

PAW 1141

Chapter 1141: Chinese Academy of Sciences!

Noon.

The smell of delicious food filled Villa No. 1.

“Come. Lunch is ready.”

“Brother-in-law! Tell us about your adventure!”

“What adventure? There’s nothing to talk about.”

“The whole city is going after you. How did you come back?”

“Xiao Hao, stop bugging your Brother-in-law. Have your lunch, and stop asking questions.”

“Dad, I am curious. I want to hear my idol’s glory feats.”

Everyone chatted happily over lunch. Zhong Lizhen listened and watched them with a smile.

Xie Guojian picked up some food and placed it into her bowl. “Eat more, Lizhen.”

“Yes. Thank you.” Zhong Lizhen ate her food and smiled.

Han Jing also places some food into her bowl. “Here, have some of these. You had suffered in the past few months. Try my food.”

“Thanks, Sis.” Zhong Lizhen remembered. “Oh, what is Xiao Dong working as?”

Han Jing glanced at Dong Xuebing and smiled. “Didn’t Xuebing tell you?”

Zhong Lizhen replied. “He did not even tell me he is Huilan’s husband. I only know about it here. I am curious about his occupation.”

Han Jing smiled. “He is a civil servant.”

Zhong Lizhen paused for a second. “Which department is he from? State Security or Public Security?”

“No.” Han Jing replied. “He is currently a grassroots county’s Executive Deputy Mayor.”

Zhong Lizhen almost choked on her food. “A Deputy Division Chief?!”

Han Jing nodded. “Xuebing had some achievements, so he got promoted so fast.

Dong Xuebing’s position was higher than Zhong Lizhen’s expectation. Deputy Mayor.

Xie Hao laughed and interrupted. “Aunt, you don’t know how capable my Brother-in-law is.”

Xie Hao was about to continue when Dong Xuebing stopped him. “Shut up and eat your food.”

Xue Hao chewed on a piece of beef and continued. “Hehe.... My Brother-in-law is modest and doesn’t allow me to tell others. This is what I am working towards too.”

Xie Guojian gave Xie Hao a stare. "Your Mum and I will be grateful if you have 1% of Xiao Bing's capabilities."

Ring... ring... ring..... Xie Guojian's phone rang.

He looked at the number and walked aside to answer.

After lunch.

Everyone is full.

Xie Guojian returned after his phone call and said something to Xie Guobang and Xie Guoliang. He turned to the younger generation. "Xiao Hao, Xiao Ran, and Xiao Jing. You all go back first."

Xie Hao protested. "I want to chat with my Brother-in-law."

Xie Guojian scolded. "Just go back."

Xie Hao wanted to retort when Xie Jing pulled him away. "Alright. I will send you back. Aunt Zhong has just returned, and she must be busy."

Xie Ran added. "Let's go, Xiao Hao."

They knew the older generation of the family had something to discuss, and they should not be around.

Xie Hao waved to Dong Xuebing listlessly. "I got no chance to speak to you today. I will look for you tomorrow. You must teach me martial arts."

Dong Xuebing replied. "Let's talk again."

"It's settled then." Xie Hao said.

They chatted for a few minutes before they left the villa.

Inside the villa.

Dong Xuebing looked at the elders. "Mum, Dad, I am going back now."

Xie Guojian laughed. "You cannot go. You and Lizhen are the VIPs today."

Xie Guobang said. "A military higher-up, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and many other departments officials are coming to fetch Lizhen."

"Fetch me?" Zhong Lizhen asked. "I can go there myself."

Han Jing quickly replies. "You cannot go anywhere now. It's dangerous."

Xie Guojian nodded. "Other countries' eyes are around especially Beijing. It was Xiao Bing who sent you back. It's safe with him around because of his combat power. He can handle all types of situations. You will be in trouble if you go around alone. You all might not know Florida is in a mess now. Foreign affairs are facing tremendous pressure. The local authorities there are suppressing the Chinese businesses as revenge."

Dong Xuebing replied. "It's my fault. I should have held back."

Xie Guojian waved his hand. "It's not your fault. You have done nothing wrong. You had brought Lizhen back. Let the higher-ups handle the pressure."

Dong Xuebing took a deep breath. "Is that research so important?"

Xie Guojian replied. "It is more important than you imagine."

Zhong Lizhen kept quiet.

Xie Guojian looked at Dong Xuebing seriously and asked. "Xiao Bing, were you all captured by the CCTV at the airport?"

Dong Xuebing thought for a second. "The CCTVs at the airport did not see us. It's only the road outside of the terminal. But we were wearing sunglasses. So, it should be safe."

"We need to be safe. Which roads did you all travel after leaving the airport?"

"We took a cab to Hua Lian shopping mall and went to a budget hotel to shower and change. We came here after that." Dong Xuebing told Xie Guojian where they had been after arriving.

Xie Guojie nodded and made a phone call. "Hello, I am Xie Guojian. Yes. Tell Old Zhang to bring his men to delete the CCTV footage from the airport, Hua Lian Shopping Mall, and the budget hotel opposite it. Don't use the local authorities. Do it yourselves." Although Xie Guojie is from the PLA General Political Department, they have a special department doing secret operations. Deleting CCTV footage is a simple task for them.

Ten minutes later.

Xie Guojian puts down his phone. "Alright. Everything is arranged."

Zhong Lizhen looked at him. "Sorry to cause trouble, Guojian."

Xie Guojian replied. "What are you talking about? It's not troublesome. Furthermore, I had not done anything. It is Xiao Bing who did everything."

Dong Xuebing replied. "It's nothing. It's like a vacation."

Dong Xuebing downplayed the situation, but everyone knew how dangerous it was. Others might not return if they went.

"Xiao Dong." Zhong Lizhen looked at him. "I will call you Xiao Bing."

Dong Xuebing replied. "Stop thanking me, Aunt Zhong. You thanked me several times on our way back. We are a family, and I should do this."

Zhong Lizhen nodded and turned to Han Jing. "Can you lend me money, Sis? My cards were taken away at the research center, and I want to return the money to Xiao Bing."

Han King laughed. "Just spend his money, and you don't need to return. My son-in-law's asset is more than ten times of our whole family."

Zhong Lizhen took out her notebook.

Dong Xuebing quickly says. "You don't need to return the money. It's fine."

"That's different." Zhong Lizhen insisted. "Sis..."

Han Jing took out her wallet. "Fine. How much do you need?"

Zhong Lizhen glanced at the notebook and said an amount.

Han Jing shook her head when she heard it was less than 1,000 RMB. She passed her the money for her to return to Dong Xuebing. She knew Zhong Lizhen well, and she was very stubborn.

Ding Dong....

The doorbell rang.

"They are here." Xie Guojian said.

Xie Guobang stood up. "This is military affairs. I will not interfere."

Xie Guoliang smiled. "I will go upstairs to chat with you."

Han Jing joined the two brothers upstairs.

Dong Xuebing was about to leave but was stopped by Xie Guojian. "Where are you going?"

"Huh? I don't want to be involved too."

"But you are involved now. Haha...."

Zhong Lizhen opened the door. A young man and a middle-aged man are standing outside. She was excited to see them.

"Xiao Chen, Old Xu...."

"Aunt Zhong."

"Sis Zhong."

"It's you all!"

The three of them were excited to see each other.

Dong Xuebing had met one of them. He was one of Professor Chen's students who met him at the hotel.

"Where is Teacher?" Zhong Lizhen asked. "Is he here?"

They stepped aside, and Zhong Lizhen saw an old man leaving the car. His eyes sparkled when he saw her.

"Teacher...." Zhong Lizhen quickly ran over.

It was Chen Xuekai, Professor Chen. He looked at Zhong Lizhen. "Welcome back. Haha.... I can live a few more years after seeing you again."

"Sorry, Teacher. I returned late."

"No. You are not late."

Zhong Lizhen used to follow Professor Chen, together with other students, when she was in China. Dong Xuebing could tell they were close.

Dong Xuebing and Xie Guobang did not interrupt and looked at them from the villa.

The young man saw Dong Xuebing.

“It’s you.” The young man frowned. He remembered his teacher, and he went to look for Dong Xuebing. They wanted Dong Xuebing to save Zhong Lizhen, and he refused. Professor Chen bowed and begged him to save Zhong Lizhen, but he disagreed.

Chen Xuekai looked towards the villa.

Dong Xuebing greeted politely. “Professor Chen.”

Chen Xuekai nodded and entered the villa with Zhong Lizhen. He asked. “The military only told me you are back, and I rushed here immediately. How did you come back?”

Chapter 1142: The Military is Here!

Noon.

Inside Villa No. 1

The young man was also curious. “That’s right. How did you come back, Aunt Zhong?”

The other middle-aged man asked. “Did the research center let you go?”

“That’s impossible.” Zhong Lizhen looked at Dong Xuebing. “It’s Xiao Dong who rescued me. It was dangerous. We almost died there.”

Chen Xuekai looked at Dong Xuebing. “Xiao Dong rescued you?!”

The young man was surprised. He turned to Dong Xuebing. “Ah? Didn’t you refuse to go?”

The young man was angry with Dong Xuebing for refusing to rescue Zhong Lizhen and did not expect him to go to Florida the next day.

Dong Xuebing smiled. “Sorry, Professor Chen. I had no choice then. My wife does not want me to risk my life. That’s why I went secretly and did not tell anyone.”

Chen Xuekai patted Dong Xuebing’s hand. “I knew it. Xiao Xie and Xiao Han’s son-in-law, and Huilan’s husband will never be someone ordinary.”

Dong Xuebing joked. “Stop teasing me. Huilan will divorce me if I do such things again.”

Chen Xuekai laughed.

The young man learned Dong Xuebing risked his life to save Zhong Lizhen. He clenched his teeth and bowed. “I am sorry. I thought you....”

Dong Xuebing quickly helped him up. “It’s fine....”

Chen Xuekai stood up and faced Dong Xuebing. “I must give you a bow. Thank you, Xiao Dong. Thank you!”

Xie Guojian quickly stops him. “You don’t need to do this, Senior Chen.”

Dong Xuebing panicked. “Yes.... You cannot bow to me.... Sister Zhong is my Aunt. It’s right for me to go.”

A few military vehicles stopped outside of the villa.

The door opened, and an old man, in his sixties came out. He was in uniform and looked powerful. Dong Xuebing looked at his rank and was surprised. Colonel General?! A group of military officers followed behind, and armed soldiers surrounded them.

Xie Guojian went out to welcome him. "Commander Yan."

The old man nodded. "Director Xie."

Xie Guojian was surprised. "Why did you come personally?"

Commander Xie replied. "The higher-ups had ordered to protect Zhong Lizhen at all costs. Also...." He paused and smiled. "I want to meet your family, Xiao Dong. I could not return for Huilan's wedding and hear much about him. I am curious about what Secretary Xie's son-in-law looks like. That's why I came."

Xie Guojian laughed. "He is inside now."

"Alright. Let's talk inside."

They were from the Military and were familiar with each other.

.....

Inside the villa.

They entered the villa.

Xie Guojian was introduced. "This is Commander Yan."

Xie Guojian did not tell them Commander Yan's position because everyone knew who he was.

Zhong Lizhen was surprised. She did not expect Commander Yan to come and fetch her.

Commander Yan looked at Zhong Lizhen and walked over. He saluted and shook her hand. "Welcome back, Comrade Zhong."

Zhong Lizhen politely replied. "Thank you."

Commander Yan said. "How was the journey back? Are you hurt? Do you need to go to 301 Hospital for a checkup?"

Zhong Lizhen replied. "I am fine. Xiao Dong had protected me well, and I am not hurt."

They chatted for a while, and Commander Yan turned to Dong Xuebing. He smiled. "You must be Dong Xuebing."

Dong Xuebing replied. "Yes, Commander Yan."

Commander Yan walked over and extended his hand.

Dong Xuebing quickly shook his hand.

Commander Yan nodded and said. "Well done! You had done well!"

Dong Xuebing does not know how to reply. "You are flattering me...."

Commander Yan looked at Dong Xuebing. "I always wanted to meet you, but I was too busy. I finally got time to meet you today."

Dong Xuebing joked. "You must be disappointed."

Commander Yan replied. "Yes. I am disappointed. I thought you have three heads and six arms."

Dong Xuebing replied. "I am just an ordinary person. I can bring Aunt Zhong back because of luck." He does not want to be targeted by the Military and uses luck as an excuse.

Commander Yan looked at Dong Xuebing and laughed. He said softly. "Even my most elite soldiers are not confident saving Comrade Zhong from the research center. But you did it alone. Rescuing a weak woman from a heavily guarded research center unharmed is not luck."

Dong Xuebing paused for a second. "It's really because of good luck."

Commander Yan smiled. "What about the pirates' incident?"

"..... It was also luck."

"Hahaha.... It's luck again." Commander Yan patted Dong Xuebing's shoulder and asked. "Are you interested in joining the military?"

Dong Xuebing was speechless. "No.... Thank you, Commander Yan, for thinking so highly of me."

Commander Yan was not surprised. "Don't reject me so quickly. Consider my offer. If you agree, I will think of a way to transfer you over."

"Let's talk about it again. But I have no intentions of entering the Military now."

"Ok. Think it over. There's no rush."

Although disarming a bomb, and killing dozens of criminals and pirates, are shocking, it was still possible. However, this time, Dong Xuebing shocked the military leaders with his combat power!

Almost two days had passed since the Florida incident.

The Military had received the latest news. Fifty fully armed soldiers, an armored vehicle, and five military jeeps were killed and destroyed by Dong Xuebing alone! He had to protect Zhong Lizhen simultaneously, and he returned home safely!

Dong Xuebing's combat power is equivalent to a small army!

Commander Yan hoped Dong Xuebing would join the Military. With his combat power, he would do well.

Chapter 1143: Xiao Dong's personal file grade!

Inside the villa.

Commander Yan and Dong Xuebing were talking softly with each other.

The other military officers shook hands with Zhong Lizhen. Although there were no reporters around, it was like an official ceremony.

"You have suffered, Professor Zhong."

"No.... I had caused trouble for you all."

"No. Do you have anything planned this afternoon?"

“I just returned and didn’t have any arrangements.”

“The higher-ups are very concerned, and Military Commission Deputy Chairman Zhang wants to meet you in the afternoon.”

“Deputy Chairman Zhang? Alright. I will listen to your arrangement. I can leave anytime and have brought back the research materials.”

“Your safety is our top priority, and the research is secondary. Deputy Chairman Zhang wants to have a welcome dinner with you.”

“Thank you.”

“We also need to settle your citizenship issue.”

“I want to get my Chinese citizenship again.”

“Ok. We will make the arrangements. What about your job? Do you have any department in mind? You can make your request to Deputy Chairman Zhang later.”

They finished talking after a while.

Commander Yan saw his officers had finished talking to Zhong Lizhen and did not try to persuade Dong Xuebing anymore. “Thanks for bringing Comrade Zhong back safely. I thank you on behalf of the Military Commission for your contributions to the nation.” Although Xie Guojian is the PLA General Political Department Deputy Director and holds a Lieutenant General rank, he could not join the Military Commission. Commander Yan is a member of the Military Commission, and he can represent them.

Dong Xuebing replied. “It’s my duty.”

They had finished talking and got to leave.

Commander Yan looked at the time and said to Zhong Lizhen. “Comrade Lizhen, we will move off in twenty minutes. Do you have anything to prepare?”

Zhong Lizhen replied. “No.”

“All right.” Commander Yan looked at his office and asked him to make the arrangements.

Zhong Lizhen looked at Dong Xuebing. “Is the USB drive still with you?”

Dong Xuebing slapped his forehead. “I have almost forgotten about it. Here.” He took out the USB drive and passed it to her. It contains Zhong Lizhen’s research data, and it’s precious.

Zhong Lizhen kept the USB drive cautiously.

Xie Guobang suddenly appeared at the stairs. He walked down slowly. Xie Guojian messaged him to inform him that they had finished talking, and he came down. He does not want to get involved with the military.

“Secretary Xie.”

“Secretary Xie.”

The officers stood at attention and greeted Xie Guobang.

Chen Xuekai smiled to Xie Guobang.

Xie Guobang nodded to Chen Xuekai. “Senior Chen, you are here. Xiao Bing, why didn’t you serve tea to our guests?”

Dong Xuebing quickly replied. “I will do it now.”

“Don’t bother.” Professor Chen laughed. “We are going off soon.”

However, Dong Xuebing still served tea to everyone.

Commander Yan said. “I thought you were not at home, Secretary Xie. Sorry to bother you.”

“You are doing your job. It’s not a bother.” Xie Guobang shook hands with Commander Yan. “My son-in-law and wife’s sister had caused a mess for you all. Thank you. Please sit.”

Xie Guobang’s rank is higher than Commander Yan, but their powers and ranking in the Party are about the same.

Commander Yan and Xie Guobang were old friends. “Secretary Xie, you have a good son-in-law.” He said and looked at Dong Xuebing. “Xiao Dong takes full credit for bringing Comrade Lizhen back.”

Xie Guobang laughed. “Xiao Bing is indeed capable.”

“He is more than capable. He has the guts and ability. I envied him even at my age. Sigh.... It would be great if I had a beautiful daughter.” Commander Yan asked. “Oh, is Huilan having a boy or a girl?”

Xie Guobang replied. “We don’t know yet.”

Commander Yan laughed. “It will be great if it is a boy. My granddaughter is about to be born. We can let them keep in touch in the future. Haha....”

Dong Xuebing was speechless. This is another proposal.

Dong Xuebing had heard of countless such proposals since Huilan was pregnant.

Xie Guobang laughed. “You got to ask Huilan. I don’t have any say in her matters.”

Commander Yan seemed to be joking, but he was serious. This was one of the reasons he came. He knows everyone in the Xie Family, and there will be a change of terms this year. Xie’s family’s eldest, Xie Guobang, might not move, but the second, Xie Guoliang, will be promoted. The Finance Minister will retire, and Xie Guoliang, the first Deputy Minister, will replace him. Xie Guojian also significantly saved Zhong Lizhen, and she is closely related to the Xie family. Changes of Xie Guojian getting promoted are high. The Xie family is getting more influential, and he also thinks highly of Dong Xuebing. His combat power is out of this world, and his son should inherit his genes.

Commander Yan was not surprised Xie Guobang rejected him. Such a proposal cannot be decided like this.

Zhong Lizhen walked to Chen Xuekai when they were chatting.

“Teacher.”

“Have you decided which department to go to?”

“I am not sure, and I need your advice.”

Chen Xuekai analyzed it for her. “You will be a Deputy Research Center Chief if you join the military research center with your abilities and achievements. However, they will not let you be the chief. After all, you just returned.”

Zhong Lizhen replied slowly. “You should know me. I am not interested in positions or ranks. I only want to do my research.”

Chen Xuekai nodded. “Come to the Academy of Sciences, then.”

Zhong Lizhen replied without hesitation. “Ok. I will listen to you.”

Chen Xuekai said. “You worked in the Academy of Sciences before and are familiar with the work there. You don’t need time to settle down and can start immediately. You are skilled in several fields, and the Academy of Sciences is more suitable for you. It will be good for your future too.”

“Ok. I will join the Academy of Sciences and hope you will participate in my research. After all, we were the ones who came up with this idea.”

“Haha.... Your knowledge had suppressed me now. I am old, and it’s time for you all to take over.”

Twenty minutes passed.

A soldier came in and reported to Commander Yan. “Commander, the arrangement is completed. We can leave now.”

Commander Yan nodded. “Alright. Let’s go.”

“Yes.” The soldier saluted and left.

Commander Yan turned to Zhong Lizhen and Chen Xuekai. “Comrade Lizhen, Professor Chen, let’s go.”

Zhong Lizhen nodded and stood up with Chen Xuekai.

“Secretary Xie.” Commander Yan said. “We are leaving now. I am busy these few days. Let’s have dinner together again when Huilan and Xiaobing are around another day.”

Xie Guobang smiled. “Sure.”

Zhong Lizhen said. “I am leaving, Brother-in-law.”

Xie Guobang nodded. “Visit your Sister when you are free. If you don’t have any place to stay, you can stay with us. Your sister has nothing to do, and you can accompany her.”

“Ok.” Zhong Lizhen replied and looked at Dong Xuebing.

Although they had just met, they had gone through a lot. Dong Xuebing also can't bear to see her leave. “Aunt Zhong, I will be leaving in two days. I am unsure what the US will do after you return, and I am worried. Call me if you need help. I might not do much, but I can guarantee your safety. Don't worry about troubling me.”

Zhong Lizhen nodded. “I know.”

“You can get my number from my Mum.”

“Ok. I will call you after I get a new phone.”

The soldiers there would feel insulted if someone else said these. It implied they could not protect Zhong Lizhen. But it was Dong Xuebing who said it. The officers exchanged looks and kept quiet. Dong Xuebing can say this as he has proven his abilities.

Dong Xuebing can destroy an armored vehicle and kill fifty soldiers by himself. He also escaped from thousands of soldiers in a lockdown city.

The military higher-ups and the soldiers involved in this operation knew about Dong Xuebing, and his personal file grade increased by several levels.

Chapter 1144: Hard disk!

Noon.

Villa no. 1.

Everyone left, and Xie Guoliang came downstairs.

Xie Guojian looked up. “Where's Sister-in-law?”

“Xiao Hao, Xiao Ran, and Xiao Jing could not keep secrets. Yan Zhen and Lifan know about this incident, and she is talking to them over the phone.” Xie Guoliang explained.

Xie Guojian replied. “Just tell them what happened. After all, they had returned safely.”

Xie Guolian asked. “Has Xiao Zhong and the rest left? What did they say?”

Xie Guojian said. “They went to visit Deputy Chairman Zhang. I think they are arranging Lizhen's job and position and will assign a team of researchers under her.”

Dong Xuebing interrupted. “Which department is Aunt Zhong going?”

Xie Guojian thought for a second. “I think she will attend the Chinese Academy of Sciences.”

Xie Guobang said. “Senior Xie called me when I was upstairs. He wants us to look after Lizhen and be more concerned about her development.”

Xie Guojian paused. “Why is our dad...?”

Xie Guojian glanced at Dong Xuebing.

Dong Xuebing immediately got the hint. “I will go upstairs.”

The younger generation should not get involved in such conversations.

Xie Guobang waved. "Sit, Xiao Bing."

Xie Guojian looked at Dong Xuebing and smiled.

Dong Xuebing was surprised and returned to his seat. He was allowed to listen to their conversation, affirming his ability. Even the third generation's head, Xie Ran, is not qualified to join the older generation's discussions. This is because Xie Ran is young, and the third generation is not ready. Maybe Huilan is the only one who can participate. Now, Dong Xuebing is allowed to join. Of course, he is not qualified to give any suggestions.

Xie Guobang said. "Lizhen will not leave after this incident, and she will develop her career here. She will become a faculty head with her qualifications and will be a Major General. Senior Xie wants us to give her a hand and help her get more authority. She is one of us, and we should help her."

This is grooming a helper.

Zhong Lizhen and Han Jing are close, and she will join the Xie faction.

But... Major General. Xie Guojing worked for many years in the military and was only a Lieutenant General. Zhong Lizhen might become a Major General the moment she returned.

They chatted about Zhong Lizhen and started talking about Xie Guoliang. Xie Guobang asked. "Are there any problems with your promotion?"

Xie Guoliang nodded. "It should be confirmed."

Xie Guobang continued. "I cannot move up this time. What about you, Guojian? You are the only one still stuck in your position."

Xie Guojian replied. "It's about my length of service. I am slightly lacking compared to the others."

Xie Guobang replied. "Lizhen's incident is an opportunity for you. I will ask Senior Xie if he has any solutions."

Xie Guojian smiled. "I am prepared. It doesn't matter to me."

Xie Guobang nodded.

"It will be great if Guojian can be promoted." Xie Guobang said. "Even a same-level transfer and joining the Military Commission is not bad."

Xie Guojian smiled. "It's impossible."

Suddenly Dong Xuebing remembered. "Oh, I forgot to give you something, Second Uncle. I wanted to give it to you since I returned but did not have the opportunity."

"What is it?" Xie Guojian and Xie Guoliang looked at Dong Xuebing.

Dong Xuebing took out a hard disk from his pocket. "This."

"Hard disk?" Xie Guojian was puzzled. "What is inside it?"

Dong Xuebing's reply shocked everyone. "I brought it back from Florida's military research center. I don't know what it contain, but it was inside a locked office."

Xie Guojian was shocked. "From the research center?"

Dong Xuebing smiled wearily. "Don't tell Aunt Zhong about this. I suggested this to her as it was a good opportunity, but she is stubborn. She says she did not develop those technologies and didn't allow me to take anything. I pulled out this hard disk from one of their PC when she was not noticing." He had used STOP to steal this hard disk without her knowing.

Xie Guojian laughed and patted Dong Xuebing's shoulder. "Well done!"

Zhong Lizhen is stubborn, but Dong Xuebing is not. He is a wicked bastard who will not let his enemies off lightly.

Xie Guoliang asked. "What does it contain?"

"It should be some technologies. I don't know." Dong Xuebing replied.

"Wait a while. I will get someone here." Xie Guojian immediately made a call.

A soldier in civilian clothes arrived twenty minutes later. He should be an IT technician from the military.

Xie Guojian gave that soldier the hard disk. "This is a top-secret mission. You must forget everything you see in the hard disk after you leave this door."

"Yes, Sir!" The man replied.

"Start. I want to know what does it contain."

The soldier took out a laptop and some equipment. He connected the hard disk to the laptop and started typing.

One minute....

Five minutes....

Ten minutes....

The technician was startled and continued to type. His expression got more nervous, and he started to sweat.

"What's wrong?" Xie Guojian asked.

Dong Xuebing looked from behind anxiously.

The technician wiped his sweat. "These are..... too important! There are two completed and five to six preliminary designs! It also contains some US military research and research reports!"

Even though Zhong Lizhen has studied in several fields, she is just one person.

This hard disk is different. It contains completed and half-completed research!

After the technician left, Xie Guojian patted Dong Xuebing's shoulder. "Thanks."

"Don't mention it." Dong Xuebing also hopes this hard disk can help Xie Guojian move up during the term change. It will benefit the Xie family and him.

Chapter 1145: Return to the County!

One day....

Two days....

Three days....

Morning. The sun is not up yet.

Dong Xuebing had settled everything in Beijing and had bid goodbyes to the Xie family. His luggage was packed, and he took a cab to the airport. He was supposed to return to the County the day before yesterday, but he was too busy. He had to change his flight to this morning.

Inside the car.

Dong Xuebing called the County Finance Department Chief Yan Yizhi.

“Hello, Chief Yan.”

“Mayor Dong.”

“Sorry to call you so early.”

“It’s fine. I just woke up.”

“Is everything fine at the Finance Department this month?”

“Everything was fine. Anyway, we cannot give out the salary on time this month. Secretary Meng and Mayor Jiang are asking about the funds.”

“I checked yesterday. The fund from the Central Government should be in these few days.”

“Huh? I did not tell the higher-ups because you told me to last time. Mayor Jiang and Secretary Meng do not know about it yet. I told them you remained in Beijing to get the fund and did not return with us.”

“Ok. Let’s report to Mayor Jiang after I am back.”

Yan Yizhi found an excuse for Dong Xuebing and did not claim the credit.

Dong Xuebing nodded after hanging up. Yan Yizhi is smart and knows what to do. Chen Xiaomei had hinted that she wanted to join his faction and kept feeding him information. He was unsure if she acted under Yan Yizhi’s instructions or wanted to join him. However, he can confirm it now. Yan Yizhi and Chen Xiaomei were from the Meng faction and did not tell Secretary Meng about the fund. This is an indication of their intentions.

The Finance Department is one of the departments under Dong Xuebing. Now, the no.1 and no.2 of the Finance Department have joined him, and things will be easier.

This is a good move.

Dong Xuebing was satisfied with this Beijing trip. Putting Zhong Lizhen’s incident aside, he had gotten 50 million RMB of funding. He pulled the Finance Department Chief and Deputy Chief to

his side. Of course, Huilan's Eldest Uncle, Xie Guoliang, played a significant role. They would never join his side if they did not see Dong Xuebing's connections and influence.

Dong Xuebing reached the airport. He paid the driver and called Zhen Shui County Government Office Director Ma Bin.

"Hello, Director Ma."

"It's me, Mayor Dong."

"I am boarding the plane and should arrive around 9 am."

"Alright. I will get someone to fetch you from the airport."

"Ok. Sorry to trouble you all."

"Don't say that. It's my job."

Ma Bin has been cautious towards Dong Xuebing because of Yao Cui.

Boarding pass....

Security checks....

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

Ma Bin called. "Hello, Mayor Dong."

Dong Xuebing replied. "What is it, Director Ma?"

Ma Bin replied. "I checked... err... our County government cars are not available. Mayor Ci had taken one car last night, and staff used the other to go to another province. I cannot reach him and don't know when he will return. Do you want me to ask the Public Security?" Ma Bin was not making things difficult for Dong Xuebing. It was because Zhen Shui County was too poor. Even the Mayor uses a domestic car worth around 100,000 RMB, and the other Party Committee Members are not assigned cars.

Use the Public Security Bureau's car?!

This is wrong. Dong Xuebing is not in charge of the Public Security Bureau.

Dong Xuebing was particular about these as he is still new to the County. "What about the County Party Committee?"

"The County Party Committee should have available cars." Ma Bin hesitated. "But a leader's relative is getting married today."

"Married?"

"It's Secretary Zhang's son and Secretary Pu's daughter."

Secretary Zhang? Deputy County Party Secretary Zhang Wanshui? A member of the Meng faction?!

Secretary Pu is the County's Commission for Discipline Inspection secretary. He is not with any faction.

Dong Xuebing thought about these two men. Marriage?

"I remember Secretary Pu's daughter is much older than Secretary Zhang's son."
Dong Xuebing asked. He was speechless. Why are these two families allying?
Although he is new to Zhan Shui County, he heard a lot about the leaders from Yao Cui. He knew they were not on good terms.

Ma Bin stuttered. "No... no.... Err.... I did not make myself clear. They are not getting married to each other. They are both holding their weddings today."

What?

Their weddings are today?

Dong Xuebing narrowed his eyes. Something is going on.

Why are two County Party Committee members' children holding their wedding on the same day?

Ma Bin lowered his voice and explained softly. "Secretary Zhang and Secretary Pu are not on good terms, and today is a coincidence. They picked today because it is an auspicious date. They knew about it when they tried to book the restaurant for the wedding banquet. Both refused to change the dates, which resulted in this situation. They even booked the same venue for the wedding banquets. After all, we only got one hotel in our county. It's a mess now."

This is a mess.

Although Dong Xuebing is not in Zhen Shui County now, he can sense the tension.

Deputy Party Committee Secretary Zhang is the no.3 of the Party Committee, and Secretary Pu should give in. However, Secretary Pu is stubborn and is not on good terms. This is these two's personal affairs, but it's more than that. They had sent out invitations to the staff, and they had to decide which banquet to attend. If a staff attended Secretary Zhang's banquet, he would offend Secretary Pu.

Wow.... This is getting complicated.

The leader, who drove the car to another province, must have planned this trip. He did not want to offend either side and went away to hide.

Dong Xuebing has a headache. He ponders if he should return now.

Although Dong Xuebing does not mind offending others, he will try his best not to. It's better to have friends than enemies.

Dong Xuebing asked about the situation from Ma Bin, and the gates opened.

Airline staff started checking the boarding passes.

Dong Xuebing replied. "I am going to board the plane now. Let's talk later."

"I will ask if any cars from the Party Committee are available." Ma Bin replied.

Dong Xuebing knows the County Government and Party Committee are at odds and said. "It's fine. I will do it."

"Err.... How about I ask Mayor Jiang?"

"Don't bother Mayor Jiang for a small matter like this. Ok. Bye."

"Alright."

Dong Xuebing sighed after hanging up. It's only some vehicles, and they got to ask around to borrow one.

Be content....

Dong Xuebing called Yao Cui to ask her to borrow a car from the County Party Committee.

"Hello, Mayor Dong." Yao Cui said.

Dong Xuebing smiled. "Is it convenient to talk now?"

"Yes, I am at home. I am still sleeping."

"Sorry to wake you so early."

"Haha.... Don't say that. If my parents hear it, they will scold me. Are you coming back today?"

"Yes. I will reach around 9 am. But the County Government does not have any cars. Can you borrow a car from the County Party Committee?"

"Ok. I will call them now."

"Can you drive?"

"Yes, but I seldom drive."

"Can you fetch me if you are free?"

"Sure, if you dare to let me drive. Oh...." Yao Cui's tone changed suddenly. "You had picked the wrong time to return. The county is...."

"Is it regarding Secretary Zhang and Secretary Pu's children's wedding?"

"Oh, you know about this? Sigh.... It's a mess now. I received two wedding invitations and tried calling you for your advice. But your phone was off."

"My battery was flat."

"Then.... What are you going to do?"

"Let's talk after I am back."

"Ok. I will ask for the car now."

Dong Xuebing switched off his phone and fastened his seatbelt after he boarded the plane.

Although Zhang Wanshui is Secretary Meng's man, he is the County Party Committee Deputy Secretary. Dong Xuebing should attend his banquet. However, Secretary Pu had been neutral in the

Party Committee for many years. Dong Xuebing should try to pull him over as a part of Jiang's faction. He should also attend his daughter's wedding banquet.

Sigh....

Why did they pick the same day to hold their weddings?

Zhen Shui Hotel is the County's partner. The person in charge should inform the other party when he knows both are holding the wedding on the same day.

Chapter 1146: Dong Xuebing is furious!

Morning.

Provincial capital.

Dong Xuebing walked out of the airport lobby and did not see the car that was supposed to pick him up.

He looked at the time. It was 9 am.

Dong Xuebing waited for a while before he realized he had not switched on his phone. He switched it on, and it rang immediately. It was Yao Cui.

"Hello, Mayor Dong." Yao Cui was panting.

Dong Xuebing asked. "Why are you out of breath?"

Yao Cui replied. "I am fine. Are you at the airport?"

Dong Xuebing replied. "Yes. I just landed. Where are you?"

Yao Cui apologized. "I'm sorry. Director Ma and I just left."

Dong Xuebing frowned. Zhen Shui County is not near the Provincial capital, and they will arrive after 10.30 am. It would be around 1 pm when they return.

Dong Xuebing did not get mad at Yao Cui. He asked. "What happened?"

Yao Cui replied. "Director Ma and I tried our best to book a cab to bring us to the airport. The County does not have any cars."

"Even the County Party Committee does not have cars?" Dong Xuebing frowned.

"They refused to lend us." Yao Cui replied angrily.

"What is going on? Why are they refusing?" Dong Xuebing asked.

Yao Cui replied. "They did not refuse us outright. After you called me, I went to the Party Committee building. I informed the Party Committee Office on my way there. When I reached, they told me they had no available cars. But I saw three cars with red ribbons parked outside. I told them you are arriving at the airport and need a car. Director Ma was with me and overheard them calling Deputy Secretary Zhang. The Party Committee Office Director, Jiang Haijiang, came and told us all the cars outside were going to Deputy Secretary Zhang's son's wedding, and they could not lend to us. He asked us to think of other solutions. Director Ma and I called the other departments, including Public Security. Still, all their cars are going to Deputy Secretary Zhang's son's wedding." She was complaining to Dong Xuebing.

Dong Xuebing's face changed.

He had not asked Ma Bing to arrange it because Yao Cui's words held more weight as she was his secretary. A leader's secretary represents the leader, and the Party Committee disrespects him by not lending him a car.

Yao Cui might have run around the whole morning, so she was still panting.

Dong Xuebing said. "Catch your breath first. Pass the phone to Director Ma."

"Ok." Yao Cui replied. "Director Ma, Mayor Dong wants to speak to you."

"Oh...." Ma Bing answered. "Mayor Dong, I am Old Ma."

Dong Xuebing is in charge of the County Government Office Department and is Ma Bing's direct supervisor. When he said he needed a car, Ma Bing went around to look for one. He was furious when the County Party Committee refused to lend them one. There was not enough time, and they booked a cab to fetch Dong Xuebing.

"Where are you all now?" Dong Xuebing asked.

"Most cabs here will not go to the Provincial Capital as it is too far away. We searched for a while before we found one driver who agreed to take us. We are still within the County and should reach in an hour."

Dong Xuebing nodded. "All right. You all don't need to come."

Ma Bing tried to explain. "Mayor Dong, we...."

Dong Xuebing replied calmly. "I am not blaming you all. It will be too late when you all arrive. I can take a long-distance bus back."

"We cannot let you do that."

"Listen to me. Go back first."

"All right.... I'm sorry, Mayor Dong."

"It's all right. It's not your fault. We might have had some misunderstanding when I arrived. Let's have dinner together another time."

Ma Bing was excited. "Sure... sure.... Let me know when you are free."

"Thanks for your hard work. Let Xiao Yao know"

Ma Bing knew his efforts had not gone to waste after hanging up. He had finally made Mayor Dong forgive him. He was worried Dong Xuebing would let his former classmate, Yao Cui, take over his position. That's why he was relieved after Dong Xuebing said that.

Airport.

Dong Xuebing walked over to the bus station nearby. The bus to Zhen Shui County was about to depart, and he quickly bought a ticket.

The bus was packed and dirty.

Dong Xuebing does not know anyone in the Provincial Government and can only take the bus.

It's been a while since Dong Xuebing took a long-distance bus.

The passengers before Dong Xuebing seemed drunk and talked loudly, making him frustrated.

How can all the County's cars be unavailable? They can send the car to Deputy Party Secretary's son's wedding but cannot send one to fetch him. What a joke! How many cars do you need for a wedding?

This is disrespecting him.

Dong Xuebing knew the County Commission for Discipline Inspection does not have cars, and it was not Secretary Pu An's fault. Secretary Meng has the final say in Zhen Shui County, and Zhang Wanshui is his right-hand man. He believes Zhang Wanshui knows he needs a car but refuses to lend one.

This would never happen in Beijing as this would offend Dong Xuebing. It will not benefit them in any way. But the grassroots worked differently. Anything can happen.

Are you all targeting me because I spoke against you during the Party Committee meeting?

Zhang Wanshui....

Meng's faction....

Fine! I will remember this!

Dong Xuebing smiled to himself. Do you think I don't have a car?

Chapter 1147: Bring them back!

Morning.

Outside of the Provincial capital.

The angrier Dong Xuebing was, the calmer he was. He looked out of the bus quietly.

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

Dong Xuebing's phone rang, and he answered.

"I am Jiang Fangfang." Mayor Jiang said.

Dong Xuebing straightens his back. "Good morning, Mayor Jiang."

Jiang Fangfang spoke slowly. "I heard you are back."

Dong Xuebing replied. "Yes. I just got off the plane and am on the long-distance bus now. I should arrive around 10.30 am."

Jiang Fangfang asked slowly. "Why didn't you tell me there's no vehicle? I just heard about it and was about to ask Old Wang to pick you up. Wait for him."

"I am on the bus now. Don't trouble yourself."

"Ok. Let's talk after you are back."

"Thank you, Mayor Jiang."

Jiang Fangfang should be at home as there were firecrackers in the background. It would be weird if it were quiet as two families in the family quarters are getting married today.

They could not hear each other clearly and hung up after a while.

The two drunkards turned and looked at Dong Xuebing after he hung up.

“This guy just received a call from the Mayor!”

“Mayor Jiang should be Jiang Fangfang.”

“Haha... this guy knows how to brag.”

“That’s right. He knows how to act.”

“What is he doing on a long-distance bus if he can receive a call from the mayor?”

They spoke loudly, and everyone on the bus heard them. Everyone turned and looked at them.

This bus is going to Zhen Shui County, and most of the passengers are from there. They knew who the Mayor was and were amused. After all, Dong Xuebing was too young and looked like a student.

Dong Xuebing ignored them.

One of the drunkards said. “I hear Zhui Shui County is bustling today. Two County Party members’ children are getting married. It is a mess there. Haha.... We are going to enjoy a good show later.”

The other drunkard said. “I heard about it too.”

The first drunkard said. “Secretary Pu is going to embarrass himself. Deputy Secretary Zhang is the County’s Deputy Party Secretary and Secretary Meng’s man. All the Government staff should be attending Deputy Secretary Zhang’s banquet. Most of Mayor Jiang’s supporters will also not attend Secretary Pu’s banquet.”

“Why?”

“Don’t you know about it?”

“Tell me.”

“It’s simple. Mayor Jiang and her supporters will not want to offend Secretary Meng’s faction.”

“I disagree.”

“It’s the truth. Secretary Pu will not win against Deputy Secretary Zhang.”

“That’s right. Secretary Meng has the final say in our Zhen Shui County.”

“It’s more than having the final say. No one dares to oppose Secretary Meng in the county.”

Dong Xuebing glanced at them. These two drunkards know a lot.

Dong Xuebing knew many civilians liked to discuss politics, and he did not stop them.

However, these two drunkards went overboard.

“I heard Jiang Fangfang is very pretty.”

“That’s right. I saw her on TV. She is pretty.”

“I saw her on TV before and heard she is prettier in person. It’s a pity she became a widow at such a young age.”

“Haha.... Brother Sun, you claimed to be very charming. You should try your luck with Mayor Jiang. If you can get her, you don’t need to worry about anything for the rest of your life.”

“Haha.... Sure. I will try if I get the chance.”

“Let’s not talk about this.”

“What’s there to be scared?”

“Haha.... Didn’t you hear that guy speaking to Mayor Jiang on the phone?”

“He is bragging, and you believe? I can also claim ii know Secretary Meng.”

Dong Xuebing had been suppressing his anger with Zhang Wanshui and couldn’t be bothered by these two drunkards. However, they had gone overboard, and he could not take it anymore. He did not say anything and took out his phone to send a message to Yao Cui.

Beep.... Yao Cui replied immediately.

Yao Cui: I understand. I will do it immediately.

Dong Xuebing kept his phone and closed his eyes.

Half an hour....

One hour....

The long-distance bus enters Zhen Shui County and stops at a run-down bus terminal. The door opened, and the passengers started to get off the bus with their luggage.

The two drunkards stood up.

Dong Xuebing walked past them.

The younger drunkard was about to move when his companion stopped him.

The companion said. “Let him alight first. He knows Mayor Jiang.”

The younger drunkard laughed. “That’s right. I did not expect to meet someone like him on a bus.”

Everyone looked at Dong Xuebing and the two drunkards and continued to move out of the bus.

Two police cars appeared suddenly and stopped at the long-distance bus terminal surrounding the bus.

The passengers were shocked. What is going on? Is there a pickpocket on the bus?

A middle-aged man and a few policemen got out and looked around. The middle-aged man saw Dong Xuebing and walked over. "Mayor Dong."

Dong Xuebing shook his hand. "Thank you."

The middle-aged man replied. "No problem. It's our duty. Where are they?"

Dong Xuebing pointed to the two stunned drunkards and said. "I still have something on. You all can carry on."

"Let me send you."

"No need."

Dong Xuebing walked out of the bus terminal slowly.

The rest of the passengers were shocked when they heard "Mayor Dong."

Mayor Dong?! The newly appointed Executive Deputy Mayor?!

The middle-aged man's face changed after Dong Xuebing left. He stared at the two drunkards and waved his hand. "Bring them back!"

"Huh?!"

"Wait... wait...."

"It's a misunderstanding!"

The drunkards panicked and sobered up.

The policemen ignored their cries and pinned the two drunkards down. They had said the wrong things and will be locked up for at least twenty-four hours.

The two drunkards' faces turned green. They finally realized the guy sitting behind them was a Deputy County Mayor.

The phone call with Mayor Jiang was real!

F**k! What is a Deputy County Mayor doing in a long-distance bus?!

Chapter 1148: First display of power?

Zhen Shui County.

Dong Xuebing took a cab to the housing estate, where he parked his car after leaving the bus terminal. The Beijing registration plate, 6666, Land Rover, was dusted after many days. He drove it to a car wash nearby to wash his car. The workers at the carwash and passersby were staring at the Land Rover. This car cost at least 4 million RMB, and they had never seen such an expensive car in Zhen Shui County. A 170,000 to 180,000 RMB Toyota is considered an expensive car here.

"It's done."

"How much is it?"

"Huh? 3 RMB."

3 RMB is very cheap.

Dong Xuebing was surprised by the cost of living here. He paid and drove off.

Where is he going?

The County Party Committee family quarters, of course.

Anyone who knows Dong Xuebing well will know he is vengeful. He had created all sorts of troubles at other people's weddings. Someone blocked the wedding convoy with a Mercedes Benz at his cousin's wedding in Yan Tai County, Hui Tian Village. He smashed that car without hesitation. When he visited Yang Zhaode and his mother's house, he blocked the entrance with his car because of some conflicts. The wedding guests were setting off firecrackers, and he played funeral music loudly. This was why he was known as the God of Plagues. However, no one in Zhen Shui County knows about his glorious past.

The County Party Committee family quarters.

The wedding convoy had arrived, and two rows of cars stopped in front of a building. It was crowded, and both sides started setting off firecrackers, trying to outdo each other.

Bang, boom....

The firecrackers are deafening.

The staff attending the weddings were troubled.

"Old Liu, what should we do?"

"What else can we do?"

"Sigh.... These two families had fallen out completely."

"Let's not talk about this. Which banquet are you attending?"

"I am attending Secretary Zhang's son's wedding banquet."

"This is ridiculous. Sigh.... We are getting dragged into their fight."

"That's right. If Secretary Pu bears a grudge against us.... He is the Commission for Discipline Inspection secretary. That is the Commission for Discipline Inspection."

"Old Xu is smart. He got an excuse to leave the County. I will also hide if I can."

All the staff were discussing. The firecrackers were loud, and no one could hear them.

Among the crowd.

The Finance Department Yan Yizhen and Chen Xiaomei were there.

Yao Cui and County Government Office Director Ma Bing arrived.

A County Party Committee member's family wedding would have packed the family quarters, and two members' families' weddings made it worse. All the department chiefs, villages, and town government chiefs were there. Most guests should attend the banquet and not join the family to receive the bride. Maybe they were pressured by Secretary Pu and Deputy Secretary Zhang to come. Most guests were here, and some stayed at the family quarters.

Of course, the County Party Secretary and Mayor were not there. They would not join the convoy to go to the banquet.

However, both of them were looking at the wedding convoy closely.

Meng Rui, Secretary Meng, was looking from upstairs. He shook his head when he saw the two families trying to outdo with other with their firecrackers. When he heard Zhang Wanshui and Pu An's children are holding their wedding on the same day, he told his secretary to tell Zhang Wanshui to tone down. He knew they were not on good terms. It's OK to have conflicts, but they must not show it. Also, Pu An is not on either side and has been in the County for many years. He was also holding an important portfolio. Meng Rui does not want to fall out with him. However, Zhang Wanshui did not heed his warnings and was prepared to go to war with Pu An. So, he was watching closely without saying anything.

Jiang Fangfang was also watching the wedding convoys from her window. She had no expression. She looked at them and sat down to enjoy her tea.

"Secretary Yao."

"Sister Li."

Mayor Jiang's secretary, Li Xiaona, found Yao Cui.

Dong Xuebing is on Jiang Fangfang's side, and their secretaries get closer.

Li Xiaona asked. "Has Mayor Dong arrived?"

Yao Cui replied. "He contacted me earlier. He should reach the bus terminal now."

Li Xiaona said. "Mayor Jiang asked if he needs Old Wang to pick him up at the terminal."

Yao Cui replied. "No need. I wanted to fetch him, but he refused."

Li Xiaona asked. "Mayor Dong has no car, and the terminal is quite far. But since Mayor Dong say he does not need anyone to pick him, we shall wait for him. Call me if he needs help. I will ask Old Wang to pick him." Mayor Jiang treats Mayor Dong differently, and Li Xiaona knows what to do.

"OK. Thank you, Sister Li."

"Don't say that. It's Mayor Jiang's instruction."

Li Xiaona seemed to be busy, and she left quickly.

Yao Cui looked toward Zhang Wanshui's family convoy angrily.

Pu An's family only had five to six cars; the leading car was an old Audi A6.

Zhang Wanshui's family's leading car was a Lexus, and the rest were Audi, which were rented cars. However, Yao Cui was mad when she saw the other cars. All of them were from the County Party Committee Office Department and other government departments. Even the County Government's car was there. It was the car borrowed by Deputy Mayor Ci Boyang. It was the last car of the convoy and was there to make up the numbers.

Yao Cui felt the Meng's faction was too much.

Mayor Dong had gone to Beijing to get funding for the County. Everyone would benefit if he managed to get funding. He would solve the County's wages issue. Still, these people don't even want to give up a car to pick him up. Even if Mayor Dong failed, he is still the County's Executive Deputy Mayor.

Zhang Wanshui's secretary walked past and saw Yao Cui.

"Secretary Yao."

"Yes?"

"Has Mayor Dong arrived?"

"I don't know."

Yao Cui did not hide her anger. Almost all the County Government and County Party Committee cars were used by Zhang Wanshui, and Dong Xuebing could not get a car. Zhang Wanshui created this situation, and she did not give his secretary "face."

Deputy Secretary Zhang's secretary frowned and did not say anything. He walked out and called Zhang Wanshui.

"Hello, Secretary Zhang."

"Have you reached the hotel?"

"Not yet. I saw Mayor Dong's secretary Xiao Yao. She used to be fine talking, but I don't know what happened. She seemed to be upset today." A secretary must report anything to the leader.

"Xiao Yao? I know."

"Then I...."

"Go and set up the venue and ignore them."

Zhang Wanshui hung up and thought nothing about it.

A few of the Party Committee members were at Zhang Wanshui's house. The Publicity Department, Cheng Fuguang, Organization Department, Liao Haiwei, Deputy Mayor Ci Boyang, and Party Committee Deputy Office Department Director, Jiang Hai, were there. They were all from the Meng's faction and were close. Pu An's side only has a Party Committee member, United Front Work Department Chief Jian Xiangrong.

When Yao Cui went to borrow a car from the Party Committee, Jiang Hai informed Zhang Wanshui. After all, Dong Xuebing is a Party Committee member. However, the Meng faction is powerful in the county, and Dong Xuebing is on Jiang Fangfang's side. Zhang Wanshui felt he did not need to do anything and did not lend him a car.

This is a show of his attitude.

That resulted in Yao Cui not finding any cars to pick up Dong Xuebing from the airport.

Maybe this is the first show of power from the Meng faction.

Chapter 1149: Challenge

Morning.

The County Party Committee.

The Commission for Discipline Inspection Secretary, Pu An's house.

"Dad, can you come for a minute?"

"What is it, Taotao?"

"Let's talk in the room."

"We are leaving soon. What is it?"

Pu An and his daughter went into the room.

Pu Tao said angrily after they entered the room. "Dad, I am thirty this year, and this is my wedding. Can't you make my wedding grander? I know you are the Commission for Discipline Inspection, and I got to take note of your appearances. I am not an unreasonable person. I can don't care about the banquet venue or my wedding gown. But can't you get a better leading car for my wedding convoy? Look at Zhang Wanshui's son. His leading car, a Lexus, cost almost a million RMB, and the two cars behind are Audis. Our wedding convoy's leading car is an Audi A6. Many of my friends and classmates are here, making me embarrassed."

Pu An frowned. "All cars are the same."

Pu Yao retorted. "It's different. It will make us look bad. Everyone in the County is looking at us. We will lose to Zhang Wanshui."

Pu An replied. "But where can you find a proper wedding company in Zhen Shui County?"

Pu Tao said. "We can go to a wedding company in the City. You had prepared for the wedding, and getting a better car with your connections should not be hard."

"These cars are from the city."

"An Audi? Even a domestically made BMW or Mercedes Benz is better."

"Just make do with it. It's your wedding today, and you should be happy."

"How can I be happy? I get upset when I see that Audi."

"Don't be mad, Taotao. Go and accompany our guests. Don't let them wait."

Pu Tao stormed out of the room.

Pu An was helpless. He did not go out and light a cigarette.

The door opened.

It was United Front Work Department Chief Jian Xiangrong. They were the neutral members of the Party Committee. Although they were not on any side, their lives were not much better. After all, Secretary Meng has the majority of the votes. Their votes did not matter much to him, which will form a balance in the committee. As neutrals, they were close.

“What’s wrong, Old Pu?”

“Nothing.”

“Nothing? Taotao seems to be mad.”

“Sigh.... She is mad with me because of the wedding convoy’s leading car.”

Jian Xiangrong looked at him. “I always wanted to ask about this. Why did you arrange for an Audi? Does Taotao’s husband’s family prepare it?”

Pu An shook his head. “I was the one who decided. You should know about the City’s situation. There are only two wedding companies, and I contacted them after I booked the banquet. They told me their cars were rented out. It’s an auspicious day today, and there are many weddings. Some couples had booked the cars six months ago. I tried contacting wedding companies from other cities, but Zhen Shui County is too far. They refused to send their cars. Ultimately, I got to ask others for help, and I can only get this Audi.” Although a Party Committee member is influential in Zhen Shui County, Zhen Shui County is too poor. The whole county has less than five luxury cars. His influence was insufficient to borrow a better car from other cities.

“There are many weddings today. I saw a few weddings on my way here. What about the Province?”

“They refused to send their cars even though I offered to pay more. It’s too far, and you should know about our family’s financial condition. I cannot afford to rent a good car.”

“Sigh.... I cannot help as we don’t have any good cars.”

“It’s alright.”

Pu An is famous for being incorruptible in Zhen Shui County.

Many people might think Pu An was putting up a show, but Xiang Jianrong has known him for many years. His family is not wealthy, and Jian Xiangrong is about the same. This was one of the reasons why they were close. Sigh.... Jian Xiangrong always felt Old Pu should not fall out with Zhang Wanshui, but he did not say it. He knew Pu An’s temper and stubbornness.

Since it had happened, nothing can be done.

Half an hour later.

The family quarters.

Both families’ relatives came out of the building at the same time. They had received the brides, and the grooms carried them with their friends and relatives behind them.

Crack! Bang! Boom!

Firecrackers were let off again.

“Congratulations, Secretary Zhang.”

“I wish you happiness, Xiao Zhang.”

“Have a baby soon! Haha....”

The people at the family quarters went over to congratulate the couple.

Most people congratulate Deputy Secretary Zhang Wanshui’s son. A few Party Committee members and department chiefs surrounded him. Very few people congratulate Pu An and Pu Tao. Zhang Wanshui’s family wedding convoy’s leading car is a Lexus. The rest were also good cars. Some could not even enter the family quarters. Their convoy had at least twenty cars, and Pu An’s family only had around six cars.

The difference was noticeable.

Zhang Wanshui and Pu An were downstairs.

“Thank you, everyone, for coming.” Zhang Wanshui said proudly. “Please get into the cars.”

Zhang Wanshui’s son was also feeling proud. He carried his bride into the car and waved to everyone.

The cars were going to the hotel, and all the guests got into the cars.

Zhang Wanshui and his in-laws have more relatives. After all, his daughter-in-law is the daughter of a retired Zhen Shui County leader. They had been living in the family quarters. They had many cars and could fit all the guests easily. Zhang Wanshui glanced at Pu An’s side and continued on his way.

Pu An and his wife were looking terrible. They looked at the government staff congratulating Zhang Wanshui and his family.

Pu Tao was angry as her husband carried her into the car. She did not smile, but her husband had a good temper. He just smiled wearily.

There’s a significant difference between both sides.

Anyone can see the difference.

When Pu Tao and her family felt embarrassed, a beautiful woman in a suit slowly walked out of the building.

“Mayor.”

“Mayor Jiang.”

Jiang Fangfang nodded.

Zhang Wanshui was surprised. He did not expect Jiang Fangfang to come out. They were not on the same faction, but her rank was much higher. He walked over quickly to greet her.

Jiang Fangfang congratulates Zhang Wanshui, his son and daughter-in-law, before turning to Pu An.

Jiang Fangfang turned and walked towards Pu An slowly. “Congratulations, Secretary Pu.”

Pu An quickly replies. “Thank you, Mayor Jiang. Xiao Tao, why are you still in the car?”

Pu Tao saw Jiang Fangfang and quickly pulled her husband. They were about to get out of the car to greet her.

However, Jiang Fangfang waved and smiled faintly. "The bride and groom are the stars today. You all don't need to get down. Secretary Pu, leave a seat in one of the cars. I am going with you all."

Pu An paused for a second. "Thank you, Mayor Jiang."

"It's Xiao Tao's wedding. I should attend her banquet. What's there to thank?"

"Please get in." Pu An said.

Jiang Fangfang nodded and got into the second car.

Zhang Wanshui frowned as he looked at Jiang Fangfang.

Many guests needed more time to react. Although they know Secretary Meng and Mayor Jiang would attend their banquets, they should appear when the banquets are about to start. Why did Mayor Jiang come out early and get into Pu An's daughter's wedding convoy?

The Mayor held a different status.

Jiang Fangfang had helped Pu An's family ease their embarrassment. Although they still lost to Zhang Wanshui, it did not make them look bad. Some staff who have not decided, and Jiang's faction got into Pu An's wedding convoy.

Yao Cui and Ma Bing also got into Pu An's cars.

Pu An knew Mayor Jiang was trying to pull him to her side. He had been neutral between both parties but will join her faction after today.

Today was more chaotic than everyone expected.

Secretary Meng was prepared to go downstairs. A few seconds after Mayor Jiang's appearance, he walked out of the building with his wife.

"Secretary Meng."

"Huh, Secretary Meng?"

"Secretary Meng, you are here."

"Haha.... Congratulations." Meng Rui congratulated Pu An and Zhang Wanshui before getting into Zhang Wanshui's car.

Chapter 1150: Accident

It became more complicated after the Party Secretary entered a car.

Pu An's family's second car moved forward, and Jian Xiangrong and Jiang Fangfang got in.

"Mayor Jiang."

"Hi. Is Mayor Dong here?"

"Is Mayor Dong coming back today?"

“He landed this morning and had taken the long-distance bus.” Jiang Fangfang looked at his watch. “He should be here now.”

“Long-distance bus? The county should have available cars.”

“All the cars in the County Government had come here, and there are no cars to pick Mayor Dong. I just found out about it.”

Jian Xiangrong frowned and noticed the problem. Old Pu’s cars were mainly rented, and a few were from the County’s Commission for Discipline Inspection. They did not utilize other departments’ cars. That’s why their wedding convoy is smaller than Deputy Secretary Zhang. He has many cars but refuses to send one to pick up Mayor Dong from the airport. He is hogging the toilet and not taking the dump. However, Jian Xiangrong is from the neutral party and did not say anything. He does not want to join the Meng and Jiang faction rivalry. He felt Party Secretary Meng and his men had become more influential and arrogant.

Crack... crack... crack....

The final string of firecrackers was set off.

Pu An boarded the last car of the convoy, and they started moving out of the family quarters.

Zhang Wanshui’s face changed, and he got into his car.

“Secretary Zhang.”

“Tell them to move off now.”

“Yes.”

“Faster. We must get out of the family quarters first.”

Zhang Wanshui has more guests and cars. He also wants to leave the family quarters first.

Both sides refused to give way.

Secretary Meng saw what happened and shook his head. But he did not say anything.

The cars on both sides started moving faster.

Although the family quarters do not have many buildings and its rundown, it is wide enough for two rows of cars on the service road inside.

The service road might be broad, but the gate is not wide enough.

The two cars would graze against each other if they were to exit the gate side-by-side.

Pu An’s convoy reached the gate earlier and was about to leave the family quarters. Once the leading car gets past the gate, the convoy will exit the quarters first. Zhang Wanshui’s wedding convoy and Secretary Meng will have to wait.

Zhang Wanshui’s leading car driver suddenly speeds up. The Lexus is more powerful than Audi, and it overtakes it, causing a minor accident. The Audi driver braked suddenly and lost control of the car. It swerved to the side and hit the gate’s frame. The impact threw the bride and groom forward and caused some damage to the car.

Luckily, the impact did not activate the airbags.

The right side of the Audi was dented.

The Lexus left the family quarters like a winner and stopped outside.

No one expected this to happen.

“Xiao Tao!”

“Taotao!”

“Check if they are ok!”

Pu An and his wife ran out of their car to check on their daughter and son-in-law.

Pu An’s relatives and many staffs went over to help.

The door opened, and Pu Tao exited the car, holding her forehead. She grimaced as she hit her head.

The groom also got out, holding his leg.

Pu An is furious. He pointed at Zhang Wanshui, who had gotten out of his car and shouted. “How can you all drive like this?! Are you trying to pick a fight?”

Zhang Wanshui replied. “Why are you mad at me, Secretary Pu? I am not the one driving.”

Pu An and Zhang Wanshui started arguing. Pu An’s wife also started shouting at Zhang Wanshui’s wife.

The situation had gotten out of hand.

The rest of the guests exchanged looks and did not know what to do.

Suddenly, Meng Rui got out of the car. “It’s a happy occasion today. Let’s stop fighting. It’s only a misunderstanding.”

Misunderstanding?!

How can this be a misunderstanding?

Everyone saw it was Lexus’s driver.

The County Party Secretary had spoken, and no one dared to speak. Even Pu An and his wife kept quiet.

“Let’s go.” Secretary Meng got back into the car.

Zhang Wanshui laughed and said to Pu An. “I’m sorry, Secretary Pu. I will pay for the repairs.” He got into a car.

Pu An’s face turned green.

Pu Tao’s eyes were red. “Dad...”

The groom took a deep breath. “They are too much. How can they do this?”

Pu An replied. “Let’s go. We will talk about this after your wedding.” He forced himself to suppress his anger.

Jiang Fangfang watched as if nothing had happened. It seems she is unfazed by anything.

Pu An's good friend, Jian Xiangrong, was furious too.

Pu An's leading car's driver was not hurt and tried to ignite the engine. He tried a few times but failed. He got out and tried to repair it.

Zhang Wanshui ignored them and waved his hand. His family's wedding convoy started moving out.

Zhang Wanshui did not expect this accident. However, it had happened, and he thought nothing about it.

The Zhang family and guests felt proud after this accident. No one is more influential than Secretary Meng's faction in Zhen Shui County.

Suddenly, something happened that shocked everyone.

A black SUV sped up from the opposite direction towards the Zhang Family's Lexus and the convoy just after they left the family quarters.

Bam!

The SUV crashed head-on with the Lexus.

Everyone was stunned.

Dong Xuebing had been waiting outside the family quarters for Deputy Secretary Zhang's wedding convoy.

Other than Dong Xuebing, who else would dare to crash his car into a County Party Secretary and several Party Committee Members' convoy?!

Who else would do something like this?!