayors in our province. Our county is poor and seldom keeps in touch with other provinces. If he is posted to another County, he would have shocked everyone.” Yao Cui laughed and continued. “I couldn’t believe my eyes when I saw him as the Executive Deputy County Mayor. He was quiet during our university days and had average results. I did not expect him to be promoted so fast. I can’t wait for our classmates’ reactions when we have a class gathering. Haha.... We got another deputy Section Chief classmate, and he boasted about his achievements on his social media. Compared to Xuebing, he is nothing. They are not on the same level.”

“Are you talking about that arrogant guy you spoke to online?” Yao Cui’s mother asked.

Yao Cui nodded. “Yes. I did not tell Xuebing about him. I don’t like how that guy speaks. He made me uncomfortable.”

Yao Li smiled. “Sis, your rank now is the same as that guy, and you hold more power than him.”

Yao Cui’s mother added. “Look at Mayor Dong. He does not put on airs in front of us. How can anyone compare to him?”

Yao Cui laughed. “Xuebing has been humble and kind, and I like to have lunch with him. I know he will not put on air in front of his classmates and friends. I like his character.”

Yao Cui’s mother looked at her. “Why didn’t you two date then?”

Yao Cui was speechless. “Mum, what are you talking about?”

“It is too late now. He is married. Sigh....” Yao Cui’s mother was disappointed.

Yao Cui’s father said. “This is why you should not judge a book by its cover. Those quiet people in schools might do much better than others.”

Yao Cui’s mother reminded. “Cui Er, you must build a good relationship with Mayor Dong.”

Yao Cui’s father interrupted. “Is there a need to do that? They have had a good relationship since their school days, or Mayor Dong will not promote her and make her his secretary. He trusts Cui Er, and she doesn’t need to build any relationship with him. She needs to focus on her work and achieve some results. This is a good opportunity. If she performs well, she might become a village Chief.”

“That’s right. Cui Er, you must work hard.” Yao Cui’s mother said.

Yao Cui replied helplessly. “I don’t even know what a Deputy Mayor secretary does, and I need to ask others.”

“Didn’t you work in the Secretarial Section for three years?”

“Yes, but it is different from being a leader’s secretary. Of course, it’s not as if I don’t know anything. I need to know what to take note of.”

“Then you should ask now to prevent from making mistakes.”

“I will try my best. I don’t want to create trouble for Xuebing too. It would be embarrassing if she did not do well and caused Xuebing to offend others.”

Yao Cui and her family discussed this topic for a while.

Yao Cui’s parents were excited over their daughter’s promotion.

After 7 pm.

Suddenly, Yao Cui’s mother asked. “Cui Er, our former Executive Deputy County Mayor’s secretary, was popular in our area. Are you....”

Yao Cui looked at her mother. “What?”

Yao Cui’s mother replied. “Are you able to help your brother to get a job?”

Yao Cui thought for a while and said. “I am just promoted, and how will I ask others? I cannot call a company or factory and tell them to hire my brother.”

Yao Cui’s father laughed. “I think it might work.”

“Who knows me?” Yao Cui felt this is not correct.

Yao Cui’s father scolded. “You still don’t recognize you are a leader now. Why do you need to care what they think? Just call them and settle your younger brother’s job. He has been lazing around at home. Oh, don’t put him into a factory.”

Yao Cui’s mother added. “That’s right. Working in a factory is tiring, and you must take exams to enter government departments. But I think a state-owned enterprise is fine.”

Yao Cui was speechless. “State-owned enterprise?”

Yao Cui’s mother added unreasonably. “It is your duty as the elder sister to settle your younger brother’s job.”

Chapter 1072: An Executive Deputy County Mayor’s secretary’s power

Yao Cui’s house courtyard. Yao Cui’s parents kept asking her to make calls to help her brother get a job with good benefits.

Yao Cui did not think it would work. “I cannot do it. I don’t have the influence.”

Yao Cui’s father gave her a stare. “Who says? You are the Executive Deputy County Mayor’s secretary.”

Yao Cui replied helplessly. "What if the other party refuses? How about I speak to Xuebing first?"

Yao Cui's mother smacked her lips. "What have you been doing in the government service? I am more knowledgeable than you. You don't need to trouble Mayor Dong for this small matter. All you need to do is say the word. Mayor Dong got to take care of our County's economy and get investments, and we must not trouble him for small matters like finding a job for your brother. He also does not know anyone in the departments. How is he going to help?"

Yao Cui replied. "I understand. But it's too awkward."

Yao Li interrupted. "Dad, Mum, and Sis, you all don't need to worry for me. My job can wait, and I don't think I can enter a state-owned enterprise. I can work in any factory."

"Cui Er, just try making a call."

"Let's wait for a few days. It is not suitable for me to call now."

Yao Cui refused and wanted to consider.

Yao Cui's father did not continue. "Never mind. Cui Er has just been promoted, and many people do not know her. Let's wait for a few days first. Also, we don't know how powerful the Deputy Mayor's secretary is. That leader's secretary's family living on our street might look glamorous. Still, we don't know what is happening behind the scenes. Let Cui Er work for a while first."

As they were talking, someone knocked on their door.

Knock... knock....

Yao Cui's mother went over to open the door. "Who is it?"

The door opened, and a man in his thirties stood outside. He saw Yao Cui's mother and smiled widely. "Nice to meet you, Aunty."

Yao Cui's mother blinked. "You are?"

Yao Cui's father said. "Let him enter first."

The door closed, and that man greeted Yao Cui's father politely. "Hello, Uncle." He turned and walked towards Yao Cui. He shook her hands. "You must be Secretary Yao. I am from the Industrial and Trade Bureau. My leader had sent me to apologize. Our men had fined your family's breakfast stall a few times, and it was a misunderstanding." He took out an envelope full of money. "These are the fines you paid, and my leader asked me to return them to you." He turned and bowed to Yao Cui's parents. "It was a misunderstanding. Sorry."

Yao Cui paused for a second and said. "We should pay the fine as we are operating without a license then. I will not accept this sum of money. Take it back."

That man panicked. "No... no.... It was our mistake. Your license has been approved, and someone will send it to you tomorrow. You must take the money." He placed the envelope on the table and left in a rush.

Yao Cui and her parents were confused.

"We got the operating license." Yao Li said. "They did not want to approve it previously."

Yao Cui's mother said proudly. "They don't want to issue the operating license to us because we did not give them money. Cui Er has become the Deputy Mayor's Secretary, and they are trying to suck up to her."

Yao Cui's father counted the money and laughed. "They returned the exact amount of the fines we paid."

A few minutes later.

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

Yao Cui went to open it, and it was a middle-aged man. She thinks for a while and remembers he is their County Hygiene Bureau Deputy Chief Zhang.

Yao Cui asked. "Why are you here, Chief Zhang?"

Deputy Chief Zhang quickly said. "Please don't be so polite to me, Secretary Zhang. Just call me Old Zhang."

"Huh? Please come in." Yao Cui let Deputy Chief Zhang enter the courtyard and introduced him to her parents.

Yao Cui's parents heard he was a leader and got up to receive him.

Deputy Chief Zhang panicked and said. "Please remain seated. I am only staying a while. Our department had gone to your breakfast stall and fined you all for hygiene issues. I reprimanded them. They are too much. Don't worry. I will teach him a lesson again tomorrow morning. I promise it will not happen again. Oh, this is the fine you paid. I had brought it with me."

Yao Cui's mother replied. "It's alright, Chief Zhang."

"No, I must return you." Deputy Chief Zhang replied. "I had checked. There are no issues with your stall's hygiene. They had abused their powers, and I will deal with them after I return to the office."

Yao Cui's father said. "It's not that serious. Let's forget it."

Deputy Chief Zhang replied. "You must keep the money and accept our compensation. We will feel bad if you all don't accept it."

Yao Cui is not stupid, and she replied. "We can accept the fines we paid, but we will not accept the compensations."

Deputy Chief Zhang replied. "Alright.... I apologize again on behalf of the Hygiene Bureau."

Yao Cui replied. "It's alright. Our breakfast stall is still lacking in hygiene."

They chatted for a while, and Deputy Chief Zhang left. But the door was closed, and someone knocked on the door again. She does not knock this person.

It was a man, in his thirties, in a suit.

That man saw Yao Cui and shook her hands with both hands. "Nice to meet you, Secretary Yao. You might not know me. I am our County's Printing Factory's HR Chief."

The printing factory?"

Yao Cui's father had asked his friend to help Yao Li get an interview at this factory.

This is a state-owned enterprise and has good benefits for its staff.

Yao Cui's father asked his friend to help Yao Li get a job there, but they did not accept him. Yao Li was rejected in his first interview. It's been three to four months, and they did not expect the printing factory's leader to visit them.

Yao Cui shook that man's hand. "Nice to meet you. Please come in."

That man replied. "Sorry to bother you all at this hour."

Yao Cui's parents learned fast and did not stand to receive him. They sat there and nodded to that man.

That man said. "Nice to meet you, Uncle, Aunty. Ah, this must be Xiao Li. He is full of talents. Good...." He looked at Yao Li and nodded.

Yao Li felt uneasy because he had met this man before. He had interviewed Yao Li and was rude to him. During the interview, he even criticized Yao Li and said the latter was unsuitable for the printing factory. However, this State-owned enterprise's HR Chief changed utterly.

Yao Cui's father looked at him. "Why are you here for?"

That man replied. "I could tell Xiao Li was a talent when he came to our factory for an interview. I asked my men to monitor him, and we will groom him to be a leader. I am here to invite Xiao Li to join our unit. We will give him the best benefits."

Yao Cui's parents were surprised.

Yao Li was stunned and did not say anything.

That man continued. "I have spoken to my leaders, and Xiao Li will be a supervisor when he joins us. We can negotiate the salary and benefits." He paused for a second and said. "We don't want to miss a talent like Xiao Li, and that's why we are making him a good offer. This is the first time we are hiring someone to be a supervisor. We know about Yao Li's abilities, and it will be a loss to our unit if he doesn't join us."

Yao Cui's mother's lips twitched.

Yao Cui's father kicked her leg's lightly to remind her.

Yao Cui paused for a while and turned to Yao Li. "What do you think, Brother?"

Yao Li quickly said. "I... I will listen to you, Sis."

Yao Cui thought for a while and said. "Give it a try, then."

"Alright." Yao Li was excited. This is a State-owned enterprise, and he will join as a supervisor.

Yao Cui turned to that man. "Thank you. My brother is honest. Please take care of him."

That man understood what Yao Cui meant. Asking him to take care of Yao Li meant not to let anyone bully him at work. He was speechless. Who dares to bully Yao Li when his sister is the County's Executive Deputy Mayor's secretary and former classmate?

Yao Li's job was settled.

That man left, and Yao Cui's parents sighed with relief.

They knew a County leader's secretary was powerful, but they did not know she was so influential. Cui Er was interviewed by the Organization Department today, and so many people visited them in the evening. They returned the fines they paid and offered Yao Li a job.

These were not the only visitors.

Visitors came one after another.

Some were County leaders who wanted to meet Mayor Dong, and some wanted to treat Yao Cui to dinner. One of them even tried to introduce her to a boyfriend!

Yao Cui's parents were speechless.

Yao Cui was too influential.

This is the power of an Executive Deputy County Mayor.

Chapter 1073: Breaking down the door

Yao Cui's courtyard.

People come and go, and they almost break the door.

Half an hour....

One hour....

Yao Cui's parents were exhausted from entertaining the guests.

All the visitors left around 8 pm.

Yao Cui's father took a deep breath and smoked on his chair. "These people are too passionate."

Yao Cui's mother was also exhausted. She held her waist and drank a glass of water. "Ah.... I am exhausted. Cui Er, massage my back for me."

"Alright. I will massage you." Yao Cui laughed and walked over.

Yao Cui's father gave his wife a stare. "Cui Er is also tired. How can you ask her to massage your back?"

Yao Cui's mother replied. "Right. Xiao Li, come over and massage my back. Your Sister is tired, and she is somebody now. She should not be doing these chores."

Yao Li nodded and walked over.

Yao Cui said. "Mum, are you teasing me?"

Yao Cui's mother laughed. "Why should I tease you?"

"Sit, Bro. I will do it." Yao Cui walked over and massaged her mother's back skillfully. "I am still your daughter even if I am the County Party Secretary, let alone a secretary. You can order me around anytime."

Yao Cui's father said. "It will affect your image if others see it."

Yao Cui replied. "Showing filial respect for one's parents is a virtue. Who dares to say anything?"

Yao Cui's mother patted her daughter's hand. "You are my good daughter. Haha...."

Yao Cui's father sighed and took a big puff. "Our Cui Er is different now. Look at those visitors earlier. They are our County Government Department leaders, and we didn't even dare to charge them when they ate at our breakfast stall in the past. Look at them now. They were cautious when they spoke to Cui Er. That State-owned enterprise leader had rejected Xiao Li, and he is begging him to join his unit. He even offered a supervisor position to him. Haha.... All these are because of Cui Er."

Yao Li said. "Sis, I have not thanked you."

Yao Cui interrupted. "Don't thank me. They treated us differently because of Xuebing. You should thank him instead."

"Mayor Dong and you are the same. Haha.... You two are the same." Yao Cui's father laughed. "We have succeeded now. Those relatives who looked down upon us before should hear about it by now. I wonder what their expressions are now. Haha...." He looked at Yao Cui. "You had made us proud, Cui Er."

Yao Cui's mother said proudly. "Of course. I am the one who gave birth to her."

Yao Cui's father smacked his lips. "Stop boasting. Do you think you can give birth to her without me?"

Yao Cui's mother grumbled. "What are you talking about? The kids are here."

Yao Cui's father looked at his daughter. "Cui Er, you are a leader now and have grown up. We will not nag you in the future. You will decide everything yourself. Hahaha.... We will not care."

Yao Cui's mother said. "Who says so? We got to help her look for a suitable partner who matches her current status."

Yao Cui's father gave his wife a stare. "Enough. Cui Er is old enough to think for herself. We don't need to worry, and she has studied in Beijing for many years. She knows better than us, and I believe she has not met the correct one. I don't trust that guy who wanted to introduce a boyfriend to her. Cui Er is too good for him."

Yao Cui's mother grumbled under her breath.

Yao Cui laughed. "I know what to do, Mum, Dad. Don't worry about me."

Someone knocked on the door again, and Yao Cui's parents exchanged looks.

Yao Li went to open the door. "Huh? Uncle, Auntie."

A middle-aged couple entered with a smile. "Xiao Li, you have become fatter since we met a few months ago."

Yao Li scratched his head. "No...."

Yao Cui's mother greeted them. "Brother, Sister-in-law."

Yao Cui stood up to greet them. "Uncle, Auntie."

The couple saw Yao Cui, and the middle-aged woman walked over to hold her hand. "Cui Er, we heard you got promoted from someone. Why didn't you tell us?"

Yao Cui smiled helplessly. "The official order is not out yet."

"It's the same.... Haha.... We did not expect you to be classmates with Mayor Dong. You will go far with this relationship."

"I still don't know if I can do a good job." Yao Cui replied.

"I am sure you can do it. Our Cui Er is smart." That woman laughed. "I know a leader secretary's relative and have heard something from her. A leader's secretary job is not tough. You only need to do whatever the leader wants you to and take care of his matters. Clean the leader's office in the morning, or be his driver at times."

People started to knock on their door when they were talking.

Neighbors came to congratulate Yao Cui with gifts.

"Cui Er, I am here to visit you."

"Congratulations, Old Yao. Your Cui Er is successful now."

"Do you still remember me, Cui Er? I had carried you when you were young."

"Are you single, Cui Er? My son is also single. You have met Xiao Lei before. What do you think of him? You two should go out for dinner when you are free."

"Cui Er, I knew you would be somebody since you were young. I even told my wife about it. Look, I knew it."

After the leaders, it was the relatives.

After the relatives, it was the neighbors.

Yao Cui's courtyard was packed with people again.

Yao Cui's parents were overjoyed and proud.

But Yao Cui felt embarrassed. She was not used to it and found an excuse to leave. She said she would meet Mayor Dong, and no one dared to stop her.

Yao Cui wiped her sweat as she escaped from her house.

Chapter 1074: A secretary's duty

Zhen Shui

Most people sleep later, and it was the same for Dong Xuebing. It was not his bedtime, and he was surfing the net on his laptop in a one-bedroom apartment. He was bored as he did not know many people and did not know the people here. He dared not invite them for dinner because he was unsure about their relationship.

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

Dong Xuebing looked at the number and answered. "Hello, Yao Cui?"

Yao Cui giggled. "Are you at home, Mayor Dong?"

Dong Xuebing laughed. "I am surfing the net at home. I got nothing to do."

Yao Cui smiled. "Great. I am about to visit you to give you my work update."

Dong Xuebing was surprised. "It's late. Why are you not sleeping yet? You had just recovered and should not be running around."

Yao Cui replied helplessly. "I ran out to hide. Dozens of people had come to my house. County leaders, my relatives, my neighbors, etc. I cannot chase them away, so I came out." She laughed. "I thought being a leader is great and will have power and influence. I only know how scary it is when I become one."

Dong Xuebing was surprised. "So many people went to your house?!"

"It's more than you can imagine. They are not here yet, and I think people will continue to visit my house until 11 pm."

"You are better than me."

"How is that so?"

"Very few people visited me all this while."

"Impossible. You hold a high rank, and many people should visit you. Is it because their ranks are lower, and they dare not visit you?"

"No."

"Then why?"

"Err.... It's too embarrassing to say. Come over."

"Sure. Please send me your address. Oh, it is fine to visit you so late?"

"You are my secretary now. It's normal to discuss work at this time. Haha.... It's fine."

Dong Xuebing looked at what he was wearing and decided to change. He took out something more presentable and changed. He was not lying when he told Yao Cui very few people visited him. It was because he offended too many people, and no one dared to visit him. He offended most leaders everywhere he was posted. He even offended the County Party Secretary and the City Party Secretary. Who dares to visit the god of plagues? He did not tell Yao Cui as it was not something to be proud of.

The doorbell rang around fifteen minutes later.

Dong Xuebing opened the door. "Eh? You are fast."

Yao Cui smiled. "I was almost reaching when I called."

Dong Xuebing stepped aside to let Yao Cui enter. He closed the door and said. "What if I am outside? You will have to ride your bicycle back."

“Outside?” Yao Cui joked. “You have to return immediately when I am here.”

Dong Xuebing laughed. “Yes. Of course.”

Yao Cui looked at Dong Xuebing. “Do you think I am not qualified to be a secretary? Other secretaries treated their leaders politely, but I treat you differently. Haha... Xuebing, it is not too late to regret now. Are you sure you want me as your secretary?”

Dong Xuebing was amused. “Of course.”

Yao Cui asked. “What if I offended you in the future?”

Dong Xuebing laughed. “You will not offend me. I might be the one who will offend you.”

Yao Cui punched Dong Xuebing’s chest lightly. “You are indeed my good friend. We can joke around alone, and I know what I should do at work.” She smiled. “I will take good care of you.”

“Huh? You are giving me goosebumps.”

“Do you want me to punch you?”

“Hahahaha....”

They laughed.

Dong Xuebing enjoys being with Yao Cui. He looked at her and noticed she was wearing different clothes. She was wearing a grey skirt with a high slit, showing her thighs and stockings. Her top was a white sweater, and she wore a pair of white heels.

Yao Cui noticed Dong Xuebing looking at her. “Why are you looking at me like this?”

Dong Xuebing laughed. “I feel my classmate has become prettier.”

Yao Cui rolled her eyes. “You will not say such things during our school days. Haha.... I am not used to the current you.”

“Huh? I am telling the truth. You are pretty.”

“You should not say such things when you are married. I will tell your wife the next time I see her.”

“Huh? I will be in trouble if you tell her. She will scold me for days.”

Yao Cui laughed. “Alright. Let’s stop joking. Are you hungry? Do you want me to cook supper for you?”

“I had dinner at your place earlier, and I am full. Have a seat. I will get you a cup of tea.”

“Save it. How can I make my leader serve me tea? Let me do it.” Yao Cui found the tea leaves and started making tea.

Dong Xuebing tried to stop her but to no avail.

Yao Cui did not drink the tea she brewed. She placed the tea on the table and cleaned Dong Xuebing’s room. Dong Xuebing quickly stopped her, and she started sweeping the floor.

“What are you doing?”

“Cleaning up for you.”

“You don’t need to do this.”

“I heard this is the secretary’s duty.”

“I did not treat you as my secretary. We are classmates, and I cannot let you do this.”

“Haha.... I will still clean up for you even if I am not your secretary. You are alone in Zhen Shui County, and I should take care of you as a former classmate.” Yao Cui said as she swept the floor. “Move aside. Don’t get in my way.”

“You are wearing a skirt.”

“It’s fine. These chores are nothing.”

Yao Cui bent, and her tight skirt rode up. Her back was facing Dong Xuebing, and she did not see him staring at her butt and legs. He could see the outline of her lacy underwear.

It’s so sexy.

The living conditions in the county were poor, and Dong Xuebing had not met any well-dressed women. Most of the women in the county dressed conservatively, but Yao Cui was different. She stayed in Beijing for a few years and knew how to dress up.

Swoosh....

Swoosh....

Yao Cui continued to sweep the floor, and Dong Xuebing did not try to snatch the broom from her. He sat on the sofa to admire her butt.

A few minutes later.

Yao Cui finished sweeping and put away the broom.

Dong Xuebing quickly looks away. “Thank you.”

“I will get mad if you continue being polite to me.” Yao Cui pretended to be mad.

Dong Xuebing laughed. “Fine. Have a break and get something to drink.”

Yao Cui did not move. She looked at Dong Xuebing’s luggage and asked. “Are there any secrets in there?”

Dong Xuebing laughed. “What secrets do I have? It’s just my clothes, blankets, and bedsheets.”

“Alright.” Yao Cui opened Dong Xuebing’s luggage and started unpacking it. She took out his shirts carefully and kept them in the closet. “You cannot keep your shirts in the suitcase. Let me hang them up. Go out and enjoy your tea.”

Dong Xuebing was not used to it. “No need. Put it aside. I will do it.”

Yao Cui gave Dong Xuebing a stare. "Taking care of you is my job. If you don't want me to do it, don't make me your secretary. The official order is not yet, and you can change your mind." She looked at Dong Xuebing seriously. "Xuebing, we might be friends, but I take my work seriously. How can I be your secretary if you treat me so nicely?"

Dong Xuebing replied helplessly. "It's fine. Secretaries do not need to take care of me. I am an able person."

Yao Cui laughed. "A secretary's job scope does not include taking care of a leader's wellbeing, but this is an unspoken rule. Every leader's secretary must do this, and I am no exception."

"But...."

"No buts!"

"Errr.... Fine."

"Haha... that's more like it."

Yao Cui continued to arrange Dong Xuebing's clothes, including his socks and underwear.

This was making Dong Xuebing awkward.

Dong Xuebing could not see Yao Cui's expression as she folded his underwear neatly and kept them in the closet. She was meticulous and folded every piece of clothing neatly.

It's good to be cared for by someone.

Especially a pretty former classmate.

Chapter 1075: The County's situation

Dong Xuebing walked to work slowly. He went straight to his office when he reached his workplace.

"Mayor Dong."

"Good morning, Mayor Dong."

Many people greeted Dong Xuebing politely.

Dong Xuebing smiled and nodded to them before going up the stairs.

Third floor.

Executive Deputy County Mayor office.

Dong Xuebing took out his key to open the door but realized it was unlocked. He opened the door and saw Yao Cui inside. She was holding onto the windowsill and wiping the glass. He looked around his office and noticed the books had been rearranged neatly. The floor and desk were cleaned, and some places had water stains. Someone had wiped it with a wet cloth.

Dong Xuebing smiled. "What are you doing?"

"Oh, you are here." Yao Cui turned and smiled. "I am cleaning your office."

Dong Xuebing quickly walked over. "Come down. You will fall."

Yao Cui refused. "It's fine. I am almost done. Cleaning the office is also my duty."

Dong Xuebing replied helplessly. "You cleaned up my house yesterday, and you are cleaning my office now. The office is not dirty. Why are you cleaning it?"

"Haha.... I got to show others that I am a good secretary."

"Why do you need to show others?"

"To prevent them from talking behind my back."

"They will not dare to talk about you. Just come down before you fall."

Yao Cui stopped cleaning the windows and got down from the windowsill. She wiped her sweat and poured a glass of tea for Dong Xuebing. "Please have some tea, Leader."

Dong Xuebing laughed. "Why are you calling me that? There's no one around."

Yao Cui giggled and passed a document to Dong Xuebing. "I went to the County Government Office Department earlier. You have a meeting later at 10 am."

Dong Xuebing nodded. "Let me see." He looked at the document.

Yao Cui said while Dong Xuebing read the document. "Director Ma gave me your office's spare keys. Our county is poor, and we lack resources. I will continue to work in the Secretarial Section, and he has given me a small office. I left my number on your desk. Call me if your hot water flask is empty, if you need any documents, or if you are going out. I will be here immediately."

Dong Xuebing laughed. "You sound professional."

"Of course." Yao Cui laughed. "What do you think? Am I qualified to be your secretary?"

"Yes... yes...."

"Why do you sound like you are saying that to please me?"

"Haha.... I am not."

"Anyway, I cleaned your office and stored your hot water. My job in the morning is almost completed." Yao Cui replied and stretched. "It's not easy to be a secretary."

Dong Xuebing replied. "You don't have to do these tasks."

"No. It is my job, and I got to do it." Yao Cui replied firmly. "People will talk behind my back if I do not do my job well, and you will be affected. Haha.... Most people will not use a secretary of the opposite sex in the government service. You faced tremendous pressure by hiring me, and I cannot drag you down. It's fine when we are alone, and I know what to say in front of others. After all, I had worked in the Secretarial Section for three years."

Dong Xuebing poured a cup of tea for Yao Cui. "Have some."

“Sure.” Yao Cui took the teacup. “Thank you.”

Dong Xuebing and Yao Cui sat on the sofa. “If we are not classmates, I will not get a female secretary. It’s fine to have a female secretary in a County as there are not many restrictions compared to the City or Provincial Government.”

“I know you are trying to help me.”

“Yes. I am trying to help.”

“I understand. Oh, my younger brother has found a job. A State-owned enterprise’s leader visited our house to invite him to join. It’s all because of you. Thank you.”

“Don’t mention it.” Dong Xuebing looked at Yao Cui. “It was too late yesterday, and we did not have time to chat. I need your help. You had worked here for years, and you are a local. You should know better about the country’s situation and the leaders’ relationships. I am new, and I dare not approach or trust others. That’s why I can only ask you.”

Yao Cui laughed and drank her tea. “You have asked the correct person. What do you want to know?”

Dong Xuebing blinked and said. “Let’s talk about our county’s situation generally. Although I had seen a lot, I am still unfamiliar.”

Yao Cui nodded. “Zhen Sui County is poor and does not have anything. That’s why our economy could not pick up.”

Dong Xuebing asked curiously. “This is a national impoverished county. Didn’t the higher-ups allocate more subsidies and funds?”

Yao Cui replied. “I can tell you had not worked in an impoverished county. Some impoverished counties are not as poor as you think. They declare themselves as an impoverished county for the additional funding. But some counties are impoverished. For example, our Zhen Shui County. Our deficits are getting worse each year. Our government could barely pay the department staff from the taxes and government income. I will not talk about the other areas as you should know every department lacks money. Our county owed millions each year and had to take loans to repay the previous year’s debts. It is the same for this year. Do you know why our County Party Secretary went to the Province?”

“Why?”

“He went to get money. The funding for this year had just arrived and was used to repay some of our debts. We don’t have enough funds to run the county.”

“Is this the same every year?”

“Yes. Every year is the same. We request additional funding, borrow money, and repay debts. It had become our county’s top priority and leader’s greatest headache. I heard Secretary Meng could not get additional funding this time as the Province

Government got frustrated with us. The City Government's situation is slightly better than ours and could not help. We will not last until the end of the year if we cannot get funding."

"Don't we have our industries?"

"Didn't you see it? We only have hills and fields here. The weather is bad, and our farming industry stopped because of natural disasters."

"What about livestock?"

"It is slightly better, but we don't have money to develop it. Our County has nothing other than these."

Dong Xuebing sighed. This county has nothing. No wonder it is so poor.

Yao Cui looked at Dong Xuebing. "That's why our leaders had given up on developing the County. We got nothing to develop, and we are heavily in debt. We can only hope we can borrow money to maintain our status."

"This is not right."

"The county leaders know this is not a solution, but we have no choice. Our previous leaders had thought and tried all ways to change our situation and failed."

Dong Xuebing asked suddenly. "I met Mayor Jiang, and she seems uninterested in everything. Is it because of this?"

Yao Cui paused for a second. "Mayor Jiang looks uninterested is not because of this reason."

Dong Xuebing asked. "Oh, then what is it?"

Yao Cui looked towards the door and leaned closer to Dong Xuebing. "You have not met Secretary Meng. He should have lost confidence in our county and given up on developing our industries. All he thinks of is to get money to repay debts and pray nothing happens during her term here. Mayor Jiang.... I should not be saying this, but we are friends." She thought for a while and said softly. "Mayor Jiang.... She is a widow."

Dong Xuebing was surprised. "A widow?"

"Yes. She doesn't have kids."

"What happened to her husband?"

Jiang Fangfang is in her thirties, and Dong Xuebing thinks her child should be old enough to be in school.

Yao Cui continued. "Mayor Jiang's husband was not in good health before they married. He passed away a few years ago when she was not the County Mayor. It was a huge blow to her, and I heard she was hospitalized for a month. She did not say a single word during that period. After that, she was promoted to Mayor and became a different person. She lost interest in everything, and her character became uninterested and calm. Of course, she still does her job well, but she gave

everyone the feeling she was uninterested in it. Everyone thought she was still grieving and would be fine after a while. However, it's been three to four years, and she was still the same. We are used to it."

Dong Xuebing sighed. "Everyone has their problems."

"That's right." Yao Cui continued. "It is Secretary Meng who decides on everything in the County. He is the Party Secretary, and Mayor Jiang is uninterested. The Party Committee Members did not want to follow an uninterested leader, and they joined Secretary Meng's side. Of course, I am unsure if she is really uninterested or still grieving."

Chapter 1076: County Mayors' meeting

Yao Cui was telling Dong Xuebing about the County's situation.

Dong Xuebing placed his teacup on the table and said. "What about the different factions in the County?"

Yao Cui replied seriously. "I was about to tell you even when you don't ask. Although you are the Executive Deputy County Mayor and Mayor Jiang is your leader, you should not join her side. She is too weak. Party Secretary Meng holds all the power. He sometimes gave in to her, but he decided on all major decisions. This situation will not change, and more than half of the Party Committee Members are on Secretary Meng's side. Only the Political and Legal Committee secretary, Chu Peng, is on her side. The rest are all Secretary Meng's supporters."

Dong Xuebing was speechless. "This difference is too wide."

Yao Cui nodded. "Yes, it is one-sided."

"What about the former Executive Deputy County Mayor?"

"He supported Mayor Jiang, and Secretary Meng suppressed him. That's why he could not get promoted until his retirement. Mayor Jiang got weaker after he retired."

"What about the Deputy Mayor in the Party Committee? Is he also on Secretary Meng's side?"

"Are you talking about Ci Boyang, Deputy Mayor Ci? He is also Secretary Meng's man."

Even the Deputy Mayor is not on Jiang Fangfang's side. She must be having a difficult time here. Sigh.... What should I do?

Yao Cui looked at Dong Xuebing. "Secretary Meng is coming back. You should speak to him and see if you can join his side."

Let's talk about it another time."

"Xuebing, you must not do anything rash because Mayor Jiang is pretty. This is my suggestion as a friend."

“Haha.... Don’t worry about it. I will observe first.”

Dong Xuebing thought to himself. Yao Cui knows me too well. He had decided to join Jiang Fangfang’s side after his appointment. He is the Executive Deputy County Mayor and should be supporting the Mayor. She is his direct superior and can make his life difficult during his time here. Secondly, she is pretty. After hearing what Yao Cui said, he hesitated. Secretary Meng has overall control of the County; joining her would kill his career.

Dong Xuebing still wanted to be promoted within six months.

If Dong Xuebing joined Jiang Fangfang’s faction, he might not hold any power, let alone get promoted within six months. He might not even get promoted after two years if he offended the County’s no.1.

Sigh.... The situation here is complicated.

I should put this aside and observe the situation first.

Dong Xuebing decided. “Yao Cui.... It sounds quite weird. Can I call you Xiao Yao when others are around and Cui Er when we are alone?”

Yao Cui laughed. “Sure.”

Dong Xuebing continued. “Help me reject all lunch and dinner invitations these few days. I want to monitor the situation first. I am not in a rash to pick sides.”

Yao Cui nodded. “Ok.”

“You can go back first. I don’t have anything for you here.”

“Ok. Call me if you need anything.”

Dong Xuebing had joined a faction almost immediately wherever he went. Some were based on his feelings, and some were forced.

Before 10 am.

The County Government's small meeting room.

Dong Xuebing checked the time and arrived 5 minutes before the meeting. He almost choked on cigarette smoke when he opened the door. He is a smoker, but the smoke in the meeting room is too thick. The room has no ventilation fan, and the cigarette smoke remained despite the windows being opened. If the leader is female, most of them will not smoke in the room when she is around. These people have no respect for Jiang Fangfang.

“Mayor Dong.”

“Oh, Mayor Dong. You are here.”

Dong Xuebing only knows County Government Office Department Chief Ma Lin among the people in the room. He gave out the meeting materials and politely greeted Dong Xuebing.

A middle-aged man walked over and shook Dong Xuebing’s hand. He smiled. “Mayor Dong, I did not introduce myself during your welcome lunch. I am Ci Boyang.”

Ci Boyang?

This man is the Deputy Mayor of the Party Committee.

Ci Boyang is the no. Three in the County Government held the same rank as Dong Xuebing.

Dong Xuebing smiled and shook his hand. "Nice to meet you, Mayor Ci."

Ci Boyang smiled. "The meeting is about to start. Let's chat over dinner and drinks."

"Sure." Dong Xuebing replied.

Another person walked over. "Mayor Dong, I am Lui Zhi."

Dong Xuebing shook his hand. "Nice to meet you, Mayor Lui." He heard about Deputy Mayor Lui Zhi but didn't know which department he oversees.

This was Dong Xuebing's first meeting in Zhen Shui County, and everyone at the meeting introduced themselves.

A few minutes later.

High heels footsteps got nearer to the meeting room.

The meeting room quieted, and everyone returned to their seats and snubbed their cigarettes.

Dong Xuebing saw the seat beside the head of the table was empty and knew it should be his. He quickly walked over.

The next moment, Jiang Fangfang appeared in the meeting room.

She walked into the room slowly and looked at everyone. "Let's start."

Everyone sat upright.

Even Ci Boyang sat upright and waited for Mayor Jiang to speak. Although he is on Secretary Meng's side, Jiang Fangfang is still the County Government's head. He dared not fall out with her and got to respect her.

Chapter 1077: Indifferent

The County Mayor meeting started after Jiang Fangfang arrived. She sat down and took a sip of tea before slowly placing her teacup on the table. She looked at everyone and said. "You all might have met Mayor Dong, but this is his first meeting with us. I should do the introductions. "This is Dong Xuebing, our County Government's new comrade."

Jiang Fangfang did not smile when she introduced Dong Xuebing.

She seemed indifferent to everything.

Clap... clap... clap....

The Deputy Mayors smiled at Dong Xuebing.

Dong Xuebing nodded and said. "Hi."

Jiang Fangfang continued. "Let's talk about Mayor Dong's duties."

Dong Xuebing was excited. His duties will determine his power.

Jiang Fangfang continued indifferently. "Old Yu had retired. Mayor Yu oversees the Office, HR, and finance departments. Mayor Dong will take over him." Old Yu was the former Executive Deputy County Mayor, and HR and Finance departments have always been the Executive Deputy County Mayor's duties. She paused for a second and said. "I talked with Mayor Dong, who had previously worked as a County Investment Promotion Agency's Chief. He is good at attracting investments. Our County had not been doing well in attracting investments. I suggest letting Mayor Dong take charge of this too."

Everyone kept quiet.

Deputy Mayor Lui Zhi exchanged looks with Ci Boyang.

Another Deputy Mayor also looked towards Ci Boyang.

Jiang Fangfang had told Dong Xuebing that she hoped he could help the county by bringing investors in. He had also agreed and was not surprised to see Jiang Fangfang bringing it up in the meeting. The former Executive Deputy County Mayor was not in charge of the Investment Promotion Agency, which means another Deputy Mayor is in charge of it. He will be taking away someone's authority, and this someone is one of the Deputy Mayors at the meeting.

Who is it?

Dong Xuebing followed everyone's gaze.

Jiang Fangfang looked toward Ci Boyang. "The Investment Promotion Agency has not been doing well, and you have a lot on your plate. Mayor Ci, let's take this off your shoulders."

Ci Boyang?

This guy is the one who oversees the Investment Promotion Agency.

Ci Boyang narrowed his eyes and smiled. "Mayor Dong's education is higher than mine, and had worked at the Investment Promotion Agency. He is more suitable to lead the department."

Jiang Fangfang nodded. "Does anyone else have anything to say?"

The other Deputy County Mayors did not say anything.

"Alright. It's settled then." Jiang Fangfang picked up the meeting document in front of her and said. "Let's discuss the first agenda. What do you all think about the Poverty Office's application document?"

One hour....

Two hours....

The meeting ended around noon.

Dong Xuebing only said something when Mayor Jiang asked him questions. He was unfamiliar with the work here and dared not open his mouth quickly. People might treat him as a laughing stock if he embarrassed himself. Many people are eyeing his position, and embarrassing himself will make it difficult for him to continue his work. He had also not joined any faction and wanted to monitor the situation.

Everyone walked out of the meeting room.

Dong Xuebing was not the former Dong Xuebing now. He stopped Ci Boyang and smiled. "Are you free in the afternoon, Mayor Ci?"

Ci Boyang replied. "Yes. What is it?"

"I will go to your office later. I am unfamiliar with the Investment Promotion Agency's progress here and would like to seek your advice. You should be more experience than me." Dong Xuebing said.

Ci Boyang laughed. "You are too modest, Mayor Dong. I am not your match when it comes to attracting investors. However, I am familiar with our County's investment situation. I will go to your office in the afternoon." Dong Xuebing's position is higher than his, and he cannot let him go to his office.

They chatted for a while before going off.

Dong Xuebing spoke politely to Ci Boyang because the latter was also a Party Committee Member, and he did not want to offend him by taking away his duty. Dong Xuebing was not afraid of offending others, but it's not worth offending others over a small matter like this.

So, Dong Xuebing immediately showed his attitude, and Ci Boyang did not seem to mind. It was not a surprise. Zhen Shui County was too poor, and the Investment Promotion Agency had no powers. This change will not affect him much.

Lunchtime.

Dong Xuebing did not eat lunch. He returned to his office and shook his head.

Who says Mayor Jiang is indifferent to everything?

Who says Mayor Jiang is not interested in moving up?

Bullshit!

How can Mayor Jiang hold on to her position for so many years if she is not interested in her work?

Dong Xuebing does not doubt Yao Cui, but he knows her level is too low to know what is happening and believes in rumors. From the meeting earlier, Dong Xuebing could tell Jiang Fangfang knew what she was doing. She might seem indifferent, but she was suppressing Ci Boyang by letting Dong Xuebing take over the Investment Promotion Agency. She was trying to create differences between Dong Xuebing and Ci Boyang.

Dong Xuebing realized the Party Committee Members had joined Secretary Meng's side not because of Mayor Jiang's character. It was because Secretary Meng was too influential.

Chapter 1078: Mayor Jiang cooked for Xiao Dong

Dong Xuebing took a bus back and lay on his bed, thinking about what had happened today.

Dong Xuebing was facing two problems now.

First, which side should he join?

Second, how is he going to start his work? How can he achieve results fast?

The rest are all minor issues compared to these two problems. If Dong Xuebing wants to be promoted and transferred back early, he got to solve these two problems. He needs results and a recommendation from a local leader. With the help of Xie Huilan and her family, he should get the promotion. So, picking the right side is essential. He would fail if he was suppressed by the leader and had no power. He thought for a while and felt he should not rush. He should familiarize himself with the place first.

Rushing to achieve results....

Rushing to prove himself....

These will give others a wrong impression of him.

Dong Xuebing calmed himself and looked at the time. It was after 6 pm, and he was feeling a bit hungry. His apartment was empty, and there was nothing for him to eat.

I should have bought some food on my way back.

I can only go out and see if there are any restaurants open.

Ring... ring... ring.... Dong Xuebing's phone rang. It was Yao Cui.

"Have you eaten, Xuebing?"

"I am about to go out for dinner."

"Come and eat at my place."

"No. I have eaten at your place for the past few days. I feel bad to bother you all."

"It's fine. Are you treating me as an outsider? How about I go over to your place to cook for you?"

"No need. You came and cleaned up my place yesterday. It's not good."

"Are you afraid of people gossiping about us? It should be fine as I am your secretary, right? We don't have any secretaries of the opposite sex as the leader. Err.... You, wife, are around, and it might be.... Never mind. Go and have your dinner at a restaurant."

"I am not afraid of gossip. I just don't want you to be tired. We are friends after work, and I cannot be asking you to clean my place and cook for me."

"It's alright. Are you not treating me as a friend?"

"Haha.... Of course not."

"Alright. Call me if you need anything. I am your secretary, and being on call anytime is part of my job. My friend told me this afternoon that a secretary had to work 24 hours without rest."

"It's not that bad."

"Anyway, just call me, and I will be there."

“Ok. I will call you if I need help.”

“Hurry and get your dinner.”

Dong Xuebing smiled to himself after hanging up. He was grateful to meet a former classmate here. It made him feel at ease. At his level, he must be cautious when speaking to others here. He cannot share his problems, emotions, or feelings with others here except for Yao Cui.

Dong Xuebing left his apartment to look for a restaurant.

There were a few restaurants outside the family quarters but looks dirty and unhygienic. Dong Xuebing lost his appetite when he saw the restaurants. He is not a picky eater and is fine eating at such places back in Beijing. Some dirty roadside stalls sold good food in Beijing. The dirtier it was, the better the food was. However, it was different here. These were ordinary restaurants without any specialties. Dong Xuebing looked around and did not find any markets. He could not get groceries as he was unfamiliar with this place. He could not eat at restaurants and could not find any markets. There's also no McDonald's or KFC around either.

Fine. I will go back.

I will not die from missing dinner.

Dong Xuebing is young and can withstand hunger. He thought nothing about it and walked back to the family quarters. The family quarter was rundown, and the surrounding had nothing. There were no plants or facilities. It was just pathetic.

Downstairs.

This is the estate's second building.

Dong Xuebing was about to enter the building when he noticed a beautiful woman.

It was Jiang Fangfang, Zhen Sui County's Mayor.

Dong Xuebing stopped.

Dong Xuebing remembered Mayor Jiang was wearing a light color suit at work today, and she had changed. Her clothes were now fashionable. It's normal for female leaders to change after they get home. Xie Huilan also likes to dress casually after work. They cannot dress casually to work as people would talk about it. She was wearing white baggy pants, black stockings, and black heels. Her top was a red coat, and her hair was pinned up in a bun.

Beautiful.

It's hard to imagine you can find such a beautiful woman in a rundown county. Although Jiang Fangfang is in her thirties, she is still very attractive.

“Mayor Jiang.” Dong Xuebing greeted.

Jiang Fangfang turned and nodded. “Oh, Mayor Dong.”

Dong Xuebing looked at the rubbish bin in front of her. “Are you throwing out your trash?”

Jiang Fangfang nodded gracefully. “I had not been taking out the trash for a few days. Didn't you finish work early today? Did you go for dinner?”

Dong Xuebing smiled. "I did not eat."

"Why?" Jiang Fangfang asked.

"The restaurants.... Err... does not suit my taste."

"And you are not eating?"

"I am not that hungry. I will look around later at night."

Jiang Fangfang threw her last trash bag into the bin and looked at Dong Xuebing. "Even though you are young, you must take care of your health."

"Yes. I will buy some groceries later."

They chatted as they entered the hallway. This building was for the County Government leaders and their families, and Jiang Fangfang was staying there too. Dong Xuebing was living one floor below her.

They walked up the stairs together.

Mayor Jiang is Dong Xuebing's leader, and he cannot walk in front of her. He purposely walked one step behind her to show his respect. He regretted this decision. Jiang Fangfang walked slowly, and he got to take one step at a time behind her. He had met several female leaders like Xu Yan and Geng Yuehua. Even Xie Huilan does things quickly. But Jiang Fangfang is the first female leader that does things slowly.

They finally reached the third floor after a while.

Dong Xuebing is impatient and has never climbed the stairs so slowly in his life. He was covered in sweat when he reached his floor. On his way up, he sneaks glances at Jiang Fangfang's body.

"Are you staying on this floor?" Jiang Fangfang turned.

Dong Xuebing replied. "Yes. I am staying at this unit."

"Wait for me here." Jiang Fangfang continued upstairs.

Dong Xuebing was stunned and did not understand what she meant. Wait for you? Why are you asking me to wait?

However, Dong Xuebing stood there and waited as Jiang Fangfang was his leader. He waited and looked upstairs.

Five minutes later.

Click... click... click.... Footsteps can be heard from upstairs.

Jiang Fangfang appeared at the stairs, and she looked at she was floating down the stairs. Her body did not move when she walked.

To Dong Xuebing's surprise, he saw Jiang Fangfang holding a plastic bag of vegetables, meat, and eggs.

"Why are you...." Dong Xuebing was confused.

Jiang Fangfang replied indifferently. "I am staying alone and have not taken my dinner. We can eat together." She said and entered Dong Xuebing's apartment. "You are from Beijing and have never lived in this environment before. You still have not gotten used to it and will not like the restaurants outside. You also cannot find the market. The market is not far from here, but it is secluded. I will let you know where the market is another time."

Dong Xuebing was stunned for a second and quickly followed her. "Thank you. Let me cook, and you can try my cooking."

"Next time. I will cook it this time."

"How can I let you cook?"

"It's fine. Go and watch tv."

Sweat was flowing down his forehead. "No, Mayor Jiang."

Jiang Fangfang did not reply and walked slowly into the kitchen. She turned on the tap and started washing the vegetables without any expression on her face. She looked like she was smiling, but she was not.

"Let me wash the vegetables."

"It's alright."

Dong Xuebing was anxious. How can he let his leader cook dinner for him? Mayor Jiang is a leader with actual authority.

Is she trying to pull me to her side?

Even if she wants me to join her side, she does not need to lower herself and cook for me.

Chapter 1079: Mayor Jiang washed Xiao Dong's clothes

Dong Xuebing's apartment.

The sun is setting, and the sky is getting dimmer.

Dong Xuebing saw Jiang Fangfang start washing the vegetables and quickly stopped her.

"Mayor Jiang...."

"Huh?"

"Let me do it. Just leave it there."

"It's fine."

"How can I let you do this?"

Dong Xuebing insisted, but Jiang Fangfang is a woman, and she is his direct leader. He cannot snatch the vegetables from her by force, and she has a calm demeanor. Whatever he said, she would reply, "it's fine," slowly, without any expression. She is like a cotton ball and has no reaction or frustrated emotions, no matter what Dong Xuebing says. Ultimately, he had no choice but to let her do what she wanted.

Dong Xuebing did not go out to the living room to watch TV. He stood behind Jiang Fangfang, watching her wash and cut the vegetables.

“Have you gotten used to living here?” Jiang Fangfang asked.

Dong Xuebing replied immediately. “It’s ok. This place is not bad.”

Jiang Fangfang nodded. “Do you have any requests about your work?”

Dong Xuebing replied. “No. I will follow the organization’s orders.”

Jiang Fangfang puts aside the vegetables she cut aside. “We will review your duties in the Party Committee meeting, which will be finalized. Secretary Meng should be back tomorrow, but you cannot participate in the Committee Meeting yet. We got to wait for the City’s approval during their meeting. You might have to wait for a few days.” Dong Xuebing was appointed as Zhen Shui County Executive Deputy County Mayor and qualified to enter the County Party Committee. However, the City Government has to approve it first.

Dong Xuebing does not mind. “Ok.”

“Do you have anything you don’t eat? Spicy garlic?”

“Huh? I eat everything.”

“Me too. I will cook according to my taste.”

Jiang Fangfang cut the vegetables slowly and evenly. The vegetables were cut as if a machine had cut them. Every piece was the same size.

Good cutting skills.

Dong Xuebing knew Jiang Fangfang’s cooking skills were good from how she used the knife.

Twenty minutes later.

Dinner was ready and laid out on the table.

Dong Xuebing did not let Mayor Jiang do anything else. He brought the food, bowls, and chopsticks to the dining table.

Jiang Fangfang said slowly. “Let’s eat.”

“Yes. Let’s eat.” Dong Xuebing used his chopsticks and ate a piece of vegetable. “It’s delicious. Haha.... I did not expect Mayor Jiang to be so good at cooking.”

Jiang Fangfang replied calmly. “I lived alone and always cooked for myself.”

Dong Xuebing ate and praised. “It’s been a while since I ate such delicious home cook food.”

Jiang Fangfang nodded and did not say anything. She ate and chewed her food slowly.

Dong Xuebing noticed her eating slowly and slowed down. He was waiting for Jiang Fangfang to say something because he felt she was here for a reason. He had prepared his answers if she asked him to join her faction.

One minute....

Five minutes....

Ten minutes....

They finished eating, but Mayor Jiang did not say anything.

Dong Xuebing started to get anxious when Jiang Fangfang did not say anything. He wondered why she came to his place.

Dong Xuebing asked. "Mayor Jiang, do you need anything for me?"

Jiang Fangfang looked at Dong Xuebing curiously. "Need anything from you?"

Dong Xuebing replied. "Nothing... err.... I will do the dishes."

Jiang Fangfang nodded and looked around. "Where is the washroom?"

"Oh, it's that door." Dong Xuebing replied and started doing the dishes in the kitchen.

The bathroom door was slightly opened when Dong Xuebing came out of the kitchen. He saw Jiang Fangfang washing her hands inside.

It felt like they were a couple at this moment.

Dong Xuebing took this opportunity to look at Jiang Fangfang's body. She moved slowly and steadily, and he found her more attractive. As he admires her, he notices the mirror in front of her. She bent forward slightly, and he could see her cleavage through the reflection.

Blue color....

Dark blue color with lace on the sides....

Dong Xuebing's eyes almost popped out, and he wanted to get closer to admire her.

Jiang Fangfang was washing her hands slowly, and her breasts jiggled from her movements.

Dong Xuebing's eyes hurt from staring hard. Xie Huilan is not around, and he is losing control of himself. However, Jiang Fangfang is the Mayor and his direct leader.

Jiang Fangfang turned off the tap and asked. "Mayor Dong, which towel is for drying hands?"

"You can use any towels inside."

"I will use the white towel."

"Sure. All the towels are new."

Suddenly Dong Xuebing noticed a small basin in the bathroom and quickly told Jiang Fangfang where the towel was. He wants to let her leave the bathroom quickly, as his dirty underwear and socks are inside the basin. He did not expect her to visit his apartment today and did not clear his place.

Jiang Fangfang wiped her hands and placed the towel back on the rack. She noticed Dong Xuebing's underwear and socks in the basin and said. "Your wife is not around, and it must be hard for you."

Dong Xuebing replied. "No.... I intend to wash them when I get more dirty clothes."

Jiang Fangfang replied. "You have four pairs of socks and want to wait for more clothes?"

Dong Xuebing cleared his throat and said. "I will wash them all in the washing machine to save water. I am used to washing my clothes this way."

Jiang Fangfang shook her head. "How can you wash your socks and underwear in the washing machine? I will not be clean."

"I will hand wash them if they are not clean. I was too tired these two days and did not wash my clothes."

Dong Xuebing had been doing household chores for years and did the laundry even after getting married. He knew his socks and underwear would not be clean using the washing machine. After moving to Zhen Shui County, he was alone and got lazy.

"Mayor Jiang, let's go and have some tea outside." Dong Xuebing does not want to discuss his socks and underwear with a female leader.

Jiang Fangfang thought for a second and took off her coat. She passed it to Dong Xuebing and said. "Hang it up for me."

Dong Xuebing was stunned. "Why...."

Jiang Fangfang rolled up her sleeves and replied. "I will wash them for you. It's not a lot anyway."

"Ah?"

"Just go out."

"Ah, how can I let you do it?"

"It's fine. Just go out and have tea."

Dong Xuebing was shocked and quickly stopped Jiang Fangfang. "No... please don't. I will wash them myself."

Jiang Fangfang replied nonchalantly. "You have just arrived and have not gotten used to the lifestyle here. I am older than you and am your leader at work. After work, I am considered your elder sister. You don't need to feel awkward by me washing your clothes. I had been through this too."

Dong Xuebing was speechless. "Thank you, Mayor Jiang. But I cannot let you wash my clothes for me."

This is not only washing Dong Xuebing's clothes.

It is his dirty socks and underwear.

Dong Xuebing cannot let Jiang Fangfang wash his clothes for him. Even Geng Yuehua and Xie Huilan have never washed his underwear and socks for him. His secretary, Yao Cui, also did not wash his clothes when she came over to clean his apartment.

This woman is the County Mayor. Dong Xuebing's leader.

Dong Xuebing had heard from Mayor Jiang's driver that she is mindful of cleanliness and doesn't allow other leaders to use her car. Why did she offer to wash my underwear and socks?

Jiang Fangfang ignored Dong Xuebing. She sat on a small stool and grabbed underwear from the basin.

Dong Xuebing was speechless.

He thought Jiang Fangfang had cooked for him because she wanted to pull him over to her side. But now, he no longer thinks like this.

Jiang Fangfang is not trying to make him join her faction.

No female County Mayor would wash a man's underwear after knowing him for two days.

Chapter 1080: Ambiguous

Dong Xuebing's apartment.

Inside the bathroom.

Jiang Fangfang slowly washed Dong Xuebing's underwear despite the latter trying to stop her. She scrubbed the underwear and did not seem to be embarrassed.

Socks.... Underwear....

One pair....

Two pairs....

Three pairs....

Jiang Fangfang washed the socks and underwear thoroughly.

Dong Xuebing was standing behind Jiang Fangfang uneasily, watching her wash his clothes.

Ring... ring... ring.... Dong Xuebing's phone rang, and he said. "Mayor Jiang, I have a call. You don't have to wash my clothes for me. It's fine. I can do the rest myself."

Jiang Fangfang replied without turning. "Go and answer your call."

Dong Xuebing nodded and stepped out of the bathroom.

"Hello, I am Dong Xuebing." Dong Xuebing answered without looking at the caller.

Yao Cui asked. "It's me, Xuebing. I am afraid you have not eaten, and I called to ask."

Dong Xuebing smiled. "I had taken."

"Did you eat outside?" Yao Cui asked.

Dong Xuebing could not tell her the truth. "Yes. Oh, I got something to ask you."

"Haha.... What is it?"

"Wait for a second."

Dong Xuebing turned and looked towards the bathroom. He walked quickly to his room and closed the door behind him. "How much do you know about Mayor Jiang?"

"Didn't I tell you about Mayor Jiang previously?"

“Her husband passed away many years ago, and she did not remarry. She had been living alone then. What else do you know?”

“Nothing.... Oh, Mayor Jiang likes cleanliness, and she is indifferent to everything. That’s her character.”

“Does she try to pull other leaders to her side?”

“I have not heard about it. The leaders who wanted to join her side would join her, and she never tried to invite or force others to join her. She takes things easy. I have never heard of her trying to recruit people to her side.”

“Are you sure?”

“Yes. Everyone in the government service knows about it.”

“Are you sure Mayor Jiang would not lower her position to pull someone to her side?”

“How is that possible? Mayor Jiang will not do that.”

“That’s what I think too. Ok. I roughly get the idea.”

“Xuebing, why are you asking this suddenly?”

“Nothing. I am just curious.”

Dong Xuebing got more suspicious after hanging up. Jiang Fangfang was not trying to recruit him to her side by doing all this.

But why did she cook and wash his clothes?

This is abnormal.

Dong Xuebing knew himself well. He was not attractive enough to let a female County Mayor lend him her car, cook and wash his socks for him. Something is wrong.

Why is she doing all this?

Dong Xuebing could not think of a reason.

Dong Xuebing kept his phone and walked out. He saw Jiang Fangfang washing his underwear, and he walked over.

“I am almost done.” Jiang Fangfang replied. “Do you have hangers?”

“Yes... let me look for it.” Dong Xuebing quickly went to get a hanger.

Jiang Fangfang said when Dong Xuebing returned. “Leave it by the basin.”

Dong Xuebing knew Jiang Fangfang would not stop no matter what he said. He put down the hangers and waited for her.

Jiang Fangfang sat while Dong Xuebing stood behind her.

From where Dong Xuebing was standing, he could look down at Jiang Fangfang's blouse's opening. He stopped thinking why she was doing these for him when he saw her cleavage. Her bra was dark blue with laces around it. She looked sexy, and his heart was pumping fast.

Jiang Fangfang continued to wash Dong Xuebing's socks and did not look up. Her movements made her breasts sway.

Dong Xuebing stood there and watched for a while.

A while later, Jiang Fangfang rinsed the clothes with clean water and wrung them dry. "Alright. It's done."

"I brought the hangers." Dong Xuebing picks up the hangers.

Jiang Fangfang hung the socks on the hanger and hung them on a thin rope in the bathroom. She flicked his underwear, sending water droplets everywhere. A few landed on her white blouse, making that area translucent. Her dark blue bra became more prominent, and Dong Xuebing could see the prints.

Jiang Fangfang noticed it and looked down. But she did not appear to be shy or embarrassed. She stood up and went to the living to wear back her coat.

"Alright." Jiang Fangfang looked at Dong Xuebing. "I should go. It's after 7.30 pm."

Dong Xuebing replied. "Stay a while longer. You did not have time for a cup of tea."

Jiang Fangfang waved her hand slowly. "I still have something on at home. Bye."

"Oh, I brought some local specialties and tea leaves from home. Please take some with you." Dong Xuebing took out some items from his suitcase.

Jiang Fangfang looked at the items and said. "I will take some dried mushrooms."

Dong Xuebing passed the packets of dried mushrooms to Jiang Fangfang. "Thank you for everything today. Let me know if you need help at home, like carrying heavy stuff."

Jiang Fangfang nodded. "Ok."

"Please walk slowly. I will visit your place another time."

"Ok."

Dong Xuebing looked at Jiang Fangfang, walked up the stairs, and disappeared behind the stairwell. Her perky butt wrapped in her white pants imprinted into his mind.

Jiang Fangfang had not mentioned anything about asking Dong Xuebing to join her side, and he didn't know what she was thinking. He closed the door, and his apartment still had her scent. He was confused when he saw the wet underwear and socks hung in his bathroom.