

## PAW 1391

Chapter 1391: The new County Party Committee building collapsed

Hotel.

Inside the room.

As soon as the three police officers left, Dong Xuebing, who had already decided to deal with the people from Cheng Gang County, walked downstairs and stood at the hotel entrance, staring coldly ahead. Not far away, the injured police officer, whose arm had been dislocated, was reporting the situation to the leaders of the Public Security Bureau. The expressions of people like Li Zhixin didn't look good.

Extracting fingerprints.

Taking imprints of shoes.

These were just methods to divert attention.

Li Zhixin knew that, given Dong Xuebing's personality, he would never agree. But he never thought he could find evidence in the new County Party Committee building compound. His goal was to disgust Dong Xuebing, force him to make a mistake and concentrate all attention on him. This was the only way to downplay the severity of the two incidents of construction materials falling. Whether Dong Xuebing had done something or not, Li Zhixin didn't care. Even if it wasn't you, even if it was negligence on our county's engineering side, you will still need to shoulder this. Li Zhixin became malicious, reaching a point where he would go to any lengths. Part of the reason was also related to Xie Huilan. Only a few people knew that during the chaotic escape, Li Zhixin was the one who pushed Mayor Xie. Li Zhixin certainly didn't want to impact his career and wanted to resolve the matter quickly.

Li Zhixin thought he had outsmarted Dong Xuebing. After all, even if no physical evidence was found, the testimonies of those people would be enough to trouble Dong Xuebing. The line of sight would undoubtedly be maximally diverted.

However, Dong Xuebing's methods were beyond his imagination.

Li Zhixin had no idea what kind of person he had offended.

Dong Xuebing, standing at the hotel entrance, watched those people and police cars, knowing that the cunning of Cheng Gang County might shift the conflict onto him. Still, he didn't care at all. He had never worried about these things. Shifting the blame.

How ridiculous.

Are you kidding me?

Do you think only you can shift the blame?

Dong Xuebing focused on the main office building of the new County Party Committee building compound, planning in his mind.

To use the falling construction materials again to deal with Li Zhixin? Dong Xuebing hadn't planned to do so. First, three incidents of falling materials would be too coincidental and likely raise suspicions. Second, Dong Xuebing didn't think it would teach Cheng Gang County a lesson. From

the attitudes of people like Zhou Wei, Mr. Sun, who were disabled but still aggressively attacked Dong Xuebing, it was evident. A few people were disabled, yet they still acted like mad dogs, disregarding everything just to bite Dong Xuebing. So, this time, he didn't plan to go easy. He wanted to give them a profound lesson they would never forget.

Disgusting me so many times

You have to pay a price

Dong Xuebing locked onto the main office building of the new county committee compound, choosing an angle. At that moment, he silently recited, "REVERSE three minutes."

This practically used up all the remaining time Dong Xuebing had. Only about thirty seconds were left.

One second in REVERSE equaled one day. Reversing three minutes meant going back about six months. Six months ago, the office building was not in its current state. It probably just had its foundation laid and a framework constructed. The cement that had solidified into blocks was just dry powder and dry sand, not a solid mass. This alone could be fatal for the building.

In just an instant, the building changed.

Because Dong Xuebing was afraid of being discovered afterward, he focused on the critical support point at the bottom of the office building. The cement inside was crucial for the stability of the entire building. He only concentrated on the bottom of the building to prevent being detected. He reverses six months, and the office building's bottom cement, which had solidified, instantly turned into lime and sand. Almost without any gaps, the entire building suddenly dropped about ten centimeters.

Originally, the bricks were connected securely with cement.

But reversing back six months, the bricks might still be the same, but the cement wasn't.

With a loud bang, the building suddenly dropped.

After the entire building plummeted, it suddenly swayed.

Hearing the sound, everyone turned their stunned gazes towards it. The building collapsed under the terrified stares of people like Li Zhixin and the Public Security Bureau officers.

It collapsed slightly to one side.

The collapse was almost inevitable, with the bottom unstable and no support above. The subtle changes at the base were so minor that no one could detect them. Even if an investigation into the cause of the accident was conducted afterward, it would find only ruins and powder, revealing no anomalies.

"Ah!"

"It collapsed, it collapsed!"

"Run quickly!"

Everyone exclaimed in shock.

In the compound, some police officers were still investigating and gathering evidence. Without any prompting, they desperately ran outside upon seeing the building collapse. The building collapsed towards the west side, an open space, so nothing fell on them, saving them from harm.

Rumbling sounds continued as the building kept falling.

Li Zhixin and several leaders of the construction command center turned pale at that moment, a kind of pallor without a trace of blood. Seeing this scene, their hearts chilled.

The first reaction was, it's over.

It wasn't just the finished office building. It was them.

This wasn't just the collapse of a building. It was the end of their career.

This project was entirely under the responsibility of their construction command center. Now that the building had collapsed, it indicated problems with construction quality and materials.

They couldn't escape responsibility.

No one could run away.

Li Zhixin's legs almost gave way. How could it be possible? How could a building suddenly collapse for no reason? He couldn't accept this reality.

Accompanying him, Deputy Mayor Wang also fell to the ground, completely stunned.

But that wasn't the end. At the moment when the building turned into ruins with a thunderous sound, two glass fragments flew out.

Swish, swish.

Directly flying towards the outside.

Someone noticed it and hastily dodged, "Quick, get out of the way!"

The next moment, Li Zhixin's scream echoed, "Ah!"

Everyone looked over in shock, only to discover that the two glass fragments had accurately lodged into Mayor Li's eyes.

One eye, one fragment.

Blood spurted out from Li Zhixin's eyes.

"Quick, save him!"

"Ambulance!"

"Mayor Li, hey!"

Of course, Dong Xuebing had played a trick using the last bit of his remaining time. Otherwise, how could the fragments be so precise?

In just a short ten seconds, the nearly completed new County Party Committee building became a pile of ruins.

Chapter 1392: Chenggang County is facing disaster

Chaos.

Everything is in chaos.

Officials and police officers looked in shock at Mayor Li Zhixin, who was screaming in pain with both eyes blinded. On the street, the common people stared in astonishment at the now-ruined new County Party Committee building.

It collapsed.

The building had collapsed.

Many people couldn't believe it.

"What are you waiting for?"

"Call an ambulance!"

"Save Mayor Li first!"

Deputy Mayor Wang, who was sitting on the ground in a daze, snapped back to reality. He hurriedly stood up and ran towards Li Zhixin, who was on the ground shouting and covering his eyes.

Meanwhile, Dong Xuebing, standing in the distance, checked his remaining time with MENU.

Seeing the planned landing points for the glass fragments, he noticed he had only eight seconds remaining. However, it was sufficient for Dong Xuebing, who silently uttered "STOP."

One second

Three seconds

Five seconds

After eight seconds, Dong Xuebing was back in his original position.

However, Deputy Mayor Wang, who was running just twenty meters ahead, stumbled and fell, despite there being no obstacles under his feet. Due to the inertia, he flew out, and with a muffled sound, his head hit the rear trunk of a car. It seemed like his forehead was slightly dented, and with a groan, Deputy Mayor Wang fainted on the ground, blood oozing from his head.

" Mayor Wang!"

"Oh no!"

"What's happening?"

"Quick, save him!"

Another person was severely injured.

Both were the highest-ranking officials present.

This added another layer of chaos to the scene. With such a big mess, everyone's attention naturally shifted elsewhere, and no one noticed Dong Xuebing. Dong Xuebing looked carefree. Having finished these actions, he strolled back to the hotel, went upstairs to his room, and lit a cigarette. While smoking, he observed the chaos below. The people from Cheng Gang County caused these troubles, and he had no sympathy for them. He himself was still an official, and Huilan was even a Deputy City Mayor. The people from Cheng Gang County could commit such actions, indicating they had no regard for laws and morals. Dong Xuebing could easily imagine the dire consequences if ordinary folks faced such an incident. Not only would they be unable to seek justice, but they

might also be pressured to death by Cheng Gang County's leaders. Therefore, this bunch of scoundrels deserved this treatment. If they were not punished severely, they would never learn a lesson, continuing to oppress and exploit ordinary people. Dong Xuebing wouldn't let them off easily.

"Ah, my eyes!"

"Mayor Li, hold on!"

"The ambulance is on its way."

Shouts from the officials below were continuous, creating a chaotic scene. However, compared to the officials and police officers from Cheng Gang County, the expressions of the common people became somewhat nuanced after the initial shock. Even some people began to discuss the situation at a distance.

"It collapsed nicely."

"Yeah, they deserve it."

"Lower your voices, don't let anyone hear."

"What are you afraid of? They can do whatever they want, and we can't even say a word."

"Our county is already poor. Our living standards can't compare to other places. Many people can't even afford meals. But they, the County Leaders, don't care about us. They took our taxes and the subsidies from above to build a new County Party Committee office building, while the old building was fine. Why build something new? If our County's economy level is good, it's fine. But our County is already poor, and they built it for themselves. It would be okay if they used half of it for road construction. I don't understand what these Leaders are thinking. Do they still care about us common folks?"

"That's right, it's good that it collapsed."

"This is karma."

"Moreover, there was no earthquake or anything. It collapsed for no reason. There must be something wrong with the building design or construction materials."

"Yeah, who knows how much they embezzled."

"Sigh, what kind of Leaders do we have in our county?"

The common people had long been dissatisfied with them, and the resentment had accumulated for too long.

Upstairs, Dong Xuebing heard this and shook his head slightly. They deserved this for their tough governing style. Look, even the people's hearts are gone.

The ambulance hadn't arrived yet.

They couldn't wait any longer. Several police officers immediately helped lift Li Zhixin and Deputy Mayor Wang onto the vehicle, heading straight to the County People's Hospital.

"Disperse!"

"Don't gather here."

"I'm talking to you, step back."

People from the project committee and the police began to disperse the crowd. Their attitude remained irritating, and they were not polite to the common people.

The common people weren't happy either, and many didn't leave.

"We can't hear you!"

"We can't even stand across the street!"

"You can't tell us to step back!"

"I live in this building. I can't go home. What's the logic in this?"

"Is this what you call going home? You are not even entering the building. What nonsense are you talking about?"

A conflict arose between the common people and Cheng Gang County's officials.

Ring, ring, ring Dong Xuebing's phone rang. He answered it while watching the scene below.

"Hello."

"Where are you?"

"Huilan, I'm still in Cheng Gang County. You've returned to Fen Zhou City. What are the results of the hospital examination? Is our child okay?"

"Everything's fine. We did all the necessary examinations."

"That's good. How about you? Are you feeling better?"

"Hehe, I'm much better now. I've already returned home and didn't need to be hospitalized."

"Alright, I'll call my mom later to care for you for a few days."

"Stop troubling your mom. It's not appropriate. I am fine." Pausing momentarily, she continued, "By the way, don't tell anyone about my injury. My parents don't know, and your mother either. If they don't know, it's better, so they won't worry."

"Okay, I understand."

"How about you there?"

"It's resolved. I'm preparing to go back."

"How did you resolve it?"

"The new County Party Committee building collapsed. Li Zhixin is blind, and Deputy Mayor Wang has a severe concussion. They brought this misfortune upon themselves." Dong Xuebing explained the situation to Xie Huilan in detail. Of course, he wouldn't admit that he was involved. That couldn't be said.

The call lasted for about ten minutes.

After hanging up, Dong Xuebing looked downstairs. The officials from Cheng Gang County were still arguing with the common people. Perhaps they had received orders or instructions as they were forcefully dispersed the crowd. Seeing this, Dong Xuebing chuckled, closed the window, and drew

the curtains, too lazy to watch anymore. These people were quite amusing. Didn't they realize that Cheng Gang County was already in deep trouble? Still, they had the energy to confront the common people aggressively. Were they out of their minds?

Just wait.

The truth will be revealed shortly.

Chapter 1393: Reshuffling

Evening.

Cheng Gang County.

In a hotel room, Dong Xuebing sat alone on the sofa, sipping a small glass of liquor and eating some dishes. The news on the TV in front of the bed was playing, and he had been staring at it. However, when it reached the news time, Cheng Gang County TV station didn't report anything about the afternoon incident. They didn't even mention it. Dong Xuebing shook his head in disappointment, sipped his drink, and then changed the channel to Mei He City's news channel.

As soon as he switched channels, the news started.

The screen showed the collapsed County Party Committee building in Cheng Gang County, now reduced to ruins.

The average-looking female anchor said, "It is reported that around 2:00 p.m. this afternoon, there was a building collapse incident in Cheng Gang County. This was the new County Party Committee building. Since it was still under construction, no staff was inside. The specific cause of the accident is still under investigation."

That was all the information provided.

Dong Xuebing watched for a while, then turned off the TV. He knew he wouldn't get much information from there, so he called. However, when he took out his phone, he realized it was out of battery and didn't know when it had run out. This trip was hasty, and he hadn't brought a charger. He tried the hotel phone, but it only allowed internal calls. Unable to make an outside call, Dong Xuebing had to put on his clothes, go downstairs, and find a public telephone. After thinking for a moment, he decided to call Mayor Jiang's secretary, Li Xiaona. He initially wanted to ask Yao Cui, but Cui'er became his secretary only after he took office, and her network was still limited. On the other hand, Li Xiaona, who had been Mayor Jiang's secretary for several years, had a broader network and must be well-informed.

Ring, ring, ring

The call went through.

"Hello, who are you?" Li Xiaona answered.

"Secretary Li, it's Dong Xuebing," Dong Xuebing said.

"Mayor Dong," Li Xiaona responded quickly, "where are you?"

"Still in Cheng Gang County."

"Oh, you're okay."

"I'm fine. What's going on?"

"I heard that the new County Party Committee building in Cheng Gang County collapsed. Chief Jiang and Secretary Yao tried calling you several times this afternoon, but your phone"

"Ah, I didn't bring a charger. The phone ran out of battery."

"I see. Secretary Yao is quite anxious. Chief Jiang is also worried about you. She just called me to ask where you are. I haven't had a chance to call back."

"Tell Chief Jiang not to worry. I'll call her later. By the way, I wanted to ask about the situation in Cheng Gang County. Have you received any information? Why hasn't it been reported in the news?"

"They're still investigating, so many details should be kept confidential," Li Xiaona said. "The information I have is from people in the construction company and the project team. Several leaders ran away in the afternoon, and they managed to catch one. The others are still on the run."

"They ran away?"

"Yes, as soon as they heard about the building collapse."

Dong Xuebing squinted his eyes, knowing that there must be some irregularities in the construction of the county committee building. Why would they run away instead of waiting for an investigation if they had nothing to hide? There must be something they didn't want others to know. "What else happened?"

Li Xiaona continued, "Mayor Li has lost his sight. Deputy Mayor Wang suffered a head injury and hasn't woken up yet. Also, there's recent news. The City Discipline Inspection Commission has sent people down and taken control of the headquarters responsible for Cheng Gang County's project. Mayor Li, Deputy Mayor Wang, and others are currently in the hospital due to injuries, so no measures have been taken against them for now. However, they can't escape. The Discipline Inspection Commission has even sent people to the hospital. As for the construction company, the city police have also taken control, and they are currently searching for the person in charge who tried to escape."

"They acted so quickly."

"Yes, even the County Party Secretary of Cheng Gang County has been called in for questioning by the Discipline Inspection Commission."

Dong Xuebing nodded slightly.

Li Xiaona sighed, "This is no small matter. The entire office building collapsed without any apparent reason. There must be a problem. Cheng Gang County is in chaos this time. This incident is likely to implicate more than a dozen leading leaders. A major reshuffling is imminent."

Having learned the details of the situation, Dong Xuebing asked Li Xiaona for Jiang Fangfang's phone number. Li Xiaona's number was easy to remember, with the last few digits being 898989, so Dong Xuebing noted it down. However, Jiang Fangfang's number was harder, and his phone was out of battery, making it impossible for him to remember.

After hanging up, Dong Xuebing called Jiang Fangfang to report his safety.

Finally, he called Yao Cui to reassure his old friend.



Back at the hotel, with everything here settled and having let off some steam, Dong Xuebing felt there was no point in staying. He packed up, went downstairs, and started the car.

Passing by the entrance of the new County Party Committee headquarters, several police officers were still on guard, shining flashlights inside. It seemed that investigators from the city were examining the cause of the accident. Seeing Dong Xuebing's car stopping at their entrance, the police officers recognized him. One was the police officer who had tried to forcefully extract his fingerprints at the hotel earlier. Their expressions were not pleasant; after all, the situation was significant. Surprisingly, this time, none of them came to bother Dong Xuebing. They didn't confront him or give him hostile looks. It was as if they hadn't seen him. They turned their heads away and pretended to be focused on something else.

Fingerprinting, shoe prints, investigating Dong Xuebing. All of it had lost its meaning.

Cheng Gang County had initially planned to use Dong Xuebing to divert attention, employing various despicable tactics against him. However, with the collapse of the building, issues like falling construction materials and the question of whether someone was pushed became less relevant. The attention was now firmly focused back on Cheng Gang County, making them the center of the city's attention again. There was no way to shift the focus anymore. In this situation, nobody cared about Dong Xuebing anymore, and the false testimonies and accusations made by Zhou's secretary and the construction company's CEO had become meaningless.

Dong Xuebing glanced at them, then looked at the ruins not far away. He started the car and drove away.

But it wasn't over yet. Before leaving, Dong Xuebing made one final visit to the County People's Hospital.

He got out of the car.

Went upstairs.

Found the ward.

Outside the ward of Li Zhixin and Deputy Mayor Wang, there weren't many officials gathered, which was unusual. Normally, when high-ranking officials were injured, there would be many staffs coming to visit. But now, there was no one. Only some personnel from the Discipline Inspection Commission were discussing something. It was understandable. Despite Li Zhixin's former power, he was just an ordinary person without his official position. The situation outside the ward indicated this. Li Zhixin had lost sight and was directly responsible for the collapse of the office building. Seeing officials from the City Discipline Inspection Commission arriving, no one dared to get too close to Li Zhixin at this time.

It was a matter of life and death.

No one was that foolish, busy avoiding suspicion and distancing themselves.

Dong Xuebing knew that Li Zhixin and the others were finished this time, but he didn't mind giving them a few more kicks. So, he walked up and said, "You're from the City Discipline Inspection Commission, right?"

An old Discipline Inspection Commission staff looked at him, "Who are you?"

Dong Xuebing said, "I'm Dong Xuebing from Zhen Shui County."

" Mayor Dong," the Discipline Inspection Commission staff and the others all turned towards him. The leader extended his hand for a handshake, "Hello, I heard that your spouse had an incident at the new County Party Committee building yesterday. It seems there are testimonies from comrades in Fen Zhou City stating that someone pushed Mayor Xie, causing Mayor Xie's injury. Is this true?"

Dong Xuebing replied, "Yes, there were many witnesses at the time."

The Discipline Inspection Commission staff said earnestly, "We were also eager to understand the situation at that time. Can you tell us in detail?"

Dong Xuebing said, "No problem."

The person said, "Then, please have a seat here."

Dong Xuebing naturally did not hesitate and directly recounted the incident involving his wife, the subsequent attitude of Cheng Gang County, and even the false accusations made by Zhou's secretary and others. He thoroughly fueled the already dire situation for Cheng Gang County and Li Zhixin's group.

7:30 PM.

The people from the City Discipline Inspection Commission listened with furrowed brows.

With the situation explained, how to investigate would now be the responsibility of the Discipline Inspection Commission and the police. After checking his watch, Dong Xuebing nodded to bid farewell to the City Discipline Inspection Commission officials and comrades.

At the hospital courtyard.

Dong Xuebing encountered several officials and staff members from Cheng Gang County. It was unclear whether they were there to assist in the investigation or to visit. Dong Xuebing glanced at them and got into his car, heading back to Zhen Shui County.

Watching Dong Xuebing's Land Rover gradually disappear, the people from Cheng Gang County didn't know what to feel.

In fact, after Mayor Xie's incident following the visit of Mayor Dong for inspection, many officials in Cheng Gang County knew that Mayor Li and Secretary Zhou might have indeed pushed Mayor Xie, causing the near-fatal incident for the mother and son. However, even though they knew it, they didn't react. Their initial thoughts were similar to Li Zhixin's group. Shifting blame first, not allowing their County to bear such a bad reputation. But as the situation unfolded, the people of Cheng Gang County were shocked to discover that the development of the events was far from what they had anticipated.

First, Secretary Zhou and the others all became disabled.

Then, the new County Party Committee building collapsed right before their eyes. Finally, even Li Zhixin and Deputy Mayor Wang were both incapacitated, dragging the City Discipline Inspection Commission into the mess.

This could no longer be described as coincidental. It was unbelievably coincidental. Why did all those present with Mayor Xie end up permanently disabled? Why did the County Party Committee building, which almost killed Mayor Xie, have multiple incidents, one after another?

All the coincidences pointed to Dong Xuebing, the Mayor of Zhen Shui County.

Since Dong Xuebing arrived, accidents kept happening one after another. Individuals who had conflicts or disagreements with him and his wife ended up paying a bloody price one by one.

Now, looking back, everyone felt a chill running down their spine.

What the hell is this Dong Xuebing? Is he some kind of jinx?

Chapter 1394: Dong Xuebing's work summary

Next day.

Saturday.

Zhen Shui County. The Party Committee's family quarters courtyard.

Early morning, Dong Xuebing stretched lazily and sat up from the bed. Still feeling a bit sleepy, he didn't get up right away. Instead, he picked up a pack of Zhonghua cigarettes from the table, lit one, and casually turned on the old 29-inch color TV. Using the somewhat faulty remote control, he changed channels. Whether it was due to the low battery or the aging remote, he had to press hard for each channel change, which was quite troublesome. Moreover, the TV picture wasn't very clear, with many channels flickering. However, after spending over two months in Zhen Shui County, Dong Xuebing gradually gotten used to the impoverished environment. A TV was considered good. Many families in towns and villages couldn't afford one.

One

Two

Three

When he switched to the fourth channel, it was the morning news from Mei He City TV station.

The first news was about the major incident in Cheng Gang County yesterday. It didn't just skim over the details as yesterday's news did. Instead, it provided a detailed description of the situation during the accident. Even the fact that Li Zhixin and senior members of the construction company were detained was mentioned. Finally, the cause of the accident was disclosed. The preliminary investigation results indicated significant issues with the construction materials. Many failed inspection, revealing problems such as cutting corners and reducing quality.

Sure enough.

Dong Xuebing shook his head inwardly. If it weren't for his involvement in this matter, these problems might never have been exposed.

These guys.

Simply lawless.

This time, he had truly acted on behalf of justice.

Dong Xuebing turned off the TV and stubbed out the cigarette. He then got up from the bed and brushed his teeth. The accident investigation didn't find any other abnormalities. Naturally, it couldn't be traced back to him. Dong Xuebing felt relaxed. Knowing they wouldn't find anything, the building had become a ruin, and his ability to reverse time had vanished, drowned in the debris.

It would be strange if they found anything suspicious. Even if they did, it would be related to problems with the construction materials. Of course, they wouldn't think of a divine figure who could reverse time.

This time was pretty good.

In the future, he should try to avoid involvement as much as possible.

Otherwise, there would be too much attention on him.

After coming out of the bathroom, Dong Xuebing heard his phone ringing. He didn't know how long it had been ringing. He quickly threw the face towel on the bed, reached over to unplug his fully charged phone, and unplugged the charger from the three-pronged adapter. Only then did he take a look.

It was a call from Xu Yan.

Dong Xuebing slapped his forehead, just remembering that Sister Xu seemed to be coming to their province for a new position recently. He was so busy that he forgot about it.

"Hello, Sister Xu."

"Xiao Bing, are you awake?"

"Just woke up, brushed my teeth, and washed my face. Where are you?"

"I am in your provincial capital. Hehe, just arrived."

"Ah, it's not even 8 o'clock. Did your plane arrive so early?"

"I was originally planning to book a plane ticket, but I heard your place has a slightly higher altitude than this side of Beijing. Sister had a bit of altitude sickness when she went to Tibet last time, so I thought it would be safer to take a train."

"Oh, the altitude is not much higher here. No problem."

"Yeah, the air here is good. Looks like I had made the right choice."

"Okay, then I'll come over to pick you up now. It might take two or three hours. Do you want to wait, or should I come later?"

"Wait for you? The flowers will be wilted by the time you arrive. I had contacted the bureau, and the car to pick me up will be here soon," Xu Yan smiled and said, "Actually, I wanted to call you in advance, but I figured you must be busy, running back and forth just to pick up me, not worth it."

"Oh, you don't need to be so polite."

"It's not politeness. I care about you."

"Cough, cough, cough. I'll come find you in a few days."

"Let's talk about it when we both have some free time. I just arrived and need to get familiar with the environment."

"Alright, then. Since we're not far apart, we'll contact each other when the time comes. I might be busy these days, but when I have time and go to the provincial capital, I'll warmly welcome you."

"Okay, I will wait for you. Hehe."

Last time in Beijing, due to the incident where Dong Xuebing defended Xu Yan, their already close relationship took another big step. Moreover, they had also tangled in the bed five or six times. Dong Xuebing felt their relationship was already quite intimate, but she was still in her forties even though he had returned Xu Yan to her thirties. So, Dong Xuebing couldn't help but be a bit reserved when talking to her, being careful not to overstep. This mindset couldn't change in a short time. Well, if it couldn't change, it couldn't change. The current status between the two seemed quite good upon reflection.

Sister Xu finally arrived.

In the future, they could be affectionate whenever they wanted.

Dong Xuebing was in a very good mood. After getting dressed and picking up his things, he opened the door, ready to go to work.

As soon as the door opened, a sudden sound of high-heeled shoes landed from upstairs. Following that, two legs clad in beige casual pants and two feet wearing black high heels entered Dong Xuebing's line of sight. Looking up, there was a white ladies' shirt and a beautiful face with a clear and light expression.

It was Jiang Fangfang.

Dong Xuebing immediately said, "Mayor Jiang, good morning."

"Good morning." Jiang Fangfang looked at him and walked downstairs. "Heading out?"

Dong Xuebing smiled and nodded, "I was just about to go to the office."

Jiang Fangfang calmly said, "Isn't today your day off?"

Dong Xuebing chuckled, "I've been with Cheng Gang County these past few days and didn't have time to deal with the family quarters project. Today, I plan to work overtime. What about you?"

Jiang Fangfang had now walked to the entrance of Dong Xuebing's house. She said without much expression, "Going to the hospital, checking on my father. Let's go downstairs together."

Dong Xuebing reached out to take the garbage bag in her hand, "Is your father sick?"

Jiang Fangfang nodded, seeming unwilling to discuss this topic. "I'll take care of it myself."

"Let me do it. You might dirty your clothes." Dong Xuebing insisted, taking the garbage bag, which was dripping with left food, and walking downstairs to throw it into the trash.

"Thanks," Jiang Fangfang said indifferently.

"No problem. How about I take you to the hospital?" Dong Xuebing suggested.

"No need. The car is waiting outside for me." After saying this, Jiang Fangfang asked about Dong Xuebing's wife's condition before leaving.

Watching her charming figure, looking at her raised beautiful butt, observing her calm and elegant temperament that remained unperturbed in any situation, Dong Xuebing couldn't help but feel a bit envious. He immediately gave himself a slap on the forehead, no longer letting his mind wander. After getting into his car, he turned the steering wheel and headed straight for the county committee compound.

It was past 9 a.m.

At the office.

There weren't many people working overtime today, just a few scattered individuals.

As soon as he exited the car, several staff who knew Dong Xuebing greeted him.

"Mayor Dong."

"Good morning to you."

"How is your wife doing?"

Dong Xuebing also greeted each of them one by one.

Everyone's expressions showed no particular surprise or suspicion, indicating that they didn't link the recent events in Cheng Gang County to Dong Xuebing. This was the result Dong Xuebing hoped for. His presence in Zhen Shui County had attracted too much attention, and now he needed to keep a low profile for a while.

Upstairs, in his own office, after sitting down, Dong Xuebing's stomach growled a bit hungry. He had intended to grab breakfast at the unit's entrance, but the breakfast vendors weren't there since the government offices were closed today. Well, he would have to go hungry. After drinking a few sips of tea, Dong Xuebing began working.

He reviewed the files that had piled up over the past two days: a personnel transfer within the county government office, several expenditure requests from the finance bureau, and some reimbursement receipts.

Everything seemed in order.

Dong Xuebing signed each document without any issues.

However, one reimbursement receipt claimed over 2,900 RMB for a meeting meal. Dong Xuebing noticed it lacked a signature from the department below, so he immediately rejected it. Even a 500 RMB dinner was considered top-notch in a place like Zhen Shui County. Spending about 3,000 RMB on a meal was outrageous. Dong Xuebing couldn't allow such an expense to be reimbursed without a valid reason. Although there were no strict rules about the minimum amount for reimbursement, Dong Xuebing, being in charge of finances, had the final say.

After dealing with these matters, Dong Xuebing started contemplating the location for the family quarters project.

He had already inspected the proposed locations outlined in the plan. After careful consideration, he chose a spot. He planned to report it to Mayor Jiang later. Once the location was finalized, others would handle the project details, and Dong Xuebing would only need to make occasional calls or conduct site visits. The achievements were coming in early.

Dong Xuebing felt quite satisfied. Reflecting on his pace since arriving in Zhen Shui County, he gave himself a self-evaluation. Apart from offending some people in the county and the city, which could be troublesome, his other moves were stable. The progress of his work exceeded his expectations from when he first arrived. From securing funds from the central government, his performance in the County Party Committee, the impressive proposal before the collapse of the dormitory building, the rise of the Jiang faction, the enhancement of his authority, and taking over

the family quarters construction project. Both explicit and implicit achievements demonstrated Dong Xuebing's work capabilities. He had always planned to transfer back before Huilan gave birth. There weren't many months left, and he wasn't sure it was possible.

Let's strive for it.

The momentum seems significant.

However, if he wanted to be promoted ahead of schedule in a few months, there needed to be some outstanding achievements to support it. The family quarters project was settled, and several accumulated hidden achievements were accumulated. Now, all that was left was some data-driven highlights that could drive the development of Zhen Shui County.

How should he go about it?

What aspects should he focus on?

Dong Xuebing hadn't figured it out yet. After all, he only managed a few areas. For now, attracting investment seemed the most direct route.

Well.

Let's see later.

Chapter 1395: Mayor Jiang's father passed away

Morning.

A little past 9:40 AM.

The sun was abundant, casting a warm feeling inside the office.

After dealing with official matters, Dong Xuebing turned his head, squinting at the direction of the sunlight. He looked out the window, stretched lazily, and then his stomach growled again.

He was too hungry.

He couldn't resist not eating.

Normally, if it were another leader, a phone call would have been made by now. The secretary would find the driver, and they would ask a staff member if the driver wasn't available. Eventually, someone would be found to buy food and deliver it. After all, he was a leader, and this kind of thing was trivial. However, Dong Xuebing didn't do that because his approach and mindset differed slightly from that of other leaders. He liked to handle everything himself, even though he knew that sometimes ordering someone below could make them feel closer to him. People might even be happy to help their leader buy a meal to strengthen their relationship. However, Dong Xuebing rarely did this. He was generally amicable, showing respect to anyone without conflicts or contradictions. Regardless of rank or position, Dong Xuebing treated everyone with respect, and his reputation among subordinates was quite good.

Alright.

I'll just go and buy it myself.

Dong Xuebing stood up from behind his desk, holding his stomach, ready to go downstairs.

But then, there was a knock on the door. The door opened, and Dong Xuebing's secretary, Yao Cui, was holding two plastic bags filled with buns.

"Cui'er, why are you here?" Dong Xuebing's eyes lit up. Not because he saw Yao Cui, but because he saw the buns.

Yao Cui smiled, closed the door, and said, "A friend from the County Government Office called me and said Mayor Dong was working overtime. As your secretary, I can't just sleep in, right? So, I came." She walked up, placed the buns on the table, and continued, "I don't know if you had breakfast. When I left home, I grabbed two trays of buns from my dad's breakfast stall. They got a bit cold on the way. If you haven't eaten, just make do with these."

"I'm really hungry."

"Haven't eaten, huh?"

"I was just about to go downstairs to buy."

"Hehe, then I arrived just in time."

Dong Xuebing didn't stand on ceremony with his old classmate. Without further ado, he started eating.

"I haven't eaten either." Yao Cui opened a pair of disposable chopsticks and joined him. "Is your wife okay now? And the child?"

"Both are fine. They're probably going to work today."

Yao Cui sighed and said, "That's good. The incident the day before yesterday was quite dangerous. However, those people in Cheng Gang County brought it on themselves. Look, even the heavens couldn't stand it."

Heavens

Dong Xuebing remained silent and continued eating.

"By the way, Xuebing, you lack manners." Yao Cui laughed, saying, "You married such a beautiful, high-ranking official, and you didn't even inform your old classmates."

"Oh. We didn't have a big wedding. Just a casual meal with our families. Besides, I didn't invite any classmates. It's not like I intentionally left you out."

"Next time we have a class reunion, you must bring your wife. I want to see the expressions of our classmates when they see your wife." Yao Cui laughed, "It will shock them."

Dong Xuebing felt quite pleased, though he said, "It's not that serious."

"Why not? I was really surprised at the time. I didn't expect someone so beautiful, like she came out of a painting."

"Flatterer."

"I'm telling the truth."

"Only you guys think she's good. She has plenty of flaws."

"Look at you, showing off again. You're just showing off."



"Hehe, I'm not."

Yao Cui sighed, "Anyway, you have to reevaluate after three days. Among our batch of graduates, you're the only one doing well. You have money, a position, a beautiful wife, and a child on the way. You're too much for us. Are you deliberately making us jealous?"

"If you don't eat the buns, they'll get cold."

"They've been cold for a while. Hehe, okay, let's not talk about this." Yao Cui took a bite of the bun, looked up, and asked, "By the way, do we have any tasks today?"

"There's not much to do. You should go home and rest."

"I have nothing to do at home. It's more fulfilling to work overtime."

"I've done everything that needs to be done. I just need to get the location for the Family Quarters project approved by Mayor Jiang. But when I left this morning, I ran into Mayor Jiang. She went to the hospital to see her father. I don't think she'll come today. Let's discuss it tomorrow or the day after." After a pause, Dong Xuebing said, "By the way, what illness does Mayor Jiang's father have?"

Yao Cui sighed, "Cancer."

Dong Xuebing was stunned, "How long has he had cancer?"

"About one or two years. It was diagnosed early, but it's advanced liver cancer. He has been undergoing chemotherapy, and it's not easy that he has held on until now. Mayor Jiang's mother isn't in good health either. She seems to have senile dementia and needs a caregiver every day."

"That's so serious."

"Yes, Chief Jiang's husband passed away a few years ago. She's been through a lot, and her attitude has calmed. It's admirable."

"Is her father in critical condition?" Dong Xuebing recalled Jiang Fangfang's appearance in the morning, which seemed a bit off.

"I don't know. But I heard that this year has been difficult for him."

Jiang Fangfang had never mentioned these things to him. Dong Xuebing felt a heavy heart after hearing this. Now he understood why she couldn't sleep night after night. It wasn't just because of her husband's death. There were also her parents' illnesses. Accumulating one thing after another, even an iron person would be crushed. However, Mayor Jiang hadn't fallen yet, and you couldn't see any worries on her face. Not only did Yao Cui admire her, but Dong Xuebing also admired her.

Help her.

However, Dong Xuebing was powerless. It had been one or two years since the late stage of cancer. Going back further, it was probably four or five years ago. Dong Xuebing couldn't reverse time that far, and he didn't have that much time left. If he could help, he could only use reverse to extend the old man's life for a few more days. However, the significance would be limited because the pain of chemotherapy was quite tormenting.

After lunch, Yao Cui left.

Dong Xuebing continued working.

But around eleven in the morning, the phone on the desk suddenly rang.

It was a call from Ma Bin, the County Government Office director. A single sentence made Dong Xuebing stunned. He only heard Ma Bin saying heavily, "Mayor Dong, Chief Jiang's father, passed away in the hospital."

"When did it happen?"

"Around ten-thirty."

Dong Xuebing hung up the phone, taking a deep sigh. The person was gone, and now it was impossible to use reverse to extend his life.

Chapter 1396: Taking over the County Government temporary

Noon.

County Party Committee Courtyard.

After receiving the news, Dong Xuebing sighed and walked to the window, opened it for fresh air, leaned there, and lit a cigarette. His mood was indescribable.

Sadness.

Concern for Mayor Jiang.

A bit of regret.

Well, maybe it's all there.

If he had used REVERSE earlier to give the old man some more time, Mayor Jiang's father might have lived a little longer, and Mayor Jiang could have spent a few more days with her father. But now it was too late to say anything. Life, aging, illness, and death even with Dong Xuebing's abilities, he couldn't make everyone live a long life. Some things happened, and the only choice was acceptance. Dong Xuebing hoped Mayor Jiang could withstand this blow and recover soon.

Shortly after, most people in the courtyard got the news.

Dong Xuebing heard many people discussing when he was upstairs. He turned around and called Yao Cui with a phone call.

A few minutes later, Yao Cui came in after opening the door. "Xuebing, Mayor Jiang's father"

Dong Xuebing was silent momentarily and said, "How are funerals usually handled in your area?"

Every place has different customs, so Dong Xuebing asked.

Yao Cui said, "It's mostly the same, but I heard that Mayor Jiang didn't have a funeral when her husband passed away. After cremation, they scattered the ashes at sea, keeping it simple."

"How much money is appropriate to give?"

"Mayor Jiang might not accept it. It seems like they didn't ask for anything last time."

"Let's decide later. Let's prepare as it's never wrong."

"Okay, when do you think we should go?"

"Well, put aside your afternoon tasks for now. I'll call you when everything's ready. Let's go to the hospital together. I'll also ask Secretary Pu for the latest updates."

"Got it. I'll go back and change my clothes first. I'm wearing red on top, which is not suitable."

Dong Xuebing nodded. When Yao Cui left, he called Secretary Pu An and Director Jian Xiangrong. After discussing it for a while, they decided to go now.

After going downstairs, Dong Xuebing sent Yao Cui home to change clothes and went to the County Party Committee Building courtyard to pick up Secretary Pu An and Director Jian Xiangrong. When they were waiting for the car to stop, the Secretary of the Political and Legal Affairs Committee, Chu Peng, also came downstairs. Without saying anything, he got into Dong Xuebing's car. Soon after, Secretary Pu's wife and Director Jian's wife also arrived. Since the car couldn't accommodate everyone, Pu An arranged for another car. They set off to the hospital.

County Hospital.

When Dong Xuebing and the others arrived, they found that County Party Secretary Meng Rui's car was already downstairs. As for some lower-level leaders, it was apparent that they couldn't come at this time. Those who could come immediately were Mayor Jiang's family and some higher-ranking county leaders.

Upstairs.

The old man was still in the ward.

Just as they entered the corridor, they heard crying in the distance. Many people.

At this moment, Secretary Meng and his secretary Zhang Feng had already left the ward. Dong Xuebing, Pu An, and the others nodded slightly when they saw them.

Inside the ward were Mayor Jiang's relatives. The old man on the bed had already passed away. People of all ages surrounded the bed, and several women were crying.

Mayor Jiang Fangfang was not seen.

Also, I don't know where Mayor Jiang went.

Dong Xuebing and the others bowed, not saying much. At this moment, everyone's emotions were not good, and saying more would be inappropriate. They were here, and that was enough. Pu An's wife seemed to know the old man, and tears welled up in her eyes. Seeing this, Jian Xiangrong's wife also had red eyes.

Over there, several hospital staff came in. "The car is ready, isn't it?"

"Wait a moment, my aunt hasn't arrived yet." A girl, crying while speaking, seemed to be talking about Mayor Jiang Fangfang's mother. Indeed, she was not seen.

Everyone present was a family member. Dong Xuebing, Pu An, and the others did not linger.

After going out, Dong Xuebing saw Jiang Jie's secretary, Li Xiaona, walking over from a distance.

"Secretary Li." Dong Xuebing called her.

Pu An and the others also asked, "Where is Mayor Jiang?"

Li Xiaona said in a low voice, "Mayor Jiang went to pick up her mother."

After a few more questions from Jian Xiangrong and others expressing their concern about Jiang Fangfang's condition, Li Xiaona, after finishing, looked at Dong Xuebing. "Mayor Dong, can I have a word with you?"

"Sure." Dong Xuebing followed Li Xiaona to a corner of the corridor. "What's the matter?"

Li Xiaona said, "Mayor Jiang may be unable to come to the office next week. She asked me to tell you to take care of the county government's affairs. You can act as a proxy and make decisions if there is anything; you don't need to consult Mayor Jiang. Let's talk about other matters after Mayor Jiang completes the funeral."

Dong Xuebing nodded heavily. "Okay, I understand."

Li Xiaona, in a low mood, said, "Then I'll go first."

Dong Xuebing uttered a sound of agreement. "Go ahead with your work."

As the Deputy Mayor of the County Government, Dong Xuebing was the second-in-command. When the leader had something going on, the deputy would naturally handle the overall work.

He rejoined Pu An, Jian Xiangrong, Chu Peng, and others. After a brief discussion, they all went back. If funeral arrangements were to be made, they could come back later.

On the way, Pu An and his wife sat in Dong Xuebing's car. In the back seat, Pu An's wife was still in a sad mood, tears streaming down. "The old man was such a good person. He left so early."

Pu An sighed, "Life, aging, illness, and death, no one can escape."

His wife said, "Mayor Jiang is also suffering. Her husband passed away, her father passed away, and her mother's illness, alas, it's so unfair."

She added, "No, I have to check on Mayor Jiang tonight. This is when she needs someone to accompany her." Since Pu An got closer to Jiang Fangfang, his wife's relationship with her had also become closer. Of course, they might have had a good relationship before.

"She still has to keep a vigil. It's a busy time. What are you going to do?"

"I'm not at ease with Mayor Jiang. Compared to men, women are always more emotional."

Pu An patted her hand. "Rest assured, Mayor Jiang is much stronger than you think. These setbacks won't knock her down."

His wife said nothing, wiped her tears for a while, and then said, "Fate is really unfair to Jiang. Old Pu, Xuebing, if you have single friends, quickly arrange someone for Mayor Jiang. Otherwise, how can she live alone? It's too hard. I don't know how she has survived all these years."

Pu An shook his head. "I asked Mayor Jiang about this before, but she doesn't seem to intend to remarry. You, don't worry too much."

She didn't listen and said to Dong Xuebing, "Xuebing, your friends are young. You must help Jiang find someone. Watching her, my heart aches."

"Alright, sister-in-law." Dong Xuebing also felt sorry. He nodded and said, "I'll keep an eye on it."

Pu An's wife said, "Try to avoid divorced ones and not be too old. After all, Mayor Jiang is only in her thirties. I think someone around thirty is suitable. Even a bit younger than Mayor Jiang is fine."

Around thirty should be about right. Oh, and the family conditions should be better. Mayor Jiang became the Mayor at such a young age. Her future will be much better than our Old Pu's. You must find someone good for her." The elder sister's maternal feelings were overflowing.

Pu An sighed, "Enough, you. Mayor Jiang has her plans, and you're worrying about it blindly. Are you her mother?"

His wife was dissatisfied, "I'm her elder sister. What's the matter?"

Pu An told Dong Xuebing, "Don't listen to her, Xuebing, she's just causing trouble."

"My sister-in-law is right." Although Dong Xuebing felt uncomfortable, he still thought remarrying might be a good choice for Jiang Fangfang. At least having someone to accompany her could alleviate some loneliness. "But it still depends on Mayor Jiang's intention. If she agrees, I'll go ask. I know some people in Beijing, and many singles have good conditions. If Mayor Jiang isn't interested, then forget it."

Seeing Dong Xuebing say this, Pu An said, "Let's see what Mayor Jiang thinks."

His wife said, "Mayor Jiang may not say it openly. Maybe she's just saving face. I'll talk to her when I can and see how she reacts."

After sending them back to the family quarters, Dong Xuebing didn't go home but drove again.

Pu An, Jian Xiangrong, and the others knew Dong Xuebing must be busy. With the Mayor absent, he would have to oversee the county government's work, which involved a lot of tasks.

At the County Party Committee compound in the afternoon, when Dong Xuebing returned, he also bought some food. However, after going upstairs to his office, he lost his appetite after a few bites. He was still worried about Jiang Fangfang. He wanted to call her but didn't know how to comfort her. He ended up smoking alone, looking a bit anxious. Now Dong Xuebing realized that his feelings for Jiang Jie were not just those of a leader to a subordinate or friend. He was genuinely concerned about her.

Knock, knock.

The sound of knocking on the door came.

Dong Xuebing looked up. "Come in."

County Government Office Director Ma Bin walked in with some documents in his hand. "County Head Dong, the departments below have submitted cases. Originally, Mayor Jiang was supposed to handle them, but Secretary Li called and said to give all the documents to you."

"Okay, I'll take a look." Dong Xuebing took the documents and quickly glanced through them. He apparently couldn't make decisions lightly, so he put them aside. "I'll review them later."

Ma Bin said, "What about the site selection for the family quarters project?"

Dong Xuebing thought momentarily and said, "Let's go with what I said last time. Report to the County Party Committee. They can negotiate with the landowners and start construction as soon as possible."

"Got it. I'll go now."

A moment later, the phone rang.

Deputy Mayor Cui Boyang called, seeking Dong Xuebing's opinion on a case. The two of them were both members of the County Party Committee. Although Dong Xuebing's position was one level higher, it wasn't much higher. However, now that Dong Xuebing was acting as a proxy for Jiang Fangfang's work, Cui Boyang naturally needed to inform him.

Despite being busy, Dong Xuebing didn't feel a sense of inflated authority. His mind was still on Jiang Fangfang, far away.

Chapter 1397: Posing as Mayor Jiang's husband

One day

Five days

Seven days

This day, again, was a Saturday.

Today, the weather was clear, and the morning sun was abundant.

Dong Xuebing's dormitory had good natural light. He lay on the bed, basking in the sun, and drowsily got up at eleven o'clock, feeling exhausted.

Tired.

It was almost killing him.

This week had nearly worn him out.

Finally, it was time to rest for two days. Dong Xuebing stretched lazily, put on his shoes, and went to the bathroom to freshen up. Jiang Fangfang had taken a leave, and since last week, almost all the tasks of the county government had fallen on Dong Xuebing. It would be fine if it were significant matters, but they were all petty bureaucratic matters. Dong Xuebing didn't dare to make decisions directly; each time, he had to weigh the pros and cons for a long time before deciding. Mayor Jiang trusted him and handed over this pile of work. Dong Xuebing certainly couldn't take it lightly. In addition to the accumulated work from Mayor Jiang, there were also family quarters projects and other responsibilities Dong Xuebing managed. It was like he was handling the work of two people alone, almost day and night. Well, let's not even mention it. Fortunately, Mayor Jiang's family didn't hold any funeral ceremonies. After the cremation, they scattered his ashes at sea in Tianjin. Otherwise, Dong Xuebing wouldn't have a moment to catch his breath.

Ah, I wonder how Sister Jiang is doing.

The seventh day is almost over, and there's still no news.

Worrying about Jiang Fangfang's condition and preparing some food for himself, Dong Xuebing suddenly heard the ringing of his phone.

It was Jiang Fangfang's number.

"Hello, Xuebing. It's me," Jiang Fangfang's voice was still calm.

Dong Xuebing's spirits lifted, hearing her call him Xuebing. Even the way Mayor Jiang addressed him changed, "Sister Jiang, where are you?"

"I'm at my mom's place."

"How is Auntie's health?"

"It's still the same, always confused." After a pause, Jiang Fangfang said, "Oh, by the way, I didn't tell you. My mother has Alzheimer's for many years now."

"You're okay, right?"

"I'm fine. My mom's mood has improved a bit. Life, old age, sickness, and death, no one can stop it. What can we do if we don't accept it?"

Dong Xuebing sighed in relief, feeling reassured.

Jiang Fangfang was indeed the same old Jiang Fangfang, so resilient.

In a couple of days, I'll be back to work on Monday. I've also informed the county and heard from Xiaona that you've been busy these days. You've worked hard, Mayor Dong."

"Not hard at all. I've just been constantly concerned about your side. I wanted to call and ask but didn't know how to express it. I'm not good with words and don't know how to comfort people." This was a sincere statement. Dong Xuebing had flipped through his phone book many times in the past few days, looking at Jiang Fangfang's name, but he never dialed.

"You're considerate, and everything is fine now."

"Well, are you going back to the family quarters today?"

"Let's talk about it on Sunday or Monday. I need to spend more time with my mother."

"Alright. Hearing your voice makes me feel relieved. You take care."

After hesitation on the other end, Jiang Fangfang didn't hang up. Instead, she seemed to be searching for words and said, "Did you have lunch?"

"I just had lunch. I made some noodles for myself."

"Oh. What kind of noodles?"

"I originally wanted soy sauce noodles, but it's too troublesome with soaking mushrooms. I didn't feel like bothering, so I made some zhajiangmian, which is easier."

"Zhajiangmian, people in Beijing love that, right?"

"Yes, zhajiangmian is fragrant and less hassle. The traditional Beijing-style zhajiangmian is not that simple; it involves many ingredients. I just make it casually for myself. As long as I'm full, it's good." After saying these things, Dong Xuebing suddenly realized, "Hey, Sister Jiang, why are we discussing these everyday matters? I've never heard you talk about these things on the phone."

Jiang Fangfang hesitated momentarily on the other end, "What are you doing this afternoon?"

"I'll be home in the afternoon, not going to the office. Most of the work there is done." Dong Xuebing blinked his eyes, feeling that Sister Jiang was hinting at something with this casual conversation. "Sister Jiang, do you have something on your mind?"

Jiang Fangfang calmly said, "It's nothing."

Dong Xuebing sweated a bit, thinking that she must have something. "If there's anything, you don't have to be polite with me."

Jiang Fangfang said, "Actually, I didn't want to trouble you, but"

Dong Xuebing readily agreed, "Just tell me. As long as I can do it, there's no need for further discussion."

After contemplating, Jiang Fangfang continued, "As I just mentioned, my mother has been confused for many years, behaving like a child. She often argues with me and my dad, and her memory is frequently lost."

Dong Xuebing sighed, "That's difficult. Have you taken her to the hospital for a check-up?"

"Yes, she's been receiving treatment for several years, but with little effect."

"I know some people in hospitals in Beijing. Let me contact them for you," Dong Xuebing thought Jiang Fangfang wanted him to arrange a good hospital for her mother.

However, it turned out to be something else.

"I've taken her to hospitals in Beijing, and it's the same. Her condition has not improved. What I want to trouble you with is another matter. In my mother's eyes, my husband has never passed away. My dad and I have told her repeatedly, but she refuses to believe it. Finally, she became angry and even threatened to jump from upstairs once. We were scared, and we dared not mention it again. We just let her believe that my husband is still alive. So, for the past few years, I've been living alone, not staying with my parents, afraid my mom might ask why my husband hasn't come over."

Dong Xuebing couldn't help but say, "Uh"

"My dad passed away, which had a great impact on my mom. Her illness worsened a bit, and these past two days, she has repeatedly asked about my husband, wondering why he hasn't come to see her since her father-in-law passed away. She's quite angry. Since last night, she hasn't eaten anything, insisting she must see my husband. If he doesn't come, she won't eat." Jiang Fangfang said, "You also know that I'm not someone who likes to ask for help, but this time, I have no choice. My mother's health is already not good, and she hasn't eaten anything for a whole day. How can she bear it? Even if we give her intravenous nutrition, she doesn't cooperate, swinging her hands everywhere. I can't manage it alone."

Dong Xuebing wiped his sweat, "So, what do you mean?"

"My mother's cognition is still stuck in many years ago, and you look almost identical to my husband. So, I want you to come over and help me. Confuse my mother and deal with it for now."

"Uh, is that okay?"

"There's no other way."

"Oh, but what if I'm exposed?"

"It won't happen. My mom is confused."

"Alright, I'll give it a try."

Chapter 1398: Going to Jiang Fangfang's mother's house

Afternoon.



At home.

A gust of wind blew the clouds outside the window into a distorted mess, much like Dong Xuebing's current mood a bit entangled and undecided.

Going to Sister Jiang's house.

Pretending to be Sister Jiang's husband.

The more he thought about it, the more awkward it felt.

Dong Xuebing was momentarily at a loss, unsure how to handle this situation. He didn't want to go. He wanted to push the matter over the phone but couldn't. Dong Xuebing couldn't find the words. Sister Jiang had never asked him for anything. She, a County Mayor, even cooked and did his laundry. Since Dong Xuebing came to Zhen Shui County, she has taken care of him in almost every way, showing utmost care. Dong Xuebing owed her a lot, and now that she had asked for his help, he couldn't refuse. Dong Xuebing was a person who cared a lot about face, and that's why he reluctantly agreed. Now he had to go.

Time to change clothes.

What to wear?

Dong Xuebing opened the wardrobe in the bedroom and pondered for a while. He picked out several outfits and tried them on, but he had no idea what Sister Jiang's husband used to wear.

Ding, ding, ding.

A text message arrived.

It was from Jiang Fangfang and containing her mother's address.

Dong Xuebing immediately called her after seeing the message, but it was disconnected after just one ring, leaving Dong Xuebing puzzled.

Ding, ding, ding. Another message.

Jiang Fangfang: My mother is nearby, and I can't talk.

Dong Xuebing quickly typed: I just wanted to ask what hairstyle I should have.

After a while, Jiang Fangfang replied: Anything is fine. My mother doesn't remember that clearly.

Dong Xuebing: Okay. I'm almost ready. When should I leave?

Jiang Fangfang: You can come now. Remember to speak less and be mindful of your address. Call my mother "mom," and refer to my husband as Liu Tao.

Dong Xuebing: Got it. I'll remember.

Jiang Fangfang: After this, I'll treat you to a meal. Thank you sincerely.

Dong Xuebing: Oh, it's nothing. Look how polite you are.

Jiang Fangfang: That's it. Don't drink and drive safely.

Dong Xuebing: Sure, I'm on my way.

The speed of Mayor Jiang's messages was quite slow, probably because she was caring for her mother, and typing was a bit difficult. After the two finished texting, it was already one o'clock. Dong Xuebing put down his phone, checked the time on his watch, quickly changed clothes, and dressed up a bit. He didn't even have time to take a shower. Facing the mirror, he casually styled a more mature hairstyle. Then he rummaged through his home, took some fruits and a box of milk given by others, opened the door, carried them down, and drove according to the address sent by Jiang Fangfang. It was quite far away, and considering the road conditions, it would probably take nearly an hour to get there.

After two o'clock.

Downstairs at Jiang Fangfang's house.

This was an outer suburban neighborhood. If it were a bit farther, it might be considered rural. There weren't many people around, and the neighborhood looked old. Very old. Although the conditions in Zhen Shui County were not good, as a county Mayor, getting a better house shouldn't be a problem. At least, from what Dong Xuebing saw, there were several relatively decent neighborhoods in the county. The clean and tidy environment was excellent. However, County Mayor Jiang didn't have that. Her parents had been living here. This showed that Jiang Fangfang was a very clean official, definitely not putting on a show. Moreover, considering her salary alone and the need to treat her father's cancer, take care of her mother, and hire a maid, her family's financial situation was not affluent. Dong Xuebing's father also died of cancer, and he knew how expensive this disease could be.

Sigh.

A whole family relies on Sister Jiang alone.

Not to mention, being a woman, even a man would find coping hard.

Thinking of this, Dong Xuebing took a deep breath. He no longer had any reluctance. If possible, he also wanted to help Sister Jiang share some burdens.

Let's go.

Today, I'm going all out.

Dong Xuebing exited the car, hugged the milk and fruits, and went upstairs.

The corridor was covered in mud, and some households had piled up various items, almost occupying the steps. The corridor glass was also dirty. Some of the glass is even broken.

Third floor.

Dong Xuebing stood before the door and looked for the doorbell but eventually couldn't find it. So, he reached out and knocked on the door. He felt a bit nervous.

No one answered.

Dong Xuebing knocked again.

This time, he heard footsteps from inside.

The door opened, revealing Jiang Fangfang. "You're here."

"Yeah," Dong Xuebing quickly glanced inside while holding the items.

"Come in." Jiang Fangfang stepped aside and whispered, "My mom is lying down. Wait in the living room, sit wherever. I'll go call her."

"Okay."

"Tea is ready, help yourself."

"Sure, don't worry about me."

They spoke quietly as if conspiring.

While Jiang Fangfang gently opened the door to the bedroom, Dong Xuebing sat on the sofa and took a closer look at the place. It seemed like a one-bedroom apartment living room, bedroom, and bathroom. It was quite small, probably less than fifty square meters. The furniture was made of old wood, typical of an elderly person's home. There was a faint scent of Chinese medicine in the air. A black-and-white photo of Sister Jiang's father was on a five-drawer cabinet.

At this moment, the conversation between the mother and daughter came from the room.

"Mom."

"Hmph."

"Take your medicine first."

"I won't."

"Be obedient and take the medicine first."

"Take it away. I won't take anything."

"You don't eat or take your medicine. If you have high blood pressure, I won't take care of you. You'll suffer the consequences on your own."

"I don't need you to take care of me. You, this heartless girl. Xiao Tao is such a good child. You must have fought, or else why hasn't Xiao Tao visited us for months? Your father is gone, and Xiao Tao hasn't come. Do you think I'm senile? You two are having problems. Hurry and bring Xiao Tao back. If you don't let Xiao Tao come, and I don't see you two well, I'll refuse to eat."

"Mom."

"Take the medicine away."

Hearing this, Dong Xuebing sighed. The old lady's condition was indeed severe. It had been several years since Liu Tao passed away. However, despite her confusion, the old lady was still clear about her heart. Dong Xuebing could tell that she kept talking about her son-in-law because she worried about her daughter. Her husband had passed away, and she probably knew her health was not good. That's why she wanted to see her daughter and son-in-law living happily together so that she could be at ease. Dong Xuebing understood. Sister Jiang probably wished for a reunion with her husband as well. However, a vast distance separated the two, and there was no way it could happen. Jiang's mother didn't know, but every word she said was like a knife in County Mayor Jiang's heart. County Mayor Jiang would be feeling uneasy. It didn't need to be asked.

Without waiting for Sister Jiang's call.

Dong Xuebing stood up and went over. It was his turn to act.

In the small bedroom, a woman in her sixties was berating her daughter while sitting by the bedside. Jiang Fangfang was on the side, holding a bowl of Chinese medicine.

Dong Xuebing stood at the door.

Jiang's mother and Jiang Fangfang also noticed someone and looked over.

Jiang Fangfang signaled to him with her eyes. Dong Xuebing understood and immediately looked at the old lady. "Mom." It sounded a bit awkward, but there was no other way.

Jiang's mother was stunned. "Xiao Tao, is it Xiao Tao?"

Dong Xuebing walked over and said, "It's me, Mom. I'm here."

Jiang's mother sat up slightly, staring at Dong Xuebing for a while, then suddenly shook her head and said, "No, no." She turned to Jiang Fangfang and asked, "Are you trying to deceive me by bringing someone in?"

Dong Xuebing felt uneasy at her words.

However, Jiang Fangfang's expression remained calm. She casually took a photo from her wallet and said, "He is Xiao Tao. If you don't recognize him, look at the photo."

Jiang's mother looked down at the photo but still shook her head. "The person hasn't changed, but something feels off." After saying that, she stared hard at Dong Xuebing.

It was strange to expect a resemblance. The old lady hadn't seen her son-in-law Liu Tao for many years and still thought it had only been a few months. Even if the real Liu Tao appeared before her now, she would probably hesitate. Moreover, Dong Xuebing was pretending to be him.

Jiang Fangfang placed the medicine bowl on the table and calmly said, "You wanted Xiao Tao to come, and now he's here. Why do you doubt him like this?"

Jiang's mother skeptically asked, "Is it Xiao Tao?"

"Mom, it is me," Dong Xuebing said.

Jiang's mother squinted at him and asked, "Then I'll ask you, what is my birthday?"

"Birthday?" Dong Xuebing was at a loss.

Perhaps Jiang Fangfang hadn't expected her mother to be clear-headed at this moment. Her eyelashes fluttered slightly as if she wanted to give Dong Xuebing a hint. But in the next moment, her mother grabbed her hand.

"Don't tell him."

"Mom, Xiao Tao might not remember your birthday."

"How could he forget? Xiao Tao would celebrate my birthday and your dad's every year."

"I remind him of that. He's so busy with work, and he might forget otherwise."

Jiang's mother looked at Dong Xuebing and asked, "Okay, Xiao Tao, do you remember your birthday?"

How could Dong Xuebing know that? He was left speechless.

"I told you he's not Xiao Tao. My birthday is July 4th, and Xiao Tao's birthday is February 2nd. Even if he forgets mine, how could he forget his birthday?" The old lady immediately became upset, pointing at her daughter. "You treat your mother like a fool, bringing someone here to deceive me."

Jiang Fangfang remained silent.

Alright, the truth was out this time.

Dong Xuebing wiped the sweat from his forehead, feeling awkward after exposure. He wanted to excuse himself and leave, but when he saw Jiang Fangfang's expression, he suddenly felt a bit heavy-hearted. The words he had in mind to say were swallowed back.

Narrowing his eyes, Dong Xuebing decided to come clean.

Ask about the birthday.

Alright. BACK one minute.

Chapter 1399: Responding Fluently

In front of him, a flash.

Time suddenly rewinds.

Dong Xuebing, who went back, returned to one minute ago.

It has been a long time since he used "back," and Dong Xuebing felt a bit uncomfortable momentarily. Fortunately, he had been standing in the bedroom of Jiangs mother's house without moving, so he stabilized his body after a moment of blankness in his mind. Fortunately, he didn't fall. Then he looked at Jiangs mother and Jiang Fangfang on the bed.

"Don't tell him," Jiangs mother said.

"Mom, how can Xiaotao remember your birthday."

"Why can't he remember? Xiaotao gives me and your dad a birthday every year."

"I also reminded him of that. He is so busy with work that he forgets about it."

Dong Xuebing suddenly interrupted, saying, "How can I forget? Even if I forget someone else's birthday, I can't forget my mom's."

Jiang Fangfang was slightly stunned, knowing she had not told Dong Xuebing her mother's birthday, so Dong Xuebing couldn't have known.

Jiangs mother said, "Then what is my birthday?"

Dong Xuebing said, "July 4th."

Jiang Fangfang was slightly surprised and looked deeply at him.

Jiangs mother continued, "Then, what about your birthday?"

"My birthday is February 1st."

"And Fangfang?"

"Fangfang's birthday is on January 15th."

"What about her dad?"

"My dad's lunar birthday is on the twenty-seventh day of the first lunar month."

"Good." Jiangs mother took a deep breath and looked at him, saying, "Then I will ask you the last one. Our neighbor downstairs, Aunt Zhou, what is her birthday?"

Jiang Fangfang interrupted, "I don't know Aunt Zhou's birthday. Our relationship is just average, and we don't communicate. Xiaotao wouldn't know this."

Jiangs mother didn't say a word, just stared at Dong Xuebing.

Without thinking, Dong Xuebing said, "Aunt Zhou's birthday is the same as yours, July 4th."

Jiang Fangfang seemed unaware, "Mom, is that true?"

Jiangs mother nodded. She grabbed Dong Xuebing's hand and said, "Good child, you finally came back. You finally came back."

Dong Xuebing apologized, "The work over there is too busy, and I've been on a business trip for several months, so it's not that I don't want to come back and see you. It's just that the conditions are not available."

"It's okay if you're on a business trip."

"I missed Dad's matter, I"

"Don't blame you. It's good that you're back. It's good that you're back."

"Sorry, Mom, I'm back late."

Tears welled up in Jiangs mother's eyes. She wiped away the tears, grabbed Dong Xuebing's hand, and kept patting, "Your dad has passed away; it was his fate. You know about my health; I probably won't live for many years. Right now, I'm just worried about Fangfang. You haven't come for several months; do you know how worried I've been? I know you two must have had arguments, but in a marriage, disagreements are common, and they can be overcome."

"You've worried, Mom."

"I feel at ease when I see you, truly at ease." Suddenly, Jiangs mother asked, "By the way, is this business trip over, or are you still leaving?"

Dong Xuebing glanced at Jiang Fangfang.

Jiang Fangfang shook her head slightly as if leaving the decision to him.

After some thought, under the hopeful gaze of the old lady, Dong Xuebing's heart softened, "I won't leave, Mom. I won't go anywhere this time. In the future, I'll accompany you whenever I have time."

Jiangs mother held his hand and said, "Good, good. But you don't need to worry about us here. We have a housekeeper. I'm just concerned about Fangfang. Your return is good, but you must take good care of Fangfang. Although she's now some kind of County Official, it's all superficial. What's real is living a good life. The essentials like firewood, rice, oil, salt, soy sauce, vinegar, and tea are what's real. If you two live well, Mom truly won't have any concerns."

Jiang Fangfang said, "What would you do without any concerns?"

Jiangs mother laughed, "Of course, I would enjoy my carefree days, not having to see your face every day, annoying. Hehe."

Jiang Fangfang also chuckled, "Look at how happy you are."

Jiangs mother patted Dong Xuebing's hand, "My son-in-law is back. How can I not be happy? By the way, Fangfang, why did you drive away the housekeeper? Let her come back and cook. No, forget it, you go to the kitchen. Let's have a family dinner with just the three of us today."

Jiang Fangfang agreed, "Okay, but didn't you forget something?"

"What is it?" Jiangs mother asked.

Jiang Fangfang lifted the bowl of Chinese medicine, "Take your medicine, drink water, and eat."

Dong Xuebing also encouraged, "Yes, Mom, take your medicine promptly."

"Okay, I'll listen to my daughter and son-in-law." In a good mood, Jiangs mother picked up the bowl and gulped down the nauseating Chinese medicine. After finishing, she sighed and said to her daughter, "Quickly bring me a steamed bun to fill my stomach; I'm starving."

The old lady amused both Jiang Fangfang and Dong Xuebing.

Seeing them laugh, Jiangs mother gave her daughter a stern look, "It's all because of you. If you had asked Xiaotao to return earlier, Mom wouldn't have had to go hungry."

"Alright, I'll get it for you. Let's have dinner a bit later tonight; otherwise, you won't be able to eat anything. It's already almost three o'clock." Jiang Fangfang went to the kitchen to reheat the leftover rice.

When the food arrived, Jiangs mother began to eat eagerly, "Xiaotao, you should eat too."

"No, Mom, I just finished eating. I'm not hungry." Dong Xuebing declined.

"Then, I won't bother you two. You young couple don't need to accompany me. Go watch TV outside. Xiaotao has just returned, and you two must want some private time. I understand."

Dong Xuebing blushed, coughed.

Jiangs mother said, "By the way, Fangfang, give me the medicine."

Jiang Fangfang sighed, "You just took the medicine. you forgot already."

"Is that so?" Jiangs mother murmured.

After a few more words, Dong Xuebing and Jiang Fangfang finally left the bedroom.

When they came out, Jiang Fangfang glanced at him, "How did you know about our family's birthdays?"

Dong Xuebing broke into a sweat, "Well, I looked at your files, and it was a coincidence. My memory is okay, so I remembered them all." Fabrication.

Jiang Fangfang ruffled her hair, "And what about Aunt Zhou?"

Dong Xuebing cleared his throat, "That was deduction. You didn't know, but there must be a reason when an old person asks like that. So, I thought it must be the same as your family members' birthdays. Yours were ruled out, leaving only your parents. Since your father just passed away, I

thought your mother probably wouldn't want to mention it, so it was left with your mother's birthday. I was momentarily confused, but I didn't expect it to be right."

Jiang Fangfang smiled faintly, "Bringing you here was the right choice. Your ability to adapt to unexpected situations is something no one can compare to."

Chapter 1400: The empty Mayor Jiang

Afternoon.

Suburban county, Jiangs mother's home.

The sky darkened, with dense clouds, as if it were about to rain.

On the living room sofa, Dong Xuebing and Jiang Fangfang sat on either side of Jiangs mother, chatting with the old lady.

"Fangfang, do we have any vegetables at home?"

"Yes, the maid bought some yesterday."

"Good later I'll prepare a meal for your husband."

"Yeah, I know. I'll stir-fry some dishes."

Jiangs mother held the hands of the two and chatted for a while. It was already past four o'clock. Suddenly, Jiangs mother grabbed Dong Xuebing and Jiang Fangfang's hands, placed them on her lap, then held their wrists and patted them together. "You two haven't been together for a long time. I won't disturb you anymore. I didn't sleep this afternoon. I'll go rest for two hours. You guys chat."

Jiangs mother stood up.

Dong Xuebing quickly supported her. "Take it easy."

"No need to help. I can walk." Jiangs mother smiled and said, "Xiaotao, you must have gone on a business trip to the capital. Look at you. Even your accent has changed."

Dong Xuebing hurriedly said, "Ah, yes."

Jiangs mother patted his hand. "Alright, accompany your wife."

"Okay, I'll call you during dinner." Dong Xuebing nodded.

"Good, it seems like it's going to rain. Fangfang, remember, there are clothes on the balcony."

Jiangs mother still cared a lot, sometimes confused, sometimes clear-headed.

Jiang Fangfang said, "You rest. Don't worry about it."

Jiangs mother went into the small room, and the door closed with a bang.

With a rumble, there was a thunderclap outside. The sound was loud.

Dong Xuebing looked at Jiang Fangfang. "It seems like it's going to rain. Let's collect the clothes first."

"I'll do it."

"No problem, I'm free anyway."

Jiang Fangfang nodded, and Dong Xuebing followed her to the balcony.



Her home was in a relatively old residential area with a building style from decades ago. There were no windows on the balcony, just a protruding small platform. It had a roof, but it would get wet inside if it rained. Looking down, there was a sink.

Jiang Fangfang reached out to take the clothes.

Dong Xuebing also helped, raising his hand to collect a pair of old lady's trousers.

Many clothes were hanging on the balcony, densely packed. I don't know how many days they had been there without being taken down. Considering that Jiang Fangfang's father had just passed away, the family was busy and probably didn't have time to wash clothes. Most of them were Jiang Fangfang's clothes. Dong Xuebing saw the traces of a lace bra behind a shirt, slightly hollowed out. It was the lingerie he had given County Mayor Jiang before. Unexpectedly, County Mayor Jiang wore it again. There were also some flesh-colored stockings draped over the railing, including short ones and even some stockings with crotch. Two pairs of high-heeled shoes, one light-colored and one black, were sunbathing on the table. It seemed that Jiang Fangfang had been living here for several days.

Swallowing his saliva, Dong Xuebing hugged Jiang Fangfang's clothes one by one, took out the hangers, threw them aside, and continued to pick up another piece.

"Thank you for today." Jiang Fangfang suddenly said while making clothes.

Dong Xuebing took off a closed skirt and put it in his arms. "It's nothing. I just feel uneasy about deceiving the old lady."

"You don't need to feel guilty. If you don't deceive my mother, she can go without eating for three days. The old lady is stubborn and won't listen to anyone."

"Well, what about later?"

"Let's keep deceiving her for now. We'll figure it out later."

"By the way, does your mother watch the news, I have appeared on the county TV station a few times. What if she recognizes me?"

"My mom doesn't watch. Her eyesight is not good."

"What if the neighbors"

"The neighbors know my mom's mind isn't right. We don't interact much, and my mom stays around the house. She doesn't even go out."

"That's good." Dong Xuebing paused. "Otherwise, how about this? Since I don't have many relatives on this side, and when I have time, I can come over and visit the old lady. With your father gone, it's better for your mother not to be alone at home. Besides, now your mother takes me as Liu Tao. I just said I won't leave this time. If I don't come, the old lady will definitely"

Jiang Fangfang looked at him. "Deceive for as long as you can. You can't hide it forever. Always having you come over will be too much trouble for you."

Dong Xuebing said, "I have no problem. It's not troublesome."

"If it's not troublesome, then that's the best."

"Okay, then, when you have time, just call me, and we can come together."

"Good, thank you."

"You're being too polite again."

Dong Xuebing also quite liked the old lady. It wasn't much trouble for him to come over when he had free time. Dong Xuebing naturally had no problem with it. Besides, he felt sorry for Sister Jiang. Her husband passed away, her father passed away, and her mother was confused all day. Sister Jiang had to support this family and manage the government affairs of Zhen Shui County. Dong Xuebing felt that if she continued like this, she would be too hardworking, not just physically but also mentally. Even though Sister Jiang's surface was always indifferent, people like her might accumulate more things in their hearts, so Dong Xuebing also wanted to help her share some burdens. Although the effect might not be significant, if Sister Jiang's mother could be happy and not quarrel with Sister Jiang every day, Sister Jiang's mental pressure would be much smaller.

Rumble.

Another thunderclap.

Jiang Fangfang said with a bit of urgency, "It seems like the rain is going to be heavy."

Dong Xuebing took a look, also speeding up the pace of collecting clothes. "Yeah, the weather forecast said it would be a light shower. It seems like it's turning into heavy rain."

Most clothes were already collected, leaving only some in the middle.

Jiang Fangfang's movements were slower, while Dong Xuebing's were faster. As a result, when Dong Xuebing pulled down Sister Jiang's white shirt, he found that underneath was the lingerie he had given her, swaying sensually on the hanger. Dong Xuebing hesitated, not sure whether to reach for it or not.

Jiang Fangfang saw it and said calmly, "I'm not that particular."

Dong Xuebing coughed awkwardly, understanding her meaning. With determination, he boldly went up, took off the bra, and then carefully pinched his fingers to pick up her panties.

Drip, drip.

Raindrops began to fall.

Jiang Fangfang quickly grabbed a pair of stockings, but her hands were full. "Can you spare a hand for stockings and high heels?"

"Leave it to me."

"Okay, I'll go inside first."

"Please go in quickly, don't get wet."

Jiang Fangfang used her foot to open the door and went inside with the clothes.

Dong Xuebing took a breath; his hands were full of clothes, making it difficult to free up a hand. He bent over, pressed the clothes in his hands with his chin, reached out with his other hand to grab the remaining pantyhose, and used four fingers to grasp her two pairs of high heels. He then turned around and struggled to open the door with his foot. However, the posture of pressing clothes with his chin was a bit awkward. The top layer of the large stack of clothes in Dong Xuebing's arms was Jiang Fangfang's lacy underwear. The silky texture of the fabric touched his chin, and the pattern on

the panties even left an imprint on his chin. Occasionally, a woman's fragrance and the scent of laundry powder wafted into his nose.

Inside the room.

After putting down the clothes, Jiang Fangfang turned to look at him.

Dong Xuebing quickly raised his chin and straightened his back to avoid suspicion. However, this made it hard to keep the clothes he was holding stable, and they swayed as if they were about to fall.

"Watch out," Jiang Fangfang reminded.

"Oops." Dong Xuebing quickly took a step forward.

Jiang Fangfang also stepped up to help. "Give them to me."

In the end, four or five pieces of clothing still fell, and the high heels dropped. Dong Xuebing looked embarrassed, put the remaining clothes on the sofa, and quickly bent down to pick them up. Once inside, he spoke more cautiously, avoiding being too polite in case Jiang's mother overheard.

"It's okay."

"Let me pick them up."

"No problem."

Jiang Fangfang also squatted down to pick up the clothes.

Before, Dong Xuebing's attention had been focused on Jiang's mother, feeling nervous and trying not to reveal anything. Now that he had passed that hurdle, Dong Xuebing noticed Jiang Fangfang's appearance today. Maybe it was a bit cool on this cloudy day. She wore pure white stretch pants, almost like fitness pants. The pant legs were tucked into a pair of non-socks on Jiang Fangfang's bare feet, and she was wearing a pair of flat-bottomed high-heeled shoes. Her entire lower body was outlined very smoothly. When she turned around to pick up the high-heeled shoes lying on the ground, Dong Xuebing's gaze inadvertently swept into Jiang's neckline, and he even saw Jiang Fangfang's belly directly through the gap in her cleavage.

What kind of concept is this?

This gap is too loose.

If there were a bra to hold it tightly, it wouldn't be possible to see the belly. The only explanation is that Jiang Fangfang didn't wear a bra today, and her shirt was empty inside.

Dong Xuebing took a deep breath, and his heartbeat accelerated. Given Jiang Fangfang's position as the county head, he felt she couldn't possibly be so careless in dressing. She must pay attention to every aspect, so how could she go empty? That meant Jiang Fangfang might have worn only one or two sets of underwear while staying at her mother's house. She washed them yesterday, so she had nothing to wear today, forcing her to go empty.

Seductive.

Deadly.

Dong Xuebing suppressed his heartbeat and wanted to take another look. After all, the chance to see the Mayor, a beautiful woman, go empty was undoubtedly rare. Every glance was one less chance.

However, Jiang Fangfang had already picked up the clothes and stood up.

Dong Xuebing regretted it. He could only take a glimpse of her chest and casually picked up the last piece of clothing, standing up and placing it on the sofa, helping Jiang Fangfang tidy up together.