

## PAW 1161

Chapter 1161: Someone is here

Jiang Fangfang walked around the living room with Dong Xuebing's help. She had pulled her muscles but could still walk.

"Do you want to rest?"

"No need."

"You had walked for a while."

"I feel much better after walking."

"Ok. Watch your steps."

"Yes. Sorry for what happened today."

"I am the one who should apologize. If I had not bothered you, you would not fall."

Jiang Fangfang wore her underwear under her short bathrobe yesterday but is not wearing anything underneath today. The bathrobe was soaked earlier, and it was heavy. It swayed and opened up slightly, showing her deep cleavage. Dong Xuebing peeped at her when he supported her around the house.

Five minutes passed.

Jiang Fangfang pulled back her hand. "Ok."

"Huh? All right." Dong Xuebing let go of Jiang Fangfang's arm reluctantly.

Jiang Fangfang rubbed her wrist and tried to walk a few steps on her own. She turned and said. "I am going to change."

"Ok."

"You don't need to bother about the bathroom."

"It's fine. I will clean it."

"No need. I will do it myself later."

"No. You just got hurt. Let me do it."

Jiang Fangfang returned to her room to change, and Dong Xuebing entered the bathroom. He looked at the wet floor and blood stains and found a rag. He bent over and started cleaning it. Sigh.... What an unlucky day. Am I stuck with my nickname forever? Why can't I live peacefully, and troubles seem to follow me? He was not telling the truth and was happy in his heart.

The beautiful Mayor's butt....

He thought about what had happened earlier and sniffed his finger. It smelled nice.

Her hands, legs, and butt scent lingers on his arms.

Dong Xuebing cleared his throat and continued to clean the floor. He also picked up the things on the floor.

Everything is done....

What else should I clean?

Dong Xuebing looked at the washing machine. There's a bra and a pair of underwear on it. These should be her dirty clothes. He looked at them and did not plan to wash them for her. Just when he was thinking, the doorbell rang. Ding dong... ding dong.... He was shocked. Who is ringing the doorbell so early in the morning? He was guilty-conscious and quickly stuffed the bra and underwear into the washing machine. It's not good to let others see her underwear. He felt the underwear was wet when he dropped it into the washing machine but did not think much about it.

The bedroom door opened, and Jiang Fangfang walked out. She had changed out of the bathrobe and was wearing her work clothes.

Dong Xuebing looked at Jiang Fangfang from the bathroom, asking her what he should do. People might misunderstand if they were spotted together in the apartment early in the morning.

Jiang Fangfang looked at Dong Xuebing and said softly. "Stay in there and close the door."

Dong Xuebing nodded. He knows Jiang Fangfang cares about her reputation, and he closes the bathroom door.

Ding dong....

The doorbell rang again.

Click! The door opened.

"Xiaona?"

"Mayor Jiang."

"why are you here?"

"Huh? I was supposed to return Mayor Dong's car last night but got drunk. I.... I went to Mayor Dong's place, but he seems out."

"Ok. Maybe he went out for breakfast."

"Then.... I should not have drunk last night."

"Just leave Mayor Dong's key with me. I will pass it to him when I see him."

"How can I bother you? I am free now. I will wait for him and apologize."

"Mayor Dong is not as petty as you think. Just leave the key with me and go to work."

Dong Xuebing listened from the bathroom and dared not make any sound.

I am hiding in someone's bathroom.

What the hell is going on?

Dong Xuebing heard key sounds. Li Xiaona gave Jiang Fangfang the car key. Sigh.... I can finally go home.

"I am going now, Mayor Jiang."

"Go on. You need to prepare the materials for the Party Committee meeting later."

"Yes. I will reach earlier today."

When Dong Xuebing was about to leave the bathroom, he heard footsteps. Someone turned the bathroom's doorknob.

"Oh, Mayor Jiang. Can I use your bathroom?" Li Xiaona asked.

Dong Xuebing was stunned. WTF?! You want to use the bathroom now?! I am inside! I will be discovered if you come in.

"Wait a minute." Jiang Fangfang calmly said.

"Huh?" Li Xiaona was puzzled.

"I just woke up and still have not used the bathroom." Jiang Fangfang said.

"Ok. Please use first." Li Xiaona let go of the doorknob and stepped away.

Dong Xuebing quickly steps behind the door. About two seconds later, the bathroom door opened, and Jiang Fangfang entered and closed the door.

Dong Xuebing smiled embarrassedly.

Jiang Fangfang looked at Dong Xuebing behind the door and did not say anything. She just stood there quietly.

It felt awkward.

One minute....

Five minutes....

Ten minutes....

Li Xiaona cannot hold it anymore. "Mayor Jiang?"

Jiang Fangfang replied. "What is it?"

"Err.... I will go to work first." Li Xiaona could not hold it anymore and decided to go to a public toilet.

Jiang Fangfang replied. "Ok. Go ahead. My dinner last night is giving me the runs."

Dong Xuebing looked at Jiang Fangfang. She can lie without batting an eyelid.

They heard the door opening and closing a few seconds later. Li Xiaona had gone out to look for a toilet.

Jiang Fangfang looked at Dong Xuebing and passed him the keys. "Your car keys."

"Ok." Dong Xuebing took it and said. "Then I shall leave now."

Even after what happened, Jiang Fangfang could still maintain a poker face. "Ok. Be prepared. There's a Party Committee meeting this morning."

"Ok. I know."

Chapter 1162: Credit

Morning.

County Party Committee Building.

Ten minutes before work starts, the government staff walks in slowly. They chatted and greeted each other.

Suddenly, a Land Rover drove into the compound.

"Eh, it's a Land Rover."

"Who's car is that?"

"Haven't you heard about it?"

"Heard about what?"

"That is Mayor Dong's car."

"Ah?! That is his car?! It's an expensive car."

Almost everyone turned and looked at the Land Rover.

Most of the County leaders had attended the weddings yesterday, and those who did not attend had heard what happened. The Land Rover crashed into the Lexus, Deputy Mayor Dong and Deputy Secretary Zhang's argument, and the Finance Department's Chief and Deputy switched sides. Everything that happened yesterday would cause a power shift in the County. Many staff were discussing it last night, and only a few do not know what happened.

The Land Rover stopped outside the County Government Building, and Dong Xuebing got out. He had returned home and changed.

"Mayor Dong."

"Mayor Dong."

"Good morning."

Dong Xuebing nodded to a few staff and walked into the building slowly.

Many staffs started whispering among themselves after Dong Xuebing left.

"Mayor Dong had stood out this time."

"That's right. How can he drive a Land Rover to work?"

"He is not afraid of investigation. Maybe his family is wealthy."

"But Mayor Dong had offended Secretary Meng this time."

“Yes. I wonder what will happen at the Party Committee meeting later.”

10 am.

Small meeting room.

The Party Committee Meeting started. All eleven members were present.

The meeting room was slightly different today. No one said a word, but everyone was looking at Dong Xuebing. When Dong Xuebing entered the room, Deputy Party Secretary Zhang Wanshui and Publicity Department Chief Cheng Fuguang glanced at him. They did not show any expressions, but everyone could see the hostility in their eyes.

Dong Xuebing thought nothing about them and greeted Zhang Wanshui and other leaders.

Zhang Wanshui ignored him.

Cheng Fuguang nodded and returned the greeting.

Secretary Meng and Mayor Jiang were the last to arrive.

Meng Rui sat and knocked on the table. “Alright. Let’s start.”

Everyone looked at Secretary Meng, waiting for him to speak.

Meng Rui asked his secretary to give out a few documents. After all the Committee members had gotten a copy, he said. “Look at the report. This is our County’s current financial situation. I thought we could get through this month, but we will not last before the end of the month.”

A few leaders from the Meng faction glanced at Dong Xuebing.

Secretary Meng is attacking Dong Xuebing. The latter is in charge of the Finance Department and has asked the Central Government for funding. However, the County did not receive any news from him. Meng Rui continued. “Mayor Dong. I gave you a week, and you promised everyone you would get the funds from the Central Government. But where is the fund now? The County pays for the air tickets and accommodation. What are you and the Finance Department staff doing in Beijing?”

It's here.

Secretary Meng had started his attack.

Dong Xuebing was not surprised as he had embarrassed Zhang Wanshui and pulled the Finance Department’s No. 1 and 2 to his side. He knows the Meng Faction is furious.

Dong Xuebing did not reply and lit a cigarette. He acted as if Secretary Meng was not talking about him.

This guy’s shamelessness amused Pu An.

The Organization Department Chief Liao Haiwei, frowned and said. “The Organization Department had delayed the salary from almost two weeks. Many of our staff are complaining. I am afraid things might happen if this carries on.”

Cheng Fuguang added. “It is the same for the Publicity Department. Everyone is anxious.”

Deputy Mayor Ci Boyang nodded. "We cannot delay the salary any longer. We must settle the financial issue now. Mayor Dong, did you receive any news from the Central Government's Finance Ministry?"

All the fingers are pointing at Dong Xuebing.

Dong Xuebing smoked and looked down at the table.

Zhang Wanshui got mad and knocked on the table. "Mayor Dong!"

Dong Xuebing blinked and looked up. "Ah? Did you call me Secretary Zhang?"

Zhang Wanshui said angrily. "Everyone is waiting for your reply! Didn't you hear it?"

Dong Xuebing smiled. "I know. I am thinking about how I should reply."

Pu An interrupted. "We should not be blaming Mayor Dong for this issue. He was transferred to our County not long ago, and our County's financial issue has been around for years. Things will not change overnight. Furthermore, we often went to the Central Government to seek assistance. We had never succeeded on the first trip. Everyone here should know." Pu An, who has always been a neutral party, supported Dong Xuebing today. If his actions yesterday only showed his intentions, he is taking action now.

Pu An's close friend, formally part of the neutral party, United Front Work Department Chief Jian Xiangrong, sighed. He said. "I agree with Secretary Pu. The responsibility does not lie with Mayor Dong."

Jiang Fangfang drank her tea and did not seem surprised.

Jian Xiangrong had started to take sides.

Did Secretary Pu persuade his old friend, or Jiang Fangfang pulled him over?

Or did Jian Xiangrong feel he was the only neutral party left in the Party Committee and was forced to take sides?

Meng Rui narrowed his eyes and did not show any reaction.

Zhang Wanshui and a few Meng faction leaders frowned.

It was getting tense in the meeting room.

The Jiang faction is getting stronger. Jiang Fangfang was alone in the party committee in the past. Now, she has Dong Xuebing, Pu An, and Jian Xiangrong. She has four votes now. Although the Meng Faction is stronger, they must be wary of them now.

Zhang Wanshui retorted. "We wanted to use the education fund to ease our County's financial issues, and it was Mayor Dong who wanted to seek funding from the Central Government."

Pu An looked at Zhang Wanshui coldly. "Secretary Zhang, I remember you had brought your men to the Central Government to seek financial assistance. What happened then? You failed to get any funds. Should we pursue your responsibility now?"

Zhang Wanshui's face changed.

These two started arguing again.

The meeting had just started, and it was tense.

Dong Xuebing, who is under the spotlight, did not say anything. He finished his cigarette and snubbed it. After that, he copied Mayor Jiang and tasted his tea.

Jiang Fangfang continued to drink her tea calmly.

“Enough!” Meng Rui got frustrated by their quarrel and banged the table. When he was about to target Dong Xuebing again, Dong Xuebing’s phone rang. Most Committee Members, except for the Party Secretary or Mayor, will switch off their phones during meetings. Everyone saw Dong Xuebing’s phone ringing, and Meng Rui’s face changed. “Mayor Dong! We are in a meeting now!”

Dong Xuebing replied. “It’s an emergency. I am waiting for this call.”

Dong Xuebing ignored everyone’s stares and answered the phone. “Hello.”

“Is this Dong Xuebing?”

“Yes, it’s me. Who’s this?”

“I am calling from the Finance Ministry.”

“Oh, nice to meet you.”

“I am calling to inform you that the fund for Zhen Shui County is wired to your Provincial Government. You all should receive it by today.”

“Fantastic. Thank you.”

“Don’t mention it. I am hanging up if there’s nothing else.”

Dong Xuebing was relieved after hanging up.

Dong Xuebing looked up and said to everyone. “I just received a call from the Finance Ministry. The fund from the Central Government is approved.”

“What?!”

“Fund?!”

“From the Finance Ministry?!”

Other than Jiang Fangfang, everyone is stunned.

Dong Xuebing nodded. “We should receive it by today.”

Meng Rui opened his eyes wide. “How much?”

Dong Xuebing shocked everyone. “50 million RMB.”

Everyone exchanged looks and inhaled deeply. Even Secretary Meng looked shocked.

50 million RMB?!

50 million RMB?!

No one believed Dong Xuebing would succeed when he said he would go to the Central Government. This had happened several times, and the most they could get was one or two million RMB. But he had gotten 50 million RMB this time!

Meng Rui looked at Dong Xuebing. "Why didn't you say earlier?"

Dong Xuebing thought to himself. How can I make a fool out of you all if I say it earlier? He replied. "I was waiting for the approval, and I cannot guarantee we will get it. That's why I did not say."

The few Committee members from the Meng Faction exchanged looks.

Five million RMB is enough to save Zhen Shui County, let alone 50 million RMB. If they receive this amount, the County will have the funds to develop.

This Dong Xuebing.... He had hidden his real abilities....

Dong Xuebing had been keeping quiet earlier because he knew what would happen.

But this is 50 million RMB! How did he get this amount from the Finance Ministry?!

Meng Rui looked at Dong Xuebing and nodded. "You had done well, Mayor Dong. Well done!"

Dong Xuebing smiled. "It's my duty."

The Meng Faction did not target Dong Xuebing for the rest of the meeting because his credit was significant.

Chapter 1163: The City Government took the fund

Noon.

Lunchtime.

News of Dong Xuebing getting 50 million RMB from the Central Government spread quickly and caused an uproar.

"50 million RMB!"

"Is it true, Old Liu?"

"Did the Finance Ministry give our County so much money?"

"I heard it from the Party Committee people. How can it be wrong?"

"I heard about it too. The money has reached the Provincial Government, and we will get it soon."

"Our County will have money to develop, and we can get our salaries."

"Mayor Dong is amazing. So many leaders had gone to the Central Government to ask for funding, and they failed. He has only been there once and got so much money in a few days."

"Mayor Dong is capable."



“Yes. He must be capable, or how can he become a Deputy Bureau Chief at his age?”

“No wonder he dares to go against Deputy Secretary Zhang when he returns. He even crashed his daughter’s wedding.”

“That’s right. Secretary Meng and his men cannot do anything to him.”

County Party Committee Building.

Cafeteria.

Dong Xuebing entered the cafeteria to get his lunch.

Many leaders and staff greeted him.

“Mayor Dong.”

“Mayor Dong.”

“Please have my seat.”

Dong Xuebing smiled and waved his hand. He took his lunch and sat at an empty table in a corner. The cafeteria is run down, and the food is average. The leaders eat the same food as the staff, but they have special privileges. He got more meat compared to the staff members. This is the advantage of being a leader; there’s no equality anywhere in the government.

“Oh, Mayor Dong. You are here.”

“Yes. I just reached.”

“Why are you having your lunch so late?”

“I was busy and came out late.”

A few grassroots committee office leaders walked over to greet Dong Xuebing. They chatted as if they were close. The political environment has changed now. Secretary Meng used to have an overall say in the County, and the Jiang Faction was too weak to go against him. All the leaders will try to avoid getting too close to the Jiang Faction. They cannot afford to offend Secretary Meng. However, everything changed after Mayor Dong arrived. He turned things around in a short period. Because of him, the Jiang faction will dare to attack now. The County Commission for Discipline Inspection and United Front Work had joined the Jiang faction, and everyone heard about it.

Of course, the main reason is that 50 million RMB.

Everyone in the County is eyeing the fund.

Every department wanted to increase its budget.

Dong Xuebing had gotten this sum of money.

He is also in charge of the Finance Department.

Even the Finance Department’s No. 1 and 2 switched sides after going to Beijing with Dong Xuebing.

Dong Xuebing has a say on how they will allocate the fund. With the Jiang Faction and Dong Xuebing's credit getting stronger, everyone starts to suck up to him. Although the Finance department is a good department, the County does not have extra funds to do anything. This resulted in the leader in charge of this department not having the authority.

50 million....

Who is not envious of Dong Xuebing?

"Are you free this evening? I wish to invite you to dinner."

"Let's have dinner another time. I just landed and still have not packed my apartment."

"Sure... sure.... I will arrange for someday when you are free. You must come."

"Don't say that. We are not outsiders. Let's discuss again another time."

Dong Xuebing finished his lunch and left the cafeteria when another group of County Government leaders stopped him.

These people....

All of them are approaching him because of the fund.

Dong Xuebing shook his head and smiled.

Afternoon.

Executive Deputy Mayor Office.

Dong Xuebing was in a good mood as they would receive the fund soon. This will increase his achievements and give him more say in the County. He should be able to transfer back and get a promotion before Huilan gives birth.

Dong Xuebing smoked a cigarette and enjoyed tea.

He was thinking about how he would spend this 50 million RMB. Although he does not decide this, he has a say in it.

One hour....

Two hours....

Dong Xuebing looked at the time and called Yao Cui.

"Hello, Xiao Yao. It's me."

"Are you looking for me, Mayor Dong?"

"The Finance Ministry said the money will be in today. It's almost the end of the day. Can you check with the Finance Department if they have received the fund?"

"Ok. I will ask them now."

Yao Cui called after a while.

“Mayor Dong, they say they have not received it.”

“What so late?”

“Do you want me to call and chase them?”

“The money is coming in through the proper channel. You cannot expedite the process. Never mind. Let’s wait.”

Dong Xuebing also wants to hurry but cannot call the Provincial Government leaders.

Dong Xuebing waited for a while more.

Ring... ring... ring.... The phone on his desk rang.

Dong Xuebing snubbed the cigarette and cleared his throat before answering the phone. “Hello, I am Dong Xuebing.”

“Mayor Dong. The money is here.” It was the County Finance Department Chief Yan Yizhi, and he sounded angry.

“Oh, what happened, Old Yan?” Dong Xuebing noticed his tone and got a bad feeling. Yan Yizhi inhaled deeply.

“Old Yan?” Dong Xuebing frowned. “What happened?!”

“We received a sum of money, but the bank informed us that it is only 5 million RMB.”

“5 million RMB?!” Dong Xuebing was shocked, and his face changed. “45 million RMB went missing?!”

Yan Yizhi replied. “I don’t know what happened, but I am sure something is wrong. I immediately send someone to check the accounts. It’s too....”

“Are Secretary Meng and Mayor Jiang aware of this?”

“I am going to inform them. They should not know about this yet.”

Dong Xuebing wanted to ask Yan Yizhi to hide it from them, but he knew it was useless. He hung up the call and narrowed his eyes. He had announced to everyone that the 50 million RMB would be in. The whole County government leaders know about it. But the 50 million RMB turned into 5 million RMB! It’s ten times lesser! This made him look like a fool.

Dong Xuebing took out his phone and called Xie Guoliang.

“Hello, Eldest Uncle. I am Xiao Bing.”

“Xiao Bing.... I am busy now. Let’s talk later.”

“I will not take up much time. Why did the Finance Ministry’s 50 million RMB become 5 million RMB? Did they make a mistake?”

“5 million RMB?!”

“Yes. We received the fun, and it’s short of one zero.”

“I had signed off that fund. It will not be wrong. It was 50 million RMB when we transferred to your province.”

“Are you saying someone had siphoned most of the funds during the process?”

“This is common. I specifically asked my men to inform your provincial government leaders. They know about the fun and will not dare to take the money. When the fund was transferred from the city to your County, something had gone wrong. Go and check.”

“That means the City does this.”

“Yes. It should be them.”

“They dare to siphon the fund issued by the Central Government?”

“Why not? They are located too far away from the Central Government. Also, they can find all sorts of excuses to stop the money. They can claim to use it for disaster relief, helping the poor, managing the fund on behalf of the County, etc. You must find the fund and try to get it back quickly. Nothing will be left if it passes through other hands.” Xie Guoliang frowned. “Taking away 45 million RMB is too much. Let me know if you cannot handle them. I will call your province’s finance department to pressure them. But I cannot promise anything if your city is determined to keep the fund. There’s not much I can do except to give them some pressure.”

The Central Government is too far away.

Although Xie Guoliang holds a high rank, the grassroots level is too far from him. It’s hard for him to interfere with a city. This area is not the Xie family’s turf and is secluded. They don’t have any connections here.

Dong Xuebing clenched his teeth and said. “I had troubled you for the fund. I will handle this myself. Thank you, Uncle.”

“All right.”

“Bye.”

The office phone rang after Dong Xuebing hung up.

It’s the Finance Department Deputy Chief Chen Xiaomei. “Hello, Mayor Dong. Chief Yan had reported to Secretary Meng and Mayor Jiang. We just discovered that the Provincial Government wired 50 million RMB to us through the City Finance Department. But it became 5 million RMB when it reaches us.”

“So, it’s the City government who took the money.”

“Yes. It’s all recorded.”

It is the City!

Dong Xuebing's face changed. F\*\*\*k! You all are too much! Do you think our County is a pushover?!

Chapter 1164: Spit it out!

Afternoon.

Before the end of the work day.

The County Party Secretary's secretary Zhang Feng called Dong Xuebing's office number. "Hello, Mayor Dong. Secretary Meng wants to see you."

"I know."

Dong Xuebing suppressed his anger and left his office after hanging up.

Meng Rui and Jiang Fangfang were around when he reached.

Dong Xuebing said emotionlessly when he entered the office. "Secretary Meng, Mayor Jiang. Are you all looking for me?"

Meng Rui waved his hand. "Sit." He paused for a second and spoke. "You should know what happened."

"Is it about the City taking our funds?" Dong Xuebing asked. "I heard about it. It's my fault. I should ask the Finance Ministry to wire the money directly to our County's account."

Jiang Fangfang said calmly. "It is against the protocol even if you want to do it."

Meng Rui nodded. "This is not your fault. Getting 50 million RMB from the Central Government is a great achievement. I did not expect the City to deduct most of the funds too. I called you here to discuss this matter. Mayor Jiang and I had called to ask, and the City Leaders claimed to be unaware. I could tell they were lying, and many department heads were not answering our calls." Meng Rui was implying that the City had purposely stopped the funds from reaching them. That's why the city leaders feigned ignorance and refused to answer their calls. None of them wants to take responsibility for this matter.

The city government leaders do not know about this?!

All of them are unaware?

This is impossible.

"Let me try calling again." Jiang Fangfang took out her mobile phone.

Dong Xuebing said. "Let me do it. They know your numbers and our County office numbers."

Jiang Fangfang nodded. "All right."

Meng Rui thought for a while and said. "Call the City Finance Department's Wei Lin."

They could not do anything if they called the City's top leaders, and the leaders denied everything. Wei Lin is a Bureau Director in the City's Finance Department. He is the person to speak to.

Dong Xuebing got Wei Lin's number and called him.

Ring... ring... ring.... The line got through. Dong Xuebing is new, and the City Government does not know his number.

"Hello, who is this?" A middle-aged man answered.

Dong Xuebing said. "Hello, Chief Wei. I am Zhen Shui County's Executive Deputy Mayor Dong Xuebing."

"Ah...." Wei Lin sounded surprised and kept quiet. "Oh...."

Dong Xuebing asked. "I want to ask you something. The Central Government had issued 50 million RMB to our Zhen Shui County. Why did it become 5 million?"

"I am not sure about this."

"Chief Wei, the money has gone through your Finance Department, and everything is recorded. How can you not know about it when the 5 million RMB is transferred from the Finance Department to us?"

"I am busy today and just returned to my office."

"We have urgent use for this fund. Can you check for us?"

"Ok. I will find out what happened. I am busy now. That's it."

Dong Xuebing narrowed his eyes. "Many of our County staff had not gotten their salaries for two months. Everyone is unhappy. If they know the City Government had deducted the funds for our County.... We are unsure if we can appease them. A school's teachers went on strike last week. Who knows what they would do if they found out? Chief Wei, can you ask the City Finance Department to release the remaining funds to us?"

Wei Lin was furious when he heard this. This Executive Deputy Mayor from a poor County is threatening him.

Dong Xuebing is bad-tempered and doesn't care who the other party is. Who gave you the guts to take away our fund?!

Wei Lin hung up the phone.

Dong Xuebing lost his temper and expressed Zhen Shui County's attitude towards this matter.

You all want to deduct our funds without telling us?!

Impossible!

A few moments later, Meng Rui's phone rang. It should be a City's top leader who called. He said. "Xiao Meng ah.... I heard about it. We are not keeping the 50 million RMB from the Central Government. This is a huge amount, and the City discussed and decided to hold on to it for you all. I understand your County requires funds urgently, and 5 million RMB should be enough. We will release the remaining fund in batches in the future."

Dong Xuebing has good hearing and overheard the conversation. His face changed.

Hold on to the funds for us, and will give the rest to us in the future?!

F\*\*k! We requested the fund, and you all want to hold on to it for us?! Do you think we are stupid? Do we need you to hold on to the funds for us?

Meng Rui was mad and spoke loudly.

The leader gave an excuse and hung up.

It's obvious. The City has no intention of giving them the fund, and this is an excuse. They will continue to issue the yearly budget and claim to have returned the fund to Zhen Shui County in the future. Zhen Shui County will not get a single cent back. The leader had expressed their attitude in this matter. They will not return the fund now, forcing Zhen Shui County to give up a portion of the fund to the City Government. This way, the City will not be blamed for taking away the fund for Zhen Shui County.

Meng Rui's face turned green, and he banged the table.

Dong Xuebing took a deep breath and asked. "What should we do now?"

Meng Rui replied. "Mayor Jiang and I had discussed this before you came. We must get back the fund. But it is impossible to get back all the funds with the City Government's attitude."

Jiang Fangfang said calmly. "Half."

Meng Rui was mad, but there was nothing he could do. Zhen Shui County is under Mei He City, and they can only give in. "We can only give in to them. Half...."

Jiang Fangfang sighed and did not say anything.

Half of the funds are 25 million RMB. That means the City Government had taken 20 million RMB from their fund!

Meng Rui and Jiang Fangfang understood the situation better than Dong Xuebing. They had expected this to happen when they heard they had received 5 million RMB. That's why they discussed it. Twenty-five million RMB is the limit. This is better than not getting anything.

Meng Rui and Jiang Fangfang had put aside their rivalry, which concerns the County's interest. Dong Xuebing also noticed Secretary Meng's change in attitude towards him today.

They must get the fund back as the fund is for Zhen Shui County!

Both the Meng and Jiang faction had to unite against outsiders, and they were facing tremendous pressure.

Meng Rui said. "Who is going to get the money? This task is not easy, and this person will face huge pressure. He must be smart and good at communicating."

Jiang Fangfang replied. "How about Finance Department's Old Yan?"

Meng Rui frowned. "Old Yan's rank is not high enough, and no one will listen to him."

Suddenly, Dong Xuebing said. "I will go."

Meng Rui was surprised.

Jiang Fangfang turned and looked at Dong Xuebing.

Dong Xuebing replied. "I had gotten the fund from the Finance Ministry and am in charge of the County Finance Department. I must take responsibility for what happened. I will go."

Meng Rui looked toward Jiang Fangfang.

Jiang Fangfang did not say anything.

Meng Rui thought for a while and looked at Dong Xuebing. "All right."

Meng Rui dislikes Dong Xuebing after he joins Jiang Fangfang. After all, both factions are rivals. But now, Dong Xuebing had stepped forward to take on this difficult task. Meng Rui was impressed by his willingness to face difficulties head-on. Dong Xuebing would lose the respect of the County staff if he failed and would also offend the City leaders. He did not expect Dong Xuebing to volunteer.

This guy has a strong sense of responsibility.

It's a pity he did not join Meng Rui's faction.

Meng Rui was slightly disappointed.

"I will go and prepare, Secretary Meng and Mayor Jiang."

"It's late. You can go to the City tomorrow. Who are you bringing with you? Just let us know."

"I will bring Xiao Yao and Finance Department Chief Chen. It's useless to bring a lot of people."

Dong Xuebing overheard many staffs discussing on his way back.

"The City had taken our funds!"

"How can they do that? Can't we do anything?"

"I heard they only gave us 5 million RMB!"

"The fund is for our County! How can the City take it from us?"

"Be quiet. It happened before."

"That's right. It's tens of million RMB. The City will not give up on this fund."

Dong Xuebing's eyes turned cold.

Secretary Meng and Mayor Jiang were satisfied if they could get back half of the funds, but Dong Xuebing has never thought about it.

Compromise?

Give in?

These words are not in his dictionary.

I will make you all return everything you all had taken from us!

Not a single cent less!



## Chapter 1165: Getting the Money from the City!

Next day.

Morning, 6 am.

The sky is still dark, but Dong Xuebing has washed up and dressed. He left the family quarters building and saw a few people waiting for him. Secretary Yao Cui, Finance Department Chief Yan Yizhi, and Deputy Chief Chen Xiaomei.

“Mayor Dong.”

“Good morning, Mayor Dong.”

“Good morning. What time did you all reach?”

“We just arrived.”

“Have you all taken your breakfast? Let’s go and have breakfast first.”

Dong Xuebing said and took out his keys. He walked to the Land Rover and opened the boot. Yao Cui, Yan Yizhi, and Chen Xiaomei brought their luggage, and he asked curiously. “Why did you all bring your luggage?”

Yan Yizhi replied. “It’s just some clothes to change.”

Yao Cui added. “We don’t know how long we will be there. That’s why we brought our luggage.”

“All right. Put them in the car.” Dong Xuebing pointed to the boot.

Chen Xiaomei’s luggage was the biggest and heaviest.

Zhen Shui County is far from the City and has poor road conditions. It was foggy this morning, and it affected their visibility. To and fro from the city will take at least 4 to 5 hours, and Dong Xuebing knows they were prepared for a long battle there. The county wants them to get back the money at all costs. It’s not easy to get the money, and will not happen in one day. If the city denies it, there’s nothing they can do despite the funds being meant for Zhen Shui County. They need to prepare for the worst.

The luggage is loaded into the car.

Dong Xuebing threw the keys to Yao Cui. “Let’s go.”

Yao Cui blinked and asked. “We are driving your car to the City?”

“Just use it.” Dong Xuebing replied without thinking. “It is more suitable for the road condition.”

Yan Yizhi and Chen Xiaomei looked at the car and did not say anything. They knew Land Rover was powerful and could handle bad road conditions. However, this is not the issue. This car is too expensive, and rumors will spread if they drive to the city. They did not say anything when they saw Mayor Dong’s attitude.

.....

After 6 am.”

Yao Cui's family's breakfast store.

The Land Rover stopped, and they got out.

"Mum, Dad." Yao Cui shouted towards the store.

Her parents were serving customers and looked out of the store.

Dong Xuebing walked into the store. "Aunt, Uncle, we are here to have breakfast."

Yao Cui's mother quickly said. "Ah, Mayor Dong. Hurry and have a seat. Huh.... Do you want to go to my house? The store is dirty."

"It's fine, Aunt." Dong Xuebing sat at an empty table.

Yan Yizhi and Chen Xiaomei knew they were Secretary Yao's parents. They saw Dong Xuebing addressing them politely, and they quickly greeted them.

Yao Cui asked. "What do you want to eat, Mayor Dong?"

Dong Xuebing replied. "I am fine with anything. Go ahead and order."

The food was served quickly, and they started eating.

Dong Xuebing volunteered to go to the city because he was furious over this matter. He was full after eating a bit because of his anger.

The breakfast store was quiet this morning, and they were the only customers after another group left.

Dong Xuebing saw they were alone and said. "You all should know this is not an easy task, and we might have to stay there for a few days. We will be facing difficulties and might offend many people. I understand you all are unwilling to go, and I must apologize first. Just know that whatever happens has nothing to do with you all, and I will not let you all take responsibility." They do not know Dong Xuebing's working style, and he needs to warn them.

Yan Yizhi replied. "You are treating us as outsiders."

Chen Xiaomei pushed back her long hair. "That's right, Mayor Dong. We are willing to go. They have taken our money, and we must get it back!"

Dong Xuebing nodded.

Yan Yizhi said. "I heard the County wants to reclaim half of the funds."

Dong Xuebing replied. "That's the lowest requirement. That means we will need to get twenty million RMB from them."

Yan Yizhi sighed. "It's twenty million RMB and will not be easy. We must think of a solution."

Dong Xuebing looked at them and said. "There's one more thing I need to say. We must set the tone right internally first. Although Secretary Meng and Mayor Jiang say getting back half of the funds is fine, I will not accept it. Fifty million RMB is 50 million RMB. We are going to get everything back! I am not giving a single cent to them!"

"Ah?!"

“Huh?”

Yan Yizhi and Chen Xiaomei were stunned.

Yao Cui did not expect Dong Xuebing to say this too.

You want all the funds?! Will the city agree?

Yan Yizhi quickly says. “Mayor Dong, the City....”

Dong Xuebing waved his hand to interrupt him. “I might have appointed you all to accompany me, but I am not forcing you all. It’s not too late for you all to back out now.”

Yan Yizhi kept quiet.

Chen Xiaomei smiled wearily.

Dong Xuebing continued. “If we get back the fund, we will get back the remaining 45 million RMB. We will not compromise!”

Yan Yizhi thought for a while and said. “We will go. Just tell us what to do.”

Chen Xiaomei asked. “Mayor Dong, just give the orders. What are our duties?”

Dong Xuebing thought for a second and said. “Let’s talk about it when we reach there. I don’t have a plan now. We will check the situation first.”

Dong Xuebing hates being threatened. He is fine if the City takes five or six million RMB and issues the rest to Zhen Shui County. After all, the city is not wealthy too. But the city had taken most of the funds to force Zhen Shui County to compromise and give up the funds. You all want to have a good name for yourselves after doing such things?! Dream on! I traveled to Beijing and used my connections to get this fund, and you want to threaten me with the fund?!

F\*\*k!

I will never tolerate this!

Don’t even think of getting a single cent from us!

“All right. Are you all done?”

“Yes. We are full.”

“Let’s go!”

They got into the Land Rover and left.

Chapter 1166: Holding hands!

Morning.

After 7 am.

The air is damp, and the roads are foggy. The Land Rover drove slowly along the roads.

“It’s foggy today.”

“The weather has been quite bad recently.”

“Huh? What’s wrong, Old Yan?”

“Nothing. I.... I got motion sickness.”

Yao Cui was driving, and Chen Xiaomei sat in the front passenger seat. Yan Yizhi sat with Dong Xuebing at the back.

Dong Xuebing asked when he noticed Yan Yizhi’s face was pale.

Yan Yizhi rubbed the center of his brows and said. “I don’t have motion sickness when I sit in small cars. Maybe your car’s suspension is too good, and I am not used to it.” He swallowed his saliva and joked. “I don’t have a good life. I cannot travel in good cars.” Mayor Dong’s Land Rover is the most luxurious car Yan Yizhi has ever sat in. It is comfortable, and he cannot feel anything when the car goes through potholes. It is powerful, and the interior is beautiful. Maybe he got motion sickness because it was too comfortable.

Chen Xiaomei turned and asked. “Do you want to wind down the windows slightly?”

Yan Yizhi waved his hand. “It’s useless. I do feel sick when I travel on buses. I need to look at the road in front to feel better. Can I change seats with you, Old Chen?”

Chen Xiaomei replied. “sure.”

Dong Xuebing said. “Xiao Yao, stop by the side for a while.”

Yan Yizhi said. “Sorry, Mayor Dong.”

Dong Xuebing replied. “It’s fine. My motion sickness was worse than yours. It got better after I started driving.”

The car stopped. Chen Xiaomei and Yan Yizhi switched places, and they continued on their way.

One minute....

Five minutes....

“How are you feeling, Old Yan?”

“Ah.... Much better.”

“Good.”

Yao Cui started to speed up.

Yan Yizhi looked at the foggy road and took deep breaths.

Chen Xiaomei adjusted her sitting position and moved nearer to the center.

Dong Xuebing glanced at Chen Xiaomei. She is wearing a short jacket and a long white dress with blue flowery designs. The helms of her dress reached her calves, and she was wearing beige stockings and leather shoes. Her dress was more modern and sweeter today than in their previous meetings. He was thinking about how are they going to take back the fund. But the car could not go fast in the fog, and he stopped thinking about it. He turned and looked at the pretty Chen Xiaomei.

Chen Xiaomei noticed and looked at Dong Xuebing.

Their eyes met, and Dong Xuebing looked away.

Chen Xiaomei took out her phone and played with it. She was not embarrassed or uncomfortable.

Beep... beep.... Dong Xuebing's phone sounded. It's a message.

Dong Xuebing seldom sends messages because he feels it's troublesome. He preferred to call, and he ignored the SMS.

Beep... beep.... His phone sounded again.

Dong Xuebing took out his phone unwillingly and looked at it.

He was slightly surprised when he saw Chen Xiaomei's number.

Dong Xuebing checked his messages, which were sent from Chen Xiaomei.

Huh? You are sitting beside me. Why are you sending an SMS to me?

First message: Hello, Mayor Dong.

Second message: Is there anything wrong with my clothes today?

Dong Xuebing paused for a second and looked at Chen Xiaomei. But Sister Chen was not looking at him. She was looking at her phone.

Dong Xuebing smiled to himself wearily and replied after some thoughts: Clothes? It's fine. Why do you ask?

Sent.

Chen Xiaomei had switched his phone to silent mode. There were no alerts. She checked the message.

Beep... beep....

Dong Xuebing received a reply from her.

Chen Xiaomei replied: Nothing. I saw you looking at me earlier and thought something was wrong with my clothes.

Dong Xuebing cleared his throat and replied: Your clothes are excellent, and they suit you.

Chen Xiaomei: Thank you, Mayor Dong. I like your clothes too. They make you look smart.

Dong Xuebing: I did not think much about my clothes. I wear whatever is available.

Chen Xiaomei: No. Your clothes are nice every time I see you. You have good taste. I cannot compare with you.

Dong Xuebing: I am the one who cannot compare with you. It's useless to wear nice clothes as I am not good-looking. You are pretty, and you will look good in anything.

Chen Xiaomei: I am an old woman.

Their chat was becoming flirty, and Dong Xuebing didn't know how to continue.

Chen Xiaomei was still looking down without any expression.

Beep... beep....

Dong Xuebing received another message.

Chen Xiaomei: Did you do that on purpose that day?

Dong Xuebing was shocked and pretended not to know what she was discussing: Which day?

Chen Xiaomei: At Wang Fu Hotel. When I go to your room.

Dong Xuebing quickly typed out the reply: It was an accident. I explained to you. My wife was coming, and the room's lights were off. I mistook you for her. I'm sorry. I still have not apologized to you properly after we got back. I will treat you to dinner when you are free.

Chen Xiaomei: It's okay. But I was shocked when a hand reached under my top that day. : )

Dong Xuebing blushed: Err.... The room was too dark.

Chen Xiaomei: Yes. I know. Let's not talk about it again. This is embarrassing.

Dong Xuebing: I think there's still an hour or two before we reach. Do you want to take a nap?

Chen Xiaomei replied: My child had diarrhea last night, and I slept little. I am feeling a bit sleepy now. But you and Chief Yan are in the car. It's not nice for me to sleep now.

Dong Xuebing: It's all right. Just take a nap if you are tired.

Chen Xiaomei: It is disrespectful to sleep now.

Dong Xuebing looked up at Yao Cui. "How long more before we reach?"

"Err.... We should need about an hour more." Yao Cui replied.

Dong Xuebing nodded. "Then I will take a nap. Chief Yan, Chief Chen, you all must be tired and should rest for a while."

Dong Xuebing sent an SMS to Chen Xiaomei: You can rest now.

Chen Xiaomei did not look at Dong Xuebing and continued to type on her phone: Thank you, Mayor Dong.

Chen Xiaomei kept her phone and closed her eyes.

Dong Xuebing glanced at Chen Xiaomei's body. The car was warm, and she had unbuttoned her jacket. Because of her height, Dong Xuebing could see her cleavage. Her breasts bounced and swayed as the car drove through the potholes. It was very tempting.

Although Chen Xiaomei looks slightly above average, her mature body is still attractive to Dong Xuebing.

Sigh... I should stop looking at her.

Dong Xuebing closed his eyes to rest. After the short SMS exchanges with Chen Xiaomei, he was not as angry as before.

Five minutes....

Ten minutes....

Half an hour....

The car was still traveling.

Dong Xuebing was getting sleepy and felt something touching his hand when he was about to fall asleep.

Huh?

Dong Xuebing opened his eyes and looked.

It was Chen Xiaomei's hand.

Chen Xiaomei should be sleeping. Her eyes were closed, and she was breathing evenly. Her left hand dropped onto the seat and touched Dong Xuebing's hand. Their fingers were touching.

Dong Xuebing moved his hand away slightly and closed his eyes again. A while later, he felt someone touching his hand again.

Huh?

What is going on?

Dong Xuebing saw Chen Xiaomei's hand had moved closer. He looked in front. Yao Cui was driving, and it was very foggy. She was focused on the road in front and did not look at the back. Yan Yizhi was not feeling well and had fallen asleep. He looked at the rear-view mirror and noticed the angle. The driver will not see their hands unless she turns.

Slowly, Dong Xuebing felt someone holding his hand softly.

Chen Xiaomei's eyes were closed, but she was not sleeping.

Dong Xuebing does not know how to react and pretends to be sleeping.

Chen Xiaomei was tickling his palm.

Chen Xiaomei was scratching Dong Xuebing's palm softly.

Dong Xuebing remained still.

After that, he felt Chen Xiaomei rubbing his palm with her thumb. It was more ticklish than earlier.

No... no....

It's unbearable!

Dong Xuebing took a deep breath and thought to himself. No one could see what they were doing. He grabbed Chen Xiaomei's hand and kneed it.

Chen Xiaomei stopped moving.

Dong Xuebing also stopped moving.

Dong Xuebing released his grip after about thirty seconds, and Chen Xiaomei pulled her hand back. After that, he heard her yawning next to him.

Dong Xuebing opened his eyes and looked at Chen Xiaomei, covering her mouth.

Dong Xuebing said. "Woke up?"

Chen Xiaomei smiled and nodded. "Did you take a nap too?"

Dong Xuebing thought to himself. How can I take a nap with you teasing me? But he still nodded. "We are reaching."

Dong Xuebing did not plan to do anything with Chen Xiaomei. However, he will not reject any teasing from her. Sigh.... I must stop this bad habit.

Chapter 1167: Falling out with the Deputy City Mayor!

Morning.

After 9 am.

Mei He City. The Land Rover drove into the City through the thick fog.

The fog is thinner in the City, and the rising sun is on the horizon.

“Mayor Dong, we reached.”

“Ok. Are we at the City’s downtown?”

“Yes. We are reaching.”

“Wake up, Old Yan.”

“Huh? Have we reached? Ah....”

“Let’s go to the City Party Committee building to speak to the leaders first.”

.....

The City Party Committee Building.

The Land Rover stopped by the roadside outside of the building. They did not drive into the compound.

They got out of the car. Chen Xiaomei held the door and blocked the top of the car for Dong Xuebing to get off. He thanked her and lowered his head to get out. His height happened to be facing down her blouse, and he could see her deep cleavage. It’s so clear and near. He could even smell her body scent and see the lacy top portion of her bra. It’s a bright green bra.

Why is she wearing such a bright-colored bra?

Dong Xuebing had switched his mindset and did not think much. He did not show any expression.

He stopped thinking about what happened in the car.

They are here to get back their money!

Dong Xuebing walked into the compound, with the rest following behind.

The guard stopped Dong Xuebing, and he took out his work pass.

The guard checked his ID and let them enter. He kept looking at Dong Xuebing because he looked too young.

Dong Xuebing had come to the City Party Committee once. He reported to the City Organization Department when he was transferred here. Although this place is not as poor as Zhen Shui County, it is still poor. The buildings were old and felt neglected. The compound is messy.

Money....



Nothing can be done without money.

Dong Xuebing knows the City Government is poor, but Zhen Shui County is poor too. We worked hard to get funding from the Central Government, and you all robbed us!

“Old Yan, who is the Deputy Mayor in charge of the City Finance Department?”

“It’s Zhao Xu, Deputy City Mayor Zhao. His office is in the Government Office Building.”

“All right. Lead the way, Old Yan. We will go there now.”

.....

Upstairs.

Outside of Deputy City Mayor Zhao’s office.

A staff member stopped them. “Who are you looking for?”

Yan Yizhi replied immediately. “We are from Zhen Shui County. Is Mayor Zhao around?”

That staff looked at them. “Mayor Zhao is away for a meeting. You all can wait outside for him.”

Yan Yizhi asked. “When will he be back?”

That staff replied nonchalantly. “The City Party Committee is having a meeting. How do I know how long it will take?” He said and walked away with a stack of documents.

Yan Yizhi looked at Dong Xuebing. “Mayor Dong, the meeting should take some time if it is the Party Committee meeting.”

Dong Xuebing walked over and knocked on Zhao Xu’s office door.

Dong Xuebing knocked on the door for a while and believed no one was inside after waiting for a while. “Wait!”

They walked to a resting area by the corridor, and a staff member walked over with a frown. “Who are you looking for? Wait on the first floor.”

Dong Xuebing ignored him and sat on the sofa.

Yan Yizhi wiped his sweat and explained to the staff they were Zhen Shui County’s leaders. Yan Yizhi and the rest do not dare to be disrespectful at the City Government building, but Dong Xuebing does not care. They are here to get back their money. Falling out with them is impossible. That’s why he doesn’t care. He must show his attitude. He had met many leaders, including the top leaders from the Central Government. He is not afraid of a small City Government leader.

Half an hour....

One hour....

The meeting ended early. A middle-aged man appeared at the stairwell after 10 am. He was walking towards the office.

Chen Xiaomei gave Dong Xuebing a look immediately.

Yan Yizhi stood up and greeted him. “Good morning, Mayor Zhao.”

Zhao Xu looked at him. "Oh, Old Yan."

Yan Yizhi comes to the Finance Department for meetings often, and they know each other.

Dong Xuebing also extended his hand. "Hello, Mayor Zhao. I am Zhen Shui County's Executive Deputy Mayor, Dong Xuebing." They shook hands.

Zhao Xu looked at him. "Are you here for me?"

Dong Xuebing knew Zhao Xu was asking the obvious. "Yes. It is about the Central Government funds for Zhen Shui County."

Zhao Xu frowned. "Let's talk in my office." He entered his office and sat behind his desk. "Didn't I make myself clear to your County yesterday? We are holding on to the fund and releasing it to your County in batches."

Dong Xuebing and the rest entered.

Dong Xuebing suppressed his anger after closing the door. "Our County needs the funds urgently. Five million RMB is enough to pay our staff one to two months' salaries. Our County still has other expenses and debts. Five million RMB is not enough for us. We went to the Central Government Finance Ministry to seek assistance and got the funds. But the City took away most of the funds, and we do not have enough for our expenses. How are we going to face our County's civilians? Mayor Zhao, tell us what should we do!?"

Zhao Xu replied nonchalantly. "Don't be anxious. You can apply for funds from the City if you face financial issues. We will consider your situation."

Dong Xuebing looked at him coldly. "Are you telling me the fund belongs to the City now, and it has nothing to do with Zhen Shui County?"

Zhao Xu frowned. "I did not say that."

Dong Xuebing replied. "But that is what you mean. We got the funds from the Central Government, and we still need to apply from you?! Who's money is this?!"

Zhao Xu got mad because of Dong Xuebing's attitude. "I said we are holding on to the funds for you all. Don't you see the bigger picture?"

Dong Xuebing replied. "My bigger picture is our County! I need to be responsible for our County's comrades! I must answer to our County's civilians! The Central Government gave us the funds, and we got all the paperwork! I am not afraid of anything! Bigger picture? This word is not used like this, Mayor Zhao! Our County might be poor, but we are not stupid!"

"Mayor Dong!" Yan Yizhi quickly pulled Dong Xuebing.

Chen Xiaomei and Yao Cui were sweating.

They could tell Mayor Dong was very angry. They were angry too. This City Leader is too much but is the Deputy City Mayor.

Zhao Xu's face turned green, and he stared at Dong Xuebing.

Dong Xuebing returned the stare and continued. "Mayor Zhao, I speak my mind. You keep talking about the bigger picture. I want to know if the City has ever considered our Zhen Shui County. How

can you take away our funds without telling us?! Is this what you call the bigger picture?! Who's bigger picture is this? I am officially requesting the City Leaders to consider our County's feelings and financial issues!"

Zhao Xu retorted. "The City had considered your County's situation and discussed it during a Party Committee meeting. This is the City's decision! Keep your opinions to yourself!"

Dong Xuebing looked at Zhao Xu. "The City Party Committee's decision?"

Yan Yizhi and Chen Xiaomei heard it and took a deep breath.

They guessed the Party Secretary or the Mayor might have approved this, or the City would not dare to hold back the funds for Zhen Shui County. They did not expect it to be a Party Committee decision. This means all the City leaders decide it! Nothing can be changed!

Dong Xuebing said. "I am telling you, Mayor Zhao, this! Our County will not keep our opinions to ourselves!"

Zhao Xu is furious. What is the meaning of this?! Are you trying to go against the City? Are you trying to revolt?!

The City and Zhao Xu had expected Zhen Shui County to send someone for the money. But he did not expect Zhen Shui County to send someone like Dong Xuebing. This guy dared to lose his temper in front of him!

Do you think only you have a temper?!

I also have a temper!

Zhao Xu replied. "I am not free to argue with you. If you want to apply for the funds, go to the Finance Department and wait! Get out!"

The City had no intentions of returning all the funds to Zhen Shui County, but they are prepared to return some. They don't want Zhen Shui County to retaliate and create a political incident. That's why the City had set a tone. They released 5 million RMB first and waited for them to come and request more. They will release more funds to pacify them and keep the rest. The City's funds are running low, and Zhen Shui County's fund is a lifesaver.

Zhao Xu had shown an attitude toward Dong Xuebing to pressure them. He wants Zhen Shui County to compromise and bow to him.

But Zhen Shui County did not!

This Executive Deputy Mayor Dong dares to fall out with him!

Zhao Xu does not know Dong Xuebing. He only knows he is young, and this is their first meeting. His impression of him was terrible. He could have Zhen Shui County a few million RMB, but he will not do that now.

He is going to put Zhen Shui County on hold!

You want the funds?! Can. Fix your attitude and come and beg me!

Or else, don't even think of getting a cent from us!

Chapter 1168: There's a solution

Before noon.

Zhao Xu's office.

Zhao Xu called the City Finance Department Chief, Wei Lin after Dong Xuebing left. "Hello, Chief Wei. I am Zhao Xu."

"Good morning, Mayor Zhao."

"Zhen Shui County's people are here."

"Oh, so fast?"

"They just left my office and might be going to the Finance Department. I am letting you know."

"Mayor Zhao, how much should I give them?"

"There's no hurry. You can decide." Zhao Xu told Wei Lin to decide, but he also told him there was no hurry.

"Oh, ok. I understand." Wei Lin replied.

"Ah, do you know about Zhen Shui County's Executive Deputy Mayor Dong Xuebing?"

"Dong Xuebing called me yesterday, and he was rude. He even threatened me. Did he come to ask for money?" Since Mayor Zhao had mentioned Dong Xuebing, Wei Lin knew what he wanted. "I asked around about him last night. This Xiao Dong achieved some results and got promoted fast. But he is from Hebei Province and is newly transferred here. He does not have any connections here. I wonder where he got the guts to threaten me. He is unreasonable."

"This person's mindset is wrong."

Zhao Xu shook his head after hanging up. Dong Xuebing, who has no backing, had come to Mei He City and demanded the funds. What a joke. I will teach you a lesson to let you know your place. The money is in the City Finance Department. We are the boss! If Zhao Xu doesn't release the money, they can do nothing.

Outside of the City Party Committee building.

Dong Xuebing and the rest got into the Land Rover.

"Mayor Dong." Yan Yizhi hesitated.

Dong Xuebing looked at Yan Yizhi. "What is it, Old Yan?"

Yan Yizhi said. "I think the City should be willing to give us the fund. If we clash with Mayor Zhao, we might...."

"We might not get the fund?"

"Yes. That's how I feel."

“Then how much do you think the City will return us?”

“Huh? I don’t think it will be a lot, but we might get a few million RMB if we try.”

“I said before we came. I am getting all the funds back! Fifty million RMB and not a cent less. That’s why I will not accept even if the City gives us a few million RMB.”

Yan Yizhi and Chen Xiaomei exchanged looks and did not say anything. They felt this is impossible to succeed.

This is Dong Xuebing’s stubbornness acting up.

Go against the City? I will f\*\*king show you how I will go against you all!

Dong Xuebing turned to Yao Cui. “Go to the City Finance Department now.”

Dong Xuebing was mad when he knew the City had stopped the funds yesterday. He is furious and disgusted by the City leader today. You took our funds and refused to return them, yet you still claimed to be correct and threatened us.

Do you think I am scared of you all?!

Go and find out who I am first!

You dare to put on airs and snub me?! You all took our funds and threatened us!?

Fine. I will have ‘fun’ with you all today! I will make you all return the funds and beg me to accept them!

Dong Xuebing has a rough idea.

Dong Xuebing does not have high political wisdom and is immature. But he is full of wicked ideas.

Who can compare to him when it comes to wicked ideas?

Dong Xuebing had planned to change his reputation and not rely on tricks in Zhen Shui County. But others are stepping all over him, and he cannot tolerate it. He decided to reveal his true colors.

City Finance Department.

The car stopped outside, and Dong Xuebing entered the compound. The guards saw them and did not stop them.

But before Dong Xuebing entered the office building, his phone rang.

It was Secretary Meng’s office number. Dong Xuebing turned and said. “Wait for me inside. I got a call.”

“All right.”

“Ok.”

Yan Yizhi, Chen Xiaomei, and Yao Cui entered the building.

Dong Xuebing walked aside and answered. “Hello, Secretary Meng.”

Meng Rui asked. “Have you met the city leaders? How’s the situation?”

Dong Xuebing replied. "I met Deputy City Mayor Zhao Xu and just left his office. Mayor Zhao is firm and has no intention of returning the fund. I think he is trying to delay us and wear out our patience. Even if they return the fund eventually, it will not be a lot. At most is a few million RMB. I can also tell the City is up to something. They held a Party Committee Meeting yesterday and had another one this morning. I don't know what was discussed, and they are trying to delay the return of our funds. I am afraid...."

Meng Rui kept quiet. "What do you think, Mayor Jiang?"

This call is on speaker phone, and Jiang Fangfang is with Meng Rui.

Jiang Fangfang calmly replied. "I heard the City plans to build a new Party Committee family quarters during a meeting a few months ago. The current family quarters are old, but the City lacks the funds to rebuild it." Mayor Jiang had made herself clear.

They will build new family quarters and might be using Zhen Shui County's fund!

Dong Xuebing's face turned black. The City had crossed the line if this is true. The funds are supposed to be spent on the people and not on building better accommodation for yourself!

These people are greedy!

Dong Xuebing got mad again.

Meng Rui paused for a while and said. "The City should not be using our funds to rebuild their family quarters, and this is not confirmed. But we must get back the fund as soon as possible. Please try to get back at least a few million RMB first, Mayor Dong." Secretary Meng seemed to be anxious. If the City had planned and divided the fund....

Dong Xuebing asked. "Even a few million RMB?"

"Just try to get as much as possible, and it must be fast."

Dong Xuebing thought for a while. "I know we don't have time, but we should try to get back the full amount. I want to get back the remaining 45 million RMB."

Secretary Meng was shocked. "All the funds?"

Dong Xuebing replied. "Yes. Everything."

Jiang Fangfang added. "It's impossible."

"You said the City is firm, and we might not even get back 20 million RMB. Why are you saying you want to get back the full amount?" Meng Rui frowned. "I know you worked hard to get this fund from the Central Government, and you are unwilling to let the City reap the fruits of your labor. Mayor Jiang and I feel the same too. But you should give up. If you negotiate with the City with this mindset, you might not get back a cent. There's no time to think about it. Just try to get as much as possible. A few million RMB is better than nothing. I know you want more.... Sigh.... We will think of another solution for the rest of the fund."

Dong Xuebing paused for a few seconds and insisted. "Secretary Meng, Mayor Jiang, let me try. I cannot accept this."

Meng Rui's expression changed. "This is not the time for you to act up. Do you understand?"

Dong Xuebing had no choice and did not want to argue. Although he had decided, he asked. "What is the lowest amount we should accept?"

"Wait." Secretary Meng said.

The phone went silent. Meng Rui and Jiang Fangfang were discussing and muted the call.

About one minute later. Secretary Meng said. "It will be great if we can get 10 million RMB. If not, it must not be lower than 6 million RMB."

Dong Xuebing replied. "All right, I understand."

Secretary Meng replied. "We are waiting for your news. Call us if anything happens. Our County has your back."

"Ok. I am going to the Finance Department now."

"Take note of your choice of words, and try not to clash with them."

Dong Xuebing kept his phone and lit a cigarette. He is thinking of a plan.

6 to 10 million RMB....

Dong Xuebing did not care about Secretary Meng's words. He said he would get back all the funds and would not accept anything less.

No one can take advantage of him!

Not even a cent!

Inside the office building.

Resting area at level one. Yan Yizhi and Chen Xiaomei were whispering among themselves. They would ask a staff member near them once in a while.

Yao Cui had gone to get a cup of water. She saw Dong Xuebing and quickly passed the water to him. "Have some water."

"Thank you." Dong Xuebing drank the water and exhaled loudly. "Old Yan, Old Chen."

Yan Yizhi stopped talking to the Finance Department staff and returned with Chen Xiaomei. "They say Chief Wei is not around."

Dong Xuebing narrowed his eyes. "His is not around? Where did he go?"

Yan Yizhi replied. "He is away for a meeting. They ask us to come back in the afternoon."

Dong Xuebing asked. "Where is Chief Wei's office?"

Yan Yizhi had visited his office before. "It's at the end of the corridor on the third floor."

Dong Xuebing walked towards the stairs. "Let's go."

Dong Xuebing is furious. The City might use its Central Government funds to build a family quarter. He will not allow this to happen! He is not going to hold back anymore!

Chapter 1169: Asking for it!

Noon.

City Finance Department Office Building.

It was lunchtime, and the staff were gone for lunch. When Dong Xuebing was in Hebei Province, the City and District's Finance Department appointed restaurants. Most staff will go out for lunch. The Finance Department is the richest, and the staff has the best benefits. However, this place is different. Dong Xuebing noticed the staff did not go out for lunch. Some went to the cafeteria downstairs, and others brought their food. A line was formed in front of the microwave to heat their food.

Third floor.

Stairwell.

Dong Xuebing and the rest went upstairs.

"Are you all hungry?"

"No. What about you, Mayor Dong?"

"I am not hungry too."

"All right. Let's get down to business first."

"Mayor Dong, are we going to Chief Wei's office? But...."

"Chief Wei must be around. We will go to his office. Lead the way, Old Yan."

"Huh? Ok.... His office is over there. The third room on the left."

A Finance Department staff came to a stop them. "Eh! Wait! What are you all doing here? Who allows you to come up?"

Yan Yizhi replied. "We are looking for Chief Wei."

That man said. "These are the leaders' offices. You all are not allowed here. Go downstairs and register first. Someone will escort you all here."

Dong Xuebing looked at the staff. "Is Chief Wei in his office?"

That man frowned. "Who are you?"

Chen Xiaomei replied. "We are from Zhen Shui County."

That man's expression changed slightly. "Zhen Shui County? Chief Wei is not around. He went to a meeting. Come back tomorrow."

Yan Yizhi replied patiently. "Comrade, help us inform Chief Wei. We need to meet him urgently."

That man waved his hand impatiently. "I said Chief Wei is in a meeting, not his office. Come back another time."

"Comrade...."

"Go back!"



Dong Xuebing cannot be bothered by this man. He continued to walk towards Chief Wei's office.

"Hey! Where are you going?" That man got mad.

Yan Yizhi, Chen Xiaomei, and Yao Cui quickly follow.

"Stop there!" That man grabbed Dong Xuebing. "What's wrong with you? Are you all trying to create trouble here?! I am calling the guards!"

That man is no match for Dong Xuebing.

Dong Xuebing did not use any strength. He flicked his wrist slightly and broke free of that man's grip, making him lose his balance.

Dong Xuebing did not knock and opened the door.

A middle-aged man was sitting behind the desk.

Dong Xuebing looked at him. "Chief Wei? Sorry to disturb you during your meeting."

Wei Lin is alone in his office and is not in any meetings. Dong Xuebing said that with sarcasm.

That man quickly rushed in. "Chief Wei! They...."

Wei Lin waved his hand. "I know. You can leave, Xiao Zhang."

That man stared at Dong Xuebing and left angrily.

The door closed, and Wei Lin looked at Yan Yizhi angrily. "Old Yan, what are you all trying to do? How dare you all barge into my office?!"

Yan Yizhi replied. "It's urgent."

Wei Lin said. "I am busy and have no time for you all!"

Yan Yizhi was about to say something, but Dong Xuebing stopped him. Dong Xuebing had said he would be the bad guy today. He will do all the offending as he is not afraid of anyone. Yan Yizhi's rank is lower than Wei Lin, and they will look weak if they carry on. Yan Yizhi, Chen Xiaomei, and Yao Cui moved behind Dong Xuebing.

Wei Lin looked at Dong Xuebing and asked. "Who are you?"

Dong Xuebing calmly replied. "I am Zhen Shui County Executive Deputy Mayor Dong Xuebing. We spoke over the phone before. Nice to meet you, Chief Wei."

Wei Lin replied arrogantly. "Oh, Mayor Dong."

Dong Xuebing continued. "We are tired from all the traveling this morning. Can we sit?"

Wei Lin thought to himself. This guy is too shameless. "Go ahead."

Dong Xuebing let Yan Yizhi and the rest sit on the sofa while he sat opposite Wei Lin at his desk. "Chief Wei. I will not beat around the bush. We are here to get the funds. I just met Deputy Mayor Zhao, and he said you are holding on to our funds. That's why we are here to get back the remaining funds."

Wei Lin flipped his document and did not look at Dong Xuebing. "Mayor Zhao is in charge of the Finance Department. The higher-ups have decided to hold on to the fund. It's useless to tell me this."

Trying to push us away?!

You all are trying to delay us.

Dong Xuebing was not surprised. "Then we will go through the proper process. Our County finance is in the red, and our staff has not gotten their salaries for a while. We also have debts to pay. The 5 million RMB left by the City is insufficient. I will write an application letter. I am applying for 45 million RMB from the City Finance Department."

45 million RMB?

You want to get back everything?

Wei Lin is amused and feels Dong Xuebing is being too naïve. The fund is in the City's pocket. Do you think you can get it back? Wei Lin knows Zhen Shui County is a national-level impoverished county. They are regulars at the City Finance Department. They would come to seek financial assistance every few years. But the City Government is not wealthy either. That's why the City did not issue any funds to them. The City Finance Department would tell Zhen Shui County to sort it out themselves. Wei Lin is purposely making things difficult for Zhen Shui County this time. Whether five million RMB is enough is none of his business. He is not the one anxious.

Who's fault is this?

It is not the City's fault.

Wei Lin felt that Zhen Shui County created this mess for itself.

Who asked them to get so much money from the Central Government? If they did not get financial assistance from the Central Government, the City would not take it from them. Moreover, it is fifty million RMB. Mei He City is a poor city, and 50 million RMB is a significant amount.

A small county like you should inform the City before going to the Central Government. The City will not allow you all to take so much money. Bow to us, and we might give you a few million RMB. But now.... You all displayed a firm attitude. Do you think we will release the fund?

Wei Lin replied without thinking. "You can write an application letter. But the City's finance is not well. We might not approve it. Be prepared." He tells them that the City will not return the money unless they change their attitude.

Dong Xuebing looked at Wei Lin. "Didn't the City just receive 50 million RMB? How can the City be poor?"

Wei Lin got frustrated. "Do I need to report our City's finances to you?"

Dong Xuebing looked at him coldly. "You don't have to report anything to me. But this sum of money was given to us by the Central Government. I think you must give me an answer."

Hmph!

You want to create trouble?

You are only a Deputy Bureau Director. How dare you go against me?!

Wei Lin is a Bureau Director and a City Leader. He is also in charge of an important department. That's why he is unhappy when an Executive Deputy County Mayor goes against him. He felt these people from Zhen Shui County do not know their places.

Wei Lin looked at Dong Xuebing coldly. "This is the City Party Committee's decision. You can raise it with the City if you have any objections. Mayor Dong, don't talk to me as if we had robbed you. The City needs to take care of a lot of Counties. Furthermore, it is improper for you all to seek financial assistance from the Central Government. We will not discuss this since the Central Government approved the fund. But this fund is not only for your County. The Central Government issued the fund to help Mei He City and the surrounding counties. We must use the money at the right places."

Dong Xuebing replied coldly. "Right places? What do you mean by that?"

Wei Lin is also a hot-tempered person. He stared at Dong Xuebing. "The City will manage the fund for you all. We will decide how to distribute and where to use it. You all don't have to know!" This sentence means their negotiations are over.

Yao Cui almost cursed.

Yan Yizhi and Chen Xiaomei were furious too.

You all have robbed our money and still think you are right!

What logic is this? Are you all a robber?

Mayor Dong and I went to the Central Government to beg for funds and faced many difficulties. The City took away most of the funds without doing anything and expected us to beg them for a few million RMB?! This is outrageous!

Dong Xuebing did not expect Zhao Xu and Wei Lin to be so shameless. He smiled out of anger.

You all are asking for it!

Chapter 1170: Dong Xuebing's methods!

Finance Department Chief Office.

Wei Lin looked at his watch and said. "It's lunchtime. You all can go back now. Remember to register downstairs before coming up next time.

Dong Xuebing did not move. He stared at the disgusting Wei Lin and said. "Chief Wei, are you telling me that the 45 million RMB should go to the City and not our County? You all can use it for whatever you want, and we cannot get back a cent?"

You are still talking about 45 million RMB?!

Don't you know the situation now?

Giving you 5 million RMB is a blessing, and we might give you all more if you correct your attitude. Do you think you can get back all the funds?

Are you dreaming?

Do you think this will happen?

Wei Lin cannot be bothered with Dong Xuebing. "Apply if you want the funds. The City will decide whether to give you all the funds. This is not decided by you all."

Yan Yizhi got mad. "Chief Wei, this is not right."

Chen Xiaomei also stood up and looked at Wei Lin. "We got the funds from the Central Government. Why should we let the City manage the funds for us?" The City is using this excuse to take away the funds from them.

Hehe....

What are you all trying to do?

Are you all going against the City?

Wei Lin looked at them coldly. "Go and speak to the City leaders if you have any objections. I don't want to entertain you all."

Yan Yizhi, Yao Cui, and Chen Xiaomei were furious.

You all snatched our money and want to chase us away?

The City is disappointing.

Yan Yizhi, Chen Xiaomei, and Yao Cui did not plan to get involved. After all, this is the City's Finance Department. They would be in trouble if they offended the City Leaders. But Chief Wei is too much.

Wei Lin looked at them and picked up his phone. "Hello, I am Wei Lin. Send a few guards here."

What is the meaning of this?

Are you going to throw us out?

Yao Cui and the rest looked terrible.

Two security guards and four Finance Department staff entered the office a while later.

"Chief Wei!"

"Chief Wei, are they causing trouble for you?"

Wei Lin tilted his head and pointed towards Dong Xuebing with his chin.

The guards and staff surrounded Dong Xuebing and the rest. They stood there without saying anything. They would not lay their hands on them as this is the City Finance Department. Dong Xuebing and those people should be some District or County leaders. They would make them leave without using force.

Both sides stared at each other.

Yan Yizhi was furious when he saw the security. It's okay if they call security on him or Chen Xiaomei. After all, their ranks are lower. But Mayor Dong is the County's Executive Deputy Mayor. He is only one rank lower than Wei Lin.

This is humiliating them!

Wei Lin had received Zhao Xu's call earlier and knew these people had offended Deputy Mayor Zhao. They must have said something in Deputy Mayor Zhao's office. As the subordinate, he understood his leader's intentions. He took out his lunch card from his drawer and left his office.

Dong Xuebing saw him and followed.

The two security guards immediately moved and blocked Dong Xuebing.

These two security guards are tall and strong. They felt they could stop Dong Xuebing with their bodies. But to their surprise, Dong Xuebing moved swiftly and got past them quickly.

The guards were stunned.

Yao Cui quickly followed.

But the guards and staff members stopped her.

"What are you all doing? You all wanted us to leave." Yao Cui looked at them. "Why are you all stopping us from leaving? Are you all trying to restrain us against our will?"

Yan Yizhi shouted. "Move aside!" He tried to squeeze his way past them.

The security guards and staff members could not stop them, and they rushed out of the office.

Wei Lin and Dong Xuebing had almost reached the stairs at the end of the corridor.

Dong Xuebing walked quickly and blocked Wei Lin's path near a few glass windows.

Wei Lin was furious. "Are you done?"

Dong Xuebing smiled. "I want to confirm with you. Are you not releasing the 45 million RMB to our County today?"

Wei Lin ignored Dong Xuebing. "Move aside!"

"That means your answer is no, right?"

"What do you think?"

"All right. I know."

Yan Yizhi sighed when he heard Mayor Dong talking about the funds again. He knows the City will not release even a cent to them. The City Party Committee decided, and the Deputy Mayor in charge of the Finance Department and Finance Department Chief showed such attitudes toward them.

Getting funds from the Central Government again might be easier than the City.

But who can guarantee the City will not stop the funds again if they can get another fund from the Central Government?

Everyone knows it's impossible to get the funds now.

Everyone except for Dong Xuebing. He had a plan, and whatever he said was to stop Wei Lin. Their positions and angles are what he needed.

Dong Xuebing had never expected them to return the funds by reasoning.

You all started this first! F\*\*k! I will show you what I can do!

Dong Xuebing blocked Wei Lin's way and stopped him from going downstairs.

Wei Lin got mad. "Move!"

Dong Xuebing ignored him and continued to block the path.

Wei Lin cursed in his heart and tried to squeeze through the gap. The gap beside Dong Xuebing was too small, and he pushed him slightly.

It was a light push, and Wei Lin used no strength.

To everyone's horror, Dong Xuebing shouted and looked like he had lost his balance from the push. His body flew towards the glass window along the corridor.

Crash!

Dong Xuebing fell out of the window from the third floor in front of everyone!