

PAW 1411

Chapter 1411: Acting with Sister Jiang

Morning.

Jiang's mothers home.

The living room was well-lit, and Dong Xuebing and Jiang Fangfang were embracing and kissing on the sofa, aware that Jiang's mother was watching from behind.

One second

Two seconds

Three seconds

In just three short seconds, Dong Xuebing thoroughly enjoyed himself.

However, the voice from behind had to interrupt their intimate moment.

"Cough, cough," Jiang's mother forcefully cleared her throat. "You young couple."

Hearing this, Jiang Fangfang leaned back, her lips shining with Dong Xuebing's saliva.

Dong Xuebing quickly straightened up, releasing his hands from Sister Jiang's back. His face felt warm.

Although Jiang's mother spoke this way, her expression was smiling, as if very satisfied. "I was just going to the kitchen to take some medicine, and it's just for a short time. Is it necessary for you to be like this? You two slept together yesterday. Look at your affectionate appearance. You're already so grown-up, not blushing at all. But I can understand, I can understand, hehe."

Dong Xuebing originally wanted to pretend to be embarrassed, but he lacked Sister's Jiang mental composure and unflustered personality. He didn't need to pretend because he was genuinely embarrassed. "Mom, uh, that, we didn't hear you walking. We thought you were still in the kitchen."

Jiang's mother laughed and waved her hand, "It's okay, it's okay."

Jiang Fangfang didn't say anything. She calmly took out a tissue and wiped the corner of her mouth. Dong Xuebing had given her too much saliva, and it had dripped down from the corner of her lips.

Jiang's mother smiled and scolded her daughter, "You shameless silly girl."

Jiang Fangfang said lightly, "He is my husband. Why should I be embarrassed?"

Jiang's mother said impatiently, "Xiao Tao knows how to blush, but you, this girl, don't take it seriously. You don't look like a girl at all." However, after saying that, the old lady smiled happily again. "All right, seeing you both so happy, Mom is relieved. You just scared me a moment ago; I thought you two were getting divorced."

Jiang Fangfang said, "How is that possible?"

Dong Xuebing said, "Yeah, Mom, nothing like that happened."

"I thought too much. Hehe." Jiang's mother smiled and said, "Did I disturb you? If so, I'll give you two some space."

Dong Xuebing embarrassedly said, "Mom, you're making it up. Don't, don't."

Jiang's mother smiled and said, "I should move around. My daughter asked me not to go downstairs too much, afraid I would get lost. I usually exercise on the balcony, stretching my arms and such."

Jiang Fangfang looked at the clock. "It's almost time."

"Got it," Jiang's mother said, "I'll go to the balcony for a few moments. You two enjoy yourselves. Hehe, Mom won't be a third wheel."

Jiang Fangfang looked at her mother and said, "I'm not kicking you out. If you don't exercise, your blood circulation won't be good. Today, the weather is clear after the rain, and fresh air is beneficial."

"I think you are kicking me out."

"How bold would I have to be?"

"Your courage is still too small, hmph, no need to talk about you."

Dong Xuebing went up to help her, but the old lady refused and went to the balcony alone.

In the end, the sound of the balcony door closing echoed. The old lady had closed the door, indicating they should continue their intimacy and not mind her.

This old lady.

Well, she's quite cute.

Dong Xuebing glanced at the balcony and returned to the living room to sit down. Looking at Jiang Fangfang, who was holding a tea cup and drinking water, he recalled the recent events and felt uneasy. Jiang Fangfang kissed him to make a point, a performance for her mother to show that their relationship was deep and they hadn't divorced. However, Dong Xuebing's response just now had a different flavor, purely indicating an attempt to take advantage.

Yesterday evening, he had taken advantage quite a bit.

He still took advantage today, especially in such a critical position as lips and tongue.

Dong Xuebing's forehead sweated, and he felt a bit guilty. "Sister Jiang."

"Hmm," Jiang Fangfang, with tea water in her mouth, put the teacup on the coffee table and swallowed lightly as if savoring the fragrance of the tea leaves.

Dong Xuebing said, "Why did you kiss me just now? You scared me."

This guy had learned to complain first, "I, um"

Jiang Fangfang glanced at him. "To make my mom feel at ease."

"Yeah, later, I also understood your intention and cooperated. Uh, I don't know how far I should go to make your mother believe. Otherwise, your mother might ask you to show her the marriage certificate."

"No problem."

"Aren't you angry?"

"You did the right thing. At least my mother believes it."

"Not angry? Don't deceive me. If I did something wrong, just criticize me." Dong Xuebing admitted his fault.

Jiang Fangfang said calmly, "You want me to criticize you a bit?"

Dong Xuebing sincerely said, "Please criticize me."

Jiang Fangfang shook her head, "There's nothing much originally. Well, just next time, don't stick your tongue in. My mom is behind, and she can't see these things."

Dong Xuebing widened his eyes, "Next time?"

Do I still have a next time?

Jiang Fangfang looked towards the balcony, "I'm afraid my mother is suspicious. Before she comes in, pretend again. Um, you have no problem with that, right?"

"I have no problem."

"It's okay."

"Don't tell your spouse about this."

"Got it."

"I thought it was enough for you to come over and sit yesterday. I didn't expect my mother to be so troublesome. I'm sorry. I'll treat you to a meal another day."

"Hey, it's nothing. Just a small favor."

Dong Xuebing actually wouldn't mind kissing Jiang Fangfang again. Of course, there would be no problem.

Five minutes

Ten minutes

The two sat for a while without saying a word.

Suddenly, a faint sound of opening the door came from the balcony.

But both of them had been listening attentively and keenly sensed that the old lady had come out.

So Jiang Fangfang glanced at Dong Xuebing, once again took the initiative to offer her lips, and stuck her face to Dong Xuebing's without blushing or skipping a beat.

Dong Xuebing quickly embraced her and also kissed County Mayor Jiang.

Tasted it again.

He began to suspect that Sister Jiang was made of honey.

She smelled so good all over her body, and her mouth was also so sweet.

This time, Dong Xuebing, having heard Jiang Fangfang's advice, naturally didn't dare to stick his tongue in again. Instead, he just held onto her lips without moving. He only moved his head occasionally, creating an illusion of a passionate kiss. Their lips were just pressed together. Jiang

Fangfang cooperated well, moving her head and neck in sync with Dong Xuebing's rhythm. Even if they didn't move, the action caused a strong friction between their lips.

Damn it.

Sister Jiangs lips were too tempting.

From start to finish, Dong Xuebing's heart beat violently.

Chapter 1412: Making the bed

Indoors.

Around nine o'clock.

The footsteps of the old lady stopped not far behind the sofa. Dong Xuebing and Jiang Fangfang were close, almost touching mouths, embracing each other affectionately.

Thirty seconds

One minute

Two minutes

The old lady still hadn't spoken.

After all, the two had just pretended not to hear the footsteps, so when they saw that Jiang's mother remained silent and made no special sound, Dong Xuebing and Jiang Fangfang couldn't suddenly pretend to turn around and discover Jiang's mother. That would be a bit fake. So, they continued to keep their mouths closed, pretending to be affectionate. It had been quite a while since they last kissed. Jiang Fangfang had just wiped her mouth, and now her lips were somewhat dry. Only the area captured by Dong Xuebing's lips was slightly moist. The rest had not been touched by saliva because Jiang Fangfang had warned Dong Xuebing not to stick out his tongue. This kiss was a bit dry but still made Dong Xuebing's heart race.

It felt really good.

I wish I could kiss for a few more hours.

However, faint footsteps suddenly came from behind in the second minute, gradually fading away. They also heard the sound of the balcony door opening and closing again.

The old lady left.

She quietly returned to the balcony.

Dong Xuebing pretended not to hear, still holding Sister Jiang's lower lip in his mouth. The plump feeling on his lips was satisfying, and he hadn't had enough.

However, Jiang Fangfang's head remained still, and she opened her eyes, silently watching Dong Xuebing.

Dong Xuebing had been squinting at her. Looking at her expression, he felt a bit embarrassed to continue kissing. He cleared his throat and looked back, "Your mother left?"

"Yeah, she went to the balcony."

"Well, then, I guess that's enough."

"My mom should believe it."

"Cough, that's good, that's good."

"Let's watch TV."

"Sure, it's up to you. Anything is fine."

Jiang Fangfang bent down and stood up. She went to turn on the TV, selected a channel, then turned back and sat down on the sofa. Leaning back, she crossed one leg over the other, with only one leg wrapped in red winter pants resting on the other. The curve of the thigh that peeked out from the winter pants made Dong Xuebing unconsciously look a few more times. Seeing her hand placed flat on the leg of the winter pants, Dong Xuebing reached out and, without touching or moving down, placed his hand above Jiang Fangfang's palm, hovering in the air.

"Is it okay?" Dong Xuebing asked.

Jiang Fangfang glanced at the balcony, "It's fine."

"Well, then, pardon me." Dong Xuebing feigned politeness, then touched the back of Jiang Fangfang's hand, feeling her soft little hand.

Jiang's mother was at home.

Dong Xuebing also had a reason to take advantage.

Hand in hand, at first, Dong Xuebing didn't move much, just held her hand loosely. However, as they watched TV, Dong Xuebing's grip gradually tightened. He held Jiang Fangfang's hand, and after a few minutes, both palms had sweated. Dong Xuebing loosened his grip, changed his posture, and interlocked his fingers with Jiang Fangfang's, holding her hand. Jiang Fangfang continued to watch the TV screen, gently squeezing his hand in return.

Because footsteps approached.

Jiang's mother came out from the balcony.

Time passed quickly.

In the blink of an eye, it went from daytime to nighttime.

Because Dong Xuebing couldn't come every day to make Jiang's mother completely believe, almost all day, Dong Xuebing and Jiang Fangfang were holding hands, with little time apart. Jiang Fangfang also showed a similar attitude, occasionally holding Dong Xuebing's hand and being affectionate.

In the evening.

After dinner.

After quickly washing the dishes, they sat at the table and chatted.

"Xiaotao, are you full?"

"I'm full, Mom. I'm stuffed."

"Hehe, as long as you're full, look how thin you've become. You weren't this thin before."

Dong Xuebing looked at his watch, "It's not early, Mom. I'll go back now. There are some work matters I need to attend to. I'll come and see you another day."

Jiang's mother pursed her lips, "How about staying overnight tonight? Spend another day here."

Jiang Fangfang, next to her, said, "Tomorrow is a workday, and he has to be busy."

Dong Xuebing smiled, "Yes, Mom, I won't stop coming in the future."

"Alright, alright, then be safe on your way. Fangfang, accompany your man back, or let your driver come over." Jiang's mother was very concerned, wanting to arrange everything.

Jiang Fangfang stood up and said, "He drove here. I'll accompany him downstairs."

Dong Xuebing looked at her, "You stay with my mom. There's no need to come out."

Jiang's mother smiled, "There's nothing here; no need to accompany. I think it would be nice if you two went home together."

"The housekeeper can't come today. She'll be here tomorrow morning. I'm not at ease with you alone at home. I'll leave tomorrow." Jiang Fangfang was still in her homey attire, wearing the same winter pants all day. She looked at Dong Xuebing, reached out, and straightened his collar like a wife, "You go back first. It's getting dark soon, and water might accumulate on the road. Be careful when driving. I'll come back on Monday."

Dong Xuebing felt somewhat strange, "Alright."

"Oh, by the way." The old lady suddenly pointed to a cabinet in the living room, "Xiaotao, take Fangfang's clothes and luggage back for her."

Jiang Fangfang turned her head, "I'll do it myself tomorrow. It's not packed yet."

"Don't wait, pack it now." Jiang's mother said, "Tomorrow, you'll be working. You can't take your luggage to the office. It's troublesome. This is a good opportunity for Xiaotao to return it to your place, so you won't have to carry it back after work tomorrow."

Dong Xuebing said, "Yes, I'll take it for you. Is there much?"

Jiang's mother went to open the cabinet door, "Not much, just some clothes and socks."

Jiang Fangfang and Dong Xuebing followed. Dong Xuebing didn't move forward much, and Jiang Fangfang paused slightly. She took the initiative to help her mother tidy up.

"Is this yours?"

"Yes, it's mine."

"Take the warm autumn clothes as well."

"Leave it. I can't wear it now."

"Then take it home. If you leave it here, I'll find it messy. It's perfect that Xiaotao is going back to your place. It saves you from bringing it back after work tomorrow."

"Pack it."

"Okay, I'll pack it."

Dong Xuebing took the items the old lady and Sister Jiang handed over. A pair of black high heels, two pairs of light-colored pantyhose, one pair of dark-colored short stockings, a set of freshly dried white underwear and pants, two shirts, a pair of autumn pants, and a pair of dress pants. There weren't many items, but there were quite a few, and many were sensitive women's clothing. Initially, Sister Jiang wanted to bend down and pack her underwear herself, but when she was about to do so, her mother called her, asking if she needed shoe insoles. Sister Jiang paused, and Dong Xuebing took over, helping her pack. After Jiang Fangfang finished her mother's words, she glanced at Dong Xuebing and said nothing. Later, she handed him the stockings and an unopened pack of sanitary pads, and it was the first time Dong Xuebing saw what brand Sister Jiang used. It was a brand he hadn't heard of.

One item after another.

Dong Xuebing packed them all for Sister Jiang.

After finishing these, Jiang's mother also insisted on giving Dong Xuebing half a bag of apples and a jar of honey from the kitchen, insisting they take it home to enjoy later.

"Thank you, Mom."

"Alright, go back."

"Uh, if you need anything, call me."

"What could happen? Just visit me when you have time."

"Rest assured, we will. Well, I'm leaving. Goodbye, Mom, remember to drink the milk I bought for you." Dong Xuebing waved goodbye to the old lady, picked up the not-so-heavy suitcase, and then looked at Jiang Fangfang. "Don't come out."

Jiang Fangfang nodded, "Drive slowly."

Dong Xuebing said, "Okay," then turned and left. When he reached the stairs on the second floor, he still heard Jiang's mother's voice coming from above, reminding him to drink honey water every morning and evening, saying it was good for the body. Dong Xuebing quickly responded to the voice from the hallway above and then heard the door close.

Downstairs.

It rained heavily yesterday, and the Land Rover was cleaned thoroughly.

Glancing at the sunset on the horizon, Dong Xuebing opened the car door, threw the suitcase in the back, started the car, lit a cigarette, and took a long breath. His task was complete. Finally, he helped Sister Jiang pass this hurdle. Ah, it was truly a magical day from yesterday to today. Dong Xuebing sighed a few times as he drove, lifted his hand to smell it, and it seemed to still carry the scent of Sister Jiang's hands and legs.

Eight o'clock.

The sky had turned dark.

At the County Party Committee Family Compound, Dong Xuebing carried the suitcase upstairs. Since he didn't have the key to Sister Jiang's home, the luggage could only be temporarily left at his place.

Inside the room.

Dong Xuebing opened the light with a smack, sat on the sofa somewhat tiredly, unlocked the suitcase, and took out the apples and honey. He threw the suitcase into the corner of his bedroom and placed the honey on the refrigerator. After washing an apple, Dong Xuebing lay on the bed in the bedroom, munching.

Feeling a bit tired.

Maybe he should sleep early tonight.

Dong Xuebing briefly washed up and then crawled into bed.

However, half an hour passed, and Dong Xuebing's mind was still filled with the softness of Sister Jiang's body and lips. He couldn't calm down. Sniffed his palms, and the scent of Sister Jiang was gone; he had washed it off while cleaning up. Annoyed, Dong Xuebing tossed and turned a few times. His nose had no smell, and his mind wasn't at peace.

Oh, right.

Sister Jiang's suitcase.

Dong Xuebing remembered, cleared his throat, got out of bed, and flipped open the suitcase. Glancing inside Sister Jiang's stockings and underwear, he took them all out. When he puts them back tomorrow, Jiang Fangfang probably won't notice. So, Dong Xuebing placed a pair of stockings and white underwear and pants on the bedside table, put another pair at the foot of the bed, and rolled up the autumn clothes and pants next to his pillow.

Although the clothes were washed, they still carried Sister Jiang's scent.

A sweet and fragrant aroma.

Dong Xuebing's mind calmed down, and he quickly fell asleep contentedly.

Chapter 1413: The video sent by Sister Jiang

Night fell.

The night sky was silent.

Only occasionally, some insects and birds outside the window make faint sounds.

At home, Dong Xuebing was still fast asleep. Suddenly, a burst of ringing interrupted his sleep, startling him, and his eyes snapped open.

Ring, ring, ring.

Who could it be?

Calling so late at night?

Dong Xuebing, still half-asleep, closed his eyes again. He reached over, groping for the phone, and after a few attempts, he finally got hold of it, pressing the answer key.

"Hello, who is this?"

"It's me."

"Oh, Mayor Jiang."

"If you're sleeping, it's okay. I won't disturb your rest."

"No need to be so polite. What's up?"

"Nothing, go back to sleep. I don't want to disturb your rest."

"Don't be so formal. I'm not sleepy anymore; I've been sleeping for several hours. What's the matter?"

"What time did you go to bed?"

"Ah, I just got back and went to sleep."

"Must have been tired from yesterday."

"Why tired? Not at all. Just lying down with nothing to do, so I fell asleep. I've slept for several hours, and now I'm wide awake. Do you need anything?"

"Not really."

"Oh no, is something wrong with my mom?" Playing the role of Jiang Mayor's husband all day, Dong Xuebing was getting into the act. My mom, my mom, she's picking it up.

"My mom is asleep, and she's been fine these past two days."

"That's good. So, why did you call?"

"I couldn't sleep. If you weren't sleeping, could you read something for me? But since you're already asleep, I didn't want to bother you."

"No, no, I'm okay."

"Is it a bit troublesome?"

"Not at all. So, what do I read for you, talking as if you're sleeping on a makeshift bed in the living room so your mother can't hear?"

"Yeah, she can't hear."

"In that case, I'll read like this."

"Don't use your phone; your number is from Beijing, and it's a long-distance call. It's not cheap. I don't have headphones for my phone, and it's inconvenient to hold."

"Since you can't use the speakerphone, the sound is loud. If I wake up your mother again, what should we do?"

"Do you have a computer?"

"Yes, I brought my laptop."

"Then I'll give you a QQ number. We can talk through voice chat. I have wireless internet for my laptop, and I have earphones for my laptop as well."

"Ah, you have QQ?"

"I have it."

"I thought you didn't play these things."

"Let me give you my QQ number."

"Just a moment, let me switch on the computer. I haven't been on QQ for a long time. I must try my password first; I seem to have forgotten it."

The computer was on the bedside table.

Dong Xuebing sat up, leaned over to the bedside, grabbed the computer, and placed it on his lap. Because he was holding the phone, Dong Xuebing didn't bother turning on the light. Sister Jiang's situation was a big deal for him; he was naturally very concerned. He quickly connected the computer to the internet, logged into QQ, and after two attempts, he entered the correct password and downloaded it.

Ding, ding, ding.

Ahem, ahem.

QQ was bustling with activity, with many unread messages.

Dong Xuebing used it often during college but hadn't logged in much since entering the system.

"Alright, Sister Jiang, I'm in."

"Then type in my number."

"Done, did you receive it?"

"Yes, we're friends now."

"Okay, let's hang up and talk online."

"Okay, sorry for waking you up in the middle of the night."

"You're being too polite. It's okay. In the future, if you can't sleep, just call me. We can go online, and I'll read something for you."

"Alright, thank you."

"Can you open my window?"

The call ended, and Dong Xuebing finally took a moment to open Jiang Fangfang's QQ profile. Her nickname was Jiang Fangfang, her gender was female, and the rest of the information was blank. The profile picture was the default QQ penguin avatar, fitting Jiang Mayor's serious style. Dong Xuebing's QQ profile was similar; both high-ranking officials couldn't afford to have flashy usernames that might attract attention. Besides, inappropriate behavior online could lead to consequences, and they had to adhere to certain rules.

The chat window with Jiang Fangfang opened. Seeing that she was inactive for a while, Dong Xuebing didn't dare to send a voice message and instead sent a smiling emoji.

Ding, ding, ding. Jiang Fangfang replied, "I'm looking for the voice chat button. I usually don't use these much and don't understand. Please wait a moment."

Dong Xuebing responded, "Sure, I'm not very familiar with it either."

Of course, this was a lie. Dong Xuebing was considerably younger than Jiang Fangfang, and even if he wasn't an expert, he knew where the voice chat button was. However, since Jiang Fangfang, as a leader, didn't know, Dong Xuebing pretended not to know either. After all, he couldn't show off in front of a leader; it would damage their image. Huilan's words had a significant impact on Dong Xuebing be smart when needed and play dumb when necessary. This was indeed the way to go.

Ten seconds

Thirty seconds

Dong Xuebing's laptop had a microphone, so he didn't bother preparing headphones. After waiting without response, he rubbed his eyes, yawned, and lit a cigarette. It was past one in the morning, but he had to endure his drowsiness.

After another half-minute, beep beep, the chat window finally appeared. However, Dong Xuebing sweated a bit when he saw that it was a video call invitation. Jiang Fangfang must have made a mistake, and Dong Xuebing thought about sending her a reminder. However, he felt it wasn't appropriate. After all, it was a leader who sent the request. Dong Xuebing couldn't reject it outright. He had a webcam, as his computer was relatively new, and the little dot above the screen was the camera.

Forget it.

Let's just accept it.

You can't keep a leader waiting for too long.

Dong Xuebing quickly extinguished the cigarette, tidied up his hair, adjusted his autumn clothes, and then used the mouse to click "Accept."

Connecting.

The video connected.

As soon as it connected, Dong Xuebing was taken aback. He thought Jiang Mayor didn't have a webcam, but unexpectedly, she did. Jiang Fangfang's face appeared on the large window, and Dong Xuebing noticed that Jiang Mayor seemed slightly stunned.

"Uh, Mayor Jiang."

"Yes."

"Can you hear me?"

"I can hear you. It's fine."

"Good. Uh, what are you using this for?"

"I might have pressed the wrong button. It doesn't matter; they all work the same. As long as I can hear you, it's fine."

"My appearance is a bit just-woke-up, and my hair is messy."

"Same here." In the video, Jiang Fangfang wore the same red autumn clothes and pants. The color was a bit distorted, and her hair was down. A quilt covered her, and the laptop seemed on her lap. The screen wasn't raised high, so Dong Xuebing could see her upper body.

"Then let me start reading."

"Sure, I'm lying down."

"Well, just wear your headphones."

The video shook for a few moments. Dong Xuebing couldn't see clearly, probably because Jiang Mayor moved the laptop. Finally, the video stabilized, but there was no view of Jiang Fangfang's graceful figure. The camera pointed at the TV cabinet, and no one was visible. Well, she was going to sleep; she couldn't show her face. Dong Xuebing had expected too much; he wanted to see Sister Jiang's sleeping face.

No one in the picture.

But the sound was clear.

"Okay," Jiang Fangfang spoke.

"Alright, let me find a story." Dong Xuebing said.

"Yeah, if I fall asleep, just hang up the video."

"Got it." Dong Xuebing opened a webpage and randomly found a fairy tale. He began reading to her after moving the video window to the side.

On the other end of the headphones was Jiang Mayor's breathing and a bit of microphone feedback.

Fairy tales are usually short, and he deliberately chose a short one. After about four minutes of reading, he stopped and blinked. "Sister Jiang?"

""

"Are you asleep?"

"Not yet."

"Uh, then let me read another one."

After silence, Jiang Fangfang suddenly said, "Wait a moment."

The video screen shook again, and the next moment, Jiang Fangfang's face reappeared. It seemed she had brought the laptop in front of her while lying down.

"What's wrong?" Dong Xuebing questioned.

Jiang Fangfang's eyes should be looking at the video, and after a moment of stillness, she unexpectedly said, "Those hanging at your bedside, are they my underwear and stockings?"

Underwear.

Stockings.

Dong Xuebing suddenly realized and remembered this matter. Glancing at himself through the video, the small window wasn't very clear, but when he turned around, he almost spat out blood. Before going to bed, Dong Xuebing had placed Sister Jiang's underwear, panties, autumn clothes, and pants on the bed. He had forgotten about them.

Damn it.

This was bad.

Sister Jiang must have seen it when she opened the video.

Panicking, Dong Xuebing quickly removed the stockings and underwear hanging at the bedside and threw them out of the camera's view. His face turned red.

"Uh, Sister Jiang, I" Dong Xuebing didn't know what to say.

Jiang Fangfang remained calm, "Continue reading. Tell me another story; I'm about to fall asleep."

"Okay, okay."

"Thanks."

It's over.

She found out.

What should I do now?

Chapter 1414: Office Romance

The Next Day.

Monday morning.

The sky brightened, but there was no sun in the half-clouded sky. Sunlight filtered through the clouds and gently embraced the land of Zhen Shui County. A new day had begun.

At home.

In a small bedroom.

The alarm clock buzzed incessantly.

Dong Xuebing turned over and tapped his phone twice to silence the alarm. He opened his eyes, still drowsy, and glanced at the clock and saw it was eight o'clock. He slapped his forehead with his hand to wake himself up, reluctant to sleep any longer. He sat on the bed, sighed, and his eyes fell on the computer on the bedside table. The computer was still on, but he covered the monitor. Thinking about the scene from last night, Dong Xuebing felt extremely embarrassed. He had secretly taken out Mayor Jiang's underwear, stockings, and autumn clothes, spread them on the bed, and, ultimately, the person involved had discovered it. Dong Xuebing felt more embarrassed than if he had jumped off the building. He wondered how Mayor Jiang perceived him now.

Anger?

Outburst?

Upset?

Everything was possible.

Dong Xuebing rubbed his eyes, got out of bed, and headed for the bathroom.

If he had more time to spare, he would have used the back button to return to the moment before the video call and put away Sister Jiang's clothes. However, when the video call started, Sister Jiang must have seen the things on his bed, but she didn't mention it. Finally, after Dong Xuebing read a

story for about ten minutes, she said it was too late. Dong Xuebing only had a few minutes left, and he had used up some of that time at Jiang's mother's house.

What will be, will be.

He was also at fault. How could he forget about that?

Dong Xuebing picked up the clothes in the bedroom, put them on, and looked at the several pieces of Sister Jiang's clothing still hanging on the bed. The clothes were still on the bed but placed near or at the foot of the bed. After Sister Jiang asked about them last night, he pushed the clothes out of the range of the camera. He didn't have time to tidy them up. After calming Sister Jiang to sleep, Dong Xuebing's mood was uneasy. He didn't care about this anymore. He bent down, reached out to the bed, picked up the stockings and underwear, and slowly put them in Sister Jiang's box. He originally wanted to put them back in their original positions, but it was meaningless since they had been discovered. He threw them away.

It's time to go to work.

Oh, what to do?

Dong Xuebing had been in Zhen Shui County for a long time, and he felt a sense of resistance to going to work for the first time. Helpless, he felt a little hesitant.

9 am.

County Party Committee Compound.

Dong Xuebing drove to the office, and as soon as he entered the compound, he looked around through the car window, afraid of seeing Jiang Fangfang's figure. He hadn't figured out how to explain it yet.

It was already working hours.

There weren't many people in the compound. Those who were supposed to be there had already entered the office building.

Dong Xuebing got out of the car and looked around, feeling relieved. Then he went upstairs to his office.

The office phone didn't ring today, and the mobile phone was much quieter. No one called him for work consultations or reports. Dong Xuebing had been busy for a whole week. Now that Sister Jiang was back, and his temporary task of acting as the county government was considered a success, he enjoyed the leisure. Yao Cui might be late and hadn't come to work yet, so Dong Xuebing took a thermos and went downstairs to the water room to get water. He could have asked someone from the county government office to do these things since it was the department he managed. However, Dong Xuebing didn't want to bother others.

The water room was messy.

Water was splashed all over the floor, deep in some places and shallow in others.

It was Dong Xuebing's first time getting water, and he sighed. He also missed the days of having a water dispenser. However, without saying anything, he still went in.

After placing the thermos, he turned the switch.

Gurgle, gurgle, boiling water filled the thermos.

The equipment here was not great; it was quite old, and there was a lot of water stain on the switch. The fine water flow took a long time to fill up.

Suddenly, a female voice came from behind, "Mayor Dong."

"Yeah," Dong Xuebing turned around and looked, "Secretary Li."

Jiang Mayor's secretary, Li Xiaona, also held a thermos. "Why are you fetching water?"

Dong Xuebing smiled, "Just moving around. Haven't exercised for a long time, and my body is getting stiff." He paused, "You're fetching water for Mayor Jiang. Is Mayor Jiang here?"

Li Xiaona nodded, "The Mayor arrived at eight."

Dong Xuebing lowered his voice, "How's Mayor Jiang's mood?"

Li Xiaona lowered her voice, "It's fine, nothing special, just like before."

The perfume he gave paid off. This was the advantage of having a good relationship with the leader's secretary; you could know everything beforehand. Of course, Secretary Li probably thought Dong Xuebing cared about the death of Mayor Jiang's father. However, Dong Xuebing was more concerned about the video incident.

"That's good."

"By the way, Mayor Dong."

"Yeah."

"Mayor Jiang mentioned a lot of work documents from last week. She said she was waiting for you to come to the office and find her. Bring the documents."

"Cough, okay."

"Your thermos is full."

"Okay, I'm going back."

Half an hour later.

Upstairs, Mayor's Office.

Mayor Jiang had already spoken, and Dong Xuebing couldn't avoid coming. Originally, he thought about avoiding the situation, letting Yao Cui, who had just started working, deliver the documents. However, after contemplating for thirty minutes, he decided to come alone. Looking at the door, Dong Xuebing gritted his teeth and knocked bravely.

Knock, knock.

"Come in."

"Secretary Li, where is Mayor Jiang?"

"She's inside. Please come in."

"Alright."

Looking at the door to the inner room, Dong Xuebing knocked again and then pushed the door open. At first glance, he saw Jiang Fangfang behind the desk. Sister Jiang's attire today was not as casual as at home. She wore a suit with trousers and black high heels, looking serious.

Closing the door, Dong Xuebing said, "Mayor Jiang."

"Here." Jiang Fangfang glanced at him.

Dong Xuebing felt a bit flushed on his face and walked up, saying, "The things you wanted."

Jiang Fangfang nodded, put down the pen in her hand, and looked up, "You slept late last night. I don't even know what time I went to sleep."

Dong Xuebing hurriedly said, "Around 1.30 am."

"That's still quite early. Thanks to your stories, otherwise, I might have stayed awake all night."

Jiang Fangfang stood up. "Let's talk on the sofa. Tell me about the work from last week."

Face-to-face wasn't convenient, so the two went to sit on the guest sofa.

Jiang Fangfang glanced at the documents he handed over, pointing at them and asking a question.

Dong Xuebing answered immediately, and his restrained expression gradually relaxed.

So calm.

Is she not angry?

She didn't mention the underwear incident.

This situation was, of course, what Dong Xuebing was happy to see. If Sister Jiang didn't bring it up, he naturally wouldn't take the initiative to mention it. Look at her tolerance; he had secretly touched her body without permission, even stuck his tongue in her mouth, and last night, he even displayed her underwear. Sister Jiang still remained indifferent, and Dong Xuebing increasingly admired Sister Jiang's composure.

Jiang Fangfang asked, "Did you allocate funds to them?"

"No, the finance doesn't have any money either."

Jiang Fangfang nodded, "Okay, I'll think about it later."

"Also, I rejected this application too." Dong Xuebing took out another document from below and showed it to her, pointing to it. "The Civil Affairs Bureau proposed it. I think it's unnecessary, and I'm a bit indecisive. It's not urgent, so I let them wait. We can decide when you come back."

"Okay, I'll take a look."

"There are several other funding applications behind, and some seem urgent, but our finance only has a small amount of money available. We can't afford it. Well, to put it bluntly, we're out of money."

"Is there a plan for the investment promotion you asked me to make?"

"I didn't have time to work on it yesterday. Today, I'll make it detailed and show it to you before the end of the day."

"Good, do it as soon as possible. If this continues, I'm afraid there will be a financial gap again. We've only a few million left, and it's not even half a year yet. How will we get through the second half of the year?"

"Yeah, I'll make a plan as soon as possible."

"Okay, I'll leave the investment promotion to you."

"Got it. I'll do my best."

"Mayor Dong, don't put too much pressure on yourself. Our county's investment promotion department has been mostly idle. We haven't attracted substantial investments in half a year, mostly individual business operators. It can't form a scale. The main reason is that our county's investment environment is too poor, lacking resources, mediocre climate conditions, remote location, and various objective factors constraining the investment environment. Do you know how much money our county attracted in the past year?"

Dong Xuebing said, "I've looked into it. It's less than ten million."

What is the concept of attracting several million in investment?

Dong Xuebing could easily spend several million to buy a Land Rover.

So, the investment environment in Zhen Shui County is not just bad; it's extremely poor.

Jiang Fangfang said, "So don't put too much pressure on yourself. It would be best if we could attract more investment. If it's not possible, it's not all your responsibility."

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

"If you have any requirements, let me know."

"If we're going to organize an investment promotion event, it will cost money. Well, I'll come up with a plan first."

As Dong Xuebing spoke, his eyes fell on Sister Jiang's thighs, which were wrapped in trousers, drifting around beside him, within arm's reach.

The legs are truly beautiful.

I wonder if she'll let me touch again.

Yesterday, Jiang Fangfang's mother was present, but it might not be allowed today.

Dong Xuebing could see something from Jiang Fangfang's seemingly indifferent demeanor today. Sister Jiang's lack of response increased Dong Xuebing's audacity.

Try touching again.

But what if Sister Jiang gets angry?

As they discussed work, Dong Xuebing hesitated.

Forget it.

Try again.

A few minutes later, Dong Xuebing made a decision. He wanted to see where Sister Jiang's bottom line was. So, he subtly reached out his hand, and the next second, it rested on Jiang Fangfang's thigh. Yesterday, he touched her through winter pants. Today, the suit pants were thinner than the winter pants. The feeling of her thighs underneath was even more real.

Very elastic.

Also, it's very sexy.

Dong Xuebing boldly stroked twice, feeling anxious in his heart.

Chapter 1415: City Investment Promotion Fair is starting

Morning.

It's not even 10 am yet.

Dong Xuebing, daring and audacious, had his hand exploring the thigh of the beautiful Mayor, caressing and even pinching.

Soft.

Smooth.

Delicate.

All sorts of sensations filled his palm.

Ah, the feeling was beyond words.

After doing this, Dong Xuebing carefully observed Jiang Fangfang's expression.

Jiang Fangfang was still focused on reading the documents, saying, "If we can avoid organizing an investment promotion event, let's not do it. Our county is financially strained, and we can't support such a large-scale investment plan. You've worked on investment promotion before, so you should know some investors. We don't ask for much. Attracting one or two would be the best. As for the investment promotion event, we don't have that much money to operate, and in case the money is spent but no investors enter, then not only will the remaining money be wasted, but it will also create many political problems."

If the investment promotion event fails, there will be many problems, and perhaps responsibility will be pursued. Sister Jiang protected him. Dong Xuebing understood that from her words, and his hand paused.

"Well, I'll listen to you."

"Communicate with the investors one by one."

"That works, but it will still cost money on entertainment, plane tickets, accommodation. We'll probably need about a million."

"You're in charge of finance; you decide on these matters."

"Okay, with your words, I feel reassured."

"Act freely. I'll support it if we can attract a large investment, even if the sky falls. Road construction is imminent, and I'm counting on you."

Dong Xuebing rubbed her thigh and said, "You can rest assured. I won't let you down."

Jiang Fangfang nodded slightly, opened another page, and looked at the documents below. Throughout, she seemed completely unaware that a lecherous hand was taking advantage of her thigh.

Not even a hint of anger.

Letting me touch?

Dong Xuebing was excited. His movements became more unrestrained. He slid his hand down, grabbed Sister Jiang's flesh buttock, and squeezed it hard. He felt the undulating sensation in his palm, and there were obvious lines on the outside of the trousers covering her buttocks, outlining the edge of Sister Jiang's underwear. It is a triangle, very clear to the touch. Because the trousers were too thin, it felt as if his hand was directly touching Sister Jiang's bare buttocks.

One second

Three seconds

Five seconds

After satisfying his desire, Dong Xuebing lowered his head to glance at Mayor Jiang's shirt. His hand inserted smoothly, slowly sliding into the hem of her women's shirt, delving into her clothes.

It was empty inside.

No autumn clothes, just bare flesh on the belly.

Dong Xuebing pinched her small belly and played with it in his palm.

Jiang Fangfang still didn't speak. Swish. Swish. Page by page, she looked at the documents Dong Xuebing gave her. She picked up a pen, perhaps writing some corrections or comments.

Such happiness.

Dong Xuebing now had only one feeling: Before coming to the office, he was worried that Mayor Jiang would get angry with him. Now that he can touch her like this, and she doesn't seem angry, Dong Xuebing is completely at ease. Sister Jiang is indeed good.

Suddenly, there was a knock.

Someone was knocking on the door from outside.

Dong Xuebing was startled, hastily withdrawing his hand from Sister Jiang's clothes. He even moved his buttocks slightly away. He couldn't ruin Sister Jiang's reputation. If someone saw them, both of them would be in trouble. One was a married man, and the other was a widow. It didn't sound good, no matter how you looked at it. So, although Dong Xuebing didn't know what Jiang Fangfang was thinking, he understood that such a small ambiguity had to be buried in the stomach. No one could speak about it.

Jiang Fangfang raised her head, "Come in."

The one opening the door was Li Xiaona, "Mayor Jiang, Director Zheng from the Investment Promotion Bureau is here."

Director Zheng.

Is it Zheng Dayou?

Director of the Investment Promotion Bureau in Zhen Shui County.

Dong Xuebing is in charge of investment promotion, so naturally, he has seen him. However, it was a brief encounter; they hadn't communicated much. Zheng Dayou has been in Zhen Shui County for quite some time, but he is on business trips or vacationing elsewhere most of the time. The days he works in the local area are probably less than a month.

Jiang Fangfang nodded, "Let him in."

"Okay." Li Xiaona turned and left.

After a while, a middle-aged man in his forties walked in, "Mayor Jiang, Mayor Dong." Zheng Dayou looked at Dong Xuebing and said, "I just went to your office and didn't find you. Secretary Yao said you were here in Mayor Jiang's office." Reporting to a higher-level leader is a bit troublesome. Dong Xuebing is Zheng Dayou's superior, so naturally, he has to explain that he didn't directly come to find Mayor Jiang but went to Dong Xuebing's office first and learned that he was there.

Jiang Fangfang gestured, "Sit down, Director Zheng."

Dong Xuebing said, "Old Zheng, is there something going on in the Investment Promotion Bureau?"

Zheng Dayou didn't sit on the sofa but took a chair, "Well, you don't know, I just received the news and came over. Comrades from the city informed our county's investment promotion department that this Saturday and Sunday, we will go to the city to participate in this year's investment promotion conference in Mei He City. The notice is a bit urgent, and only four or five days are left. I hurried over to consult with the leaders."

Jiang Fangfang asked, "City Investment Promotion Conference?"

Dong Xuebing frowned, "Is it held this Saturday?"

"Yes, that's what I was told." Zheng Dayou looked at Dong Xuebing, hesitated, and he didn't say anything in the end. Too many words might lead to mistakes.

But Dong Xuebing also roughly understood from his eyes.

Jiang Fangfang was not aware of this, which was normal. She just returned to work today after a week-long vacation. However, Dong Xuebing has been working all along and hasn't received any information. He is in charge of investment promotion, but he had to be informed by the leaders of the investment promotion department below. Dong Xuebing just realized this now. The Deputy Mayor in charge of investment promotion in the city is a leader named Hua Li. He is the one who called Dong Xuebing to inform him that the incident with Huilan was an accident. He is aligned with County Mayor Cheng. Dong Xuebing had just had a verbal conflict with him, and coupled with the incident in Chen Gang County and the major personnel changes, Hua Li's face must not be good. It's probably because he resents Dong Xuebing for not informing him. Thinking about it, Dong Xuebing had a rough idea. These people are more narrow-minded than others, and one looks down on others more. Dong Xuebing understood in his heart but didn't show it on his face.

"Investment promotion conference, that's perfect." Jiang Fangfang calmly said, "I just discussed this matter with Mayor Dong. Our county can't host it on its own. Since we coincided with this year's city investment promotion conference, let's take advantage of the opportunity to operate. Mayor Dong, I'll leave this matter to you."

Dong Xuebing said, "Okay."

Utilizing the city's resources for investment is obviously a good thing. However, judging from the fact that the investment promotion system did not inform Dong Xuebing, investment promotion may not go smoothly.

Chapter 1416: Mayor Dong's inspection

Noon.

12 pm.

County Party Committee compound.

Dong Xuebing walked into the canteen under the scorching sun. Today, he decided to have steamed buns. It was also hot inside the canteen, with steam rising from the steamers. Dong Xuebing nodded and exchanged greetings with some acquaintances and colleagues. After getting his meal, he headed towards the window with shade. It was cooler there.

"Mayor Dong."

"Uh, please sit."

"Let's switch tables."

Several clerks sitting at that table quickly stood up.

However, Dong Xuebing immediately gestured with his hand and took an empty seat, "If it's okay, I'll sit here and eat together. Don't let me disturb your conversation."

"No, not at all."

"That's good."

"You're too polite, Mayor Dong."

"Yeah, the buns taste great."

"Yes, our canteen's buns are the best."

Dong Xuebing chatted casually with them while eating.

A gentle breeze blew, quite refreshing. Well, he should wear less tomorrow.

After lunch, Dong Xuebing didn't return to his office. Thinking about the upcoming city investment promotion conference, he called Yao Cui.

"Xiao Yao, have you had lunch?"

"Not yet. I'm busy with something; I'll eat soon."

"Eating is important. Work can be done at any time."

"Haha, okay. I will listen to our Mayor Dong."

"By the way, help me contact the Investment Promotion Bureau. I'll go there later."

"Is it an inspection during lunchtime? Okay, I'll inform them."

After hanging up, Dong Xuebing calmly walked towards his Land Rover. After a brief hesitation, he stopped and turned around, walking directly out of the compound. It was a good opportunity to exercise his body, and it wasn't too far. After being busy for so long without any free time, today marked the first time Dong Xuebing visited the Investment Promotion Bureau since taking office. He didn't plan to make any sudden attacks, so he informed his secretary in advance. Dong Xuebing had established a stable position in Zhen Shui County, proving himself with his work capability and gaining a certain level of respect. There was no need for him to resort to sudden intimidation.

Just before 1 pm.

A three-story office building came into view.

Looking at the sign at the entrance of the office courtyard from the road, Dong Xuebing frowned slightly. He knew this was the address of the Investment Promotion Bureau and had passed by a few times. However, he had never entered seriously. Looking closely, there were signs of the Zhen Shui City Investment Promotion Bureau and two other department signs. Several units shared the three-story small office building.

So miserable.

Too weak.

Why don't they even have an independent office space?

Dong Xuebing looked at the entrance, but there was no gatekeeper, and the reception room was empty. He walked slowly into the courtyard. As soon as he entered, he saw Zheng Dayou, the director of the Investment Promotion Bureau, at the entrance of the office building. Two other people were beside him: a woman in her thirties and a young man in his twenties with a prominent mole on his forehead.

"Mayor Dong."

"Mayor Dong."

Everyone greeted him.

Dong Xuebing smiled and nodded at them, "Let me introduce you."

Zheng Dayou pointed to the woman, "This is Cheng Yujie, our veteran at the Investment Promotion Bureau. She has worked in investment promotion for at least seven or eight years and is very experienced. Currently, she is in charge of finance, office management, and other business."

Cheng Yujie smiled, "Hello, Mayor Dong."

Dong Xuebing shook hands with her, "Hello, Director Cheng."

Cheng Yujie quickly waved her hand, "I'm just a staff member, not a director."

A staff in charge of many departments, including the office, business, and finance, could hold at least a Deputy Section Chief position.

Zheng Dayou coughed and then pointed to the young man, saying, "This is Chen Yunsong. He is a new civil servant who joined recently. He's very flexible and handles things smartly. Currently, he is in charge of data management and occasionally handles some business matters. When there's a car, he is also the driver. Oh, right, he is also the contact person for business matters for the time being. This young man is very capable and hardworking."

Dong Xuebing:" "

Chen Yunsong respectfully greeted him, "Mayor Dong."

Dong Xuebing shook his hand, not knowing what to say.

Zheng Dayou probably knew what Dong Xuebing was thinking, "Mayor Dong, shall we go upstairs? I'll slowly report the situation to you."

"Okay, let's go upstairs." Dong Xuebing lifted his foot.

"Watch your step," Chen Yunsong quickly reminded.

In the next step, Dong Xuebing stepped on a partially concealed wooden board and swayed, almost stumbling. Upon closer inspection, he found that a section of the cement steps leading to the office building had collapsed. It was covered with a worn-out wooden board, uneven and shaky. Dong Xuebing glanced at it and gained a preliminary understanding of the working environment in the County Investment Promotion department. When he served as the director of the Investment Promotion Bureau in Yantai County before, the working environment was average, but even so, they had a few cars and an independent office building. Unlike in Zhen Shui County, the departments were well-organized, with clear divisions.

But in Zhen Shui County

It was incredibly dismal.

Is this even a direct department of the County Government?

When he reached the second floor and saw the office space of the County Investment Promotion department, Dong Xuebing's imagination was completely overturned. He felt like Sister Jiang had tricked him.

With these resources and this environment, it'd be a miracle if they could attract investment.

If I were in their shoes, I wouldn't invest either.

The second floor had a large office area with four or five desks. There was a sign on the only office in the back, which must be Zheng Dayou's. Other than that, well, there was nothing else. Dong Xuebing didn't even see anyone in the office area except for a girl sitting at the front desk.

The front desk girl quickly stood up, looking a bit nervous.

Zheng Dayou introduced, "This is Staff Member Gong Na, responsible for reception and logistics. She's been here for less than a year. Oh, by the way, she is also temporarily acting as the cashier."

"Mayor Dong." Gong Na greeted hurriedly.

Dong Xuebing nodded, "Hello."

A cashier doubling as reception and logistics it was a mess of responsibilities.

Sighing, Dong Xuebing turned to Zheng Dayou and asked, "Where are the others? Have they gone for lunch?"

Zheng Dayou smiled bitterly, "What others? There are only four of us in the investment promotion department now."

Four?

In such a large organization, there were only four people.

Dong Xuebing immediately said, "Let's talk in your office."

"Sure, please come this way." Zheng Dayou led Dong Xuebing into the only office in the office area. After entering, he poured a glass of water for Dong Xuebing.

Naturally, Dong Xuebing had no intention of drinking it and asked, "I've been busy since I arrived, and later, I took leave due to an injury for quite a few days. I didn't have a chance to understand the situation. Old Zheng, how come our investment promotion bureau only has four people, and there's not even a deputy director?"

"We had a deputy director before," Zheng Dayou explained helplessly, "But he retired. To save expenses, the higher-ups didn't send anyone else down. As for the Office Director, uh, we've never had one. Staff Members perform all duties. There are no departments either. With just these people, whoever is free will do the work." He continued, "The county's finances were tight last year. Quotas were given to various departments, and we wanted to hire more people, but we didn't have the conditions. The county didn't approve, and our county's investment promotion work hasn't been good these years. It's my responsibility. We don't get more than five or six investors a year. Don't laugh at us. We mostly sit and do nothing all day with just the four of us. Mayor Dong, it's not a matter of our work attitude but that no one is willing to invest in our county. We called and begged people, and in the end, not to mention investment, they won't even come for a visit because they find our county too far away with too much wind and sand."

Talking about this, Zheng Dayou also had a stomach full of bitterness and poured it all out to Dong Xuebing.

Dong Xuebing pondered for a moment. "Show me the investment performance over the past few years."

"Sure, I'll have someone fetch it." Zheng Dayou immediately went out to give the order.

Not long after, Gong Na, the office clerk, came in holding a stack of documents and placing them on the table. She also curiously glanced at the city's youngest Deputy Division Chief level leader.

Zheng Dayou had originally wanted to pick up the documents and briefly explain them to Dong Xuebing. However, Dong Xuebing shook his head and said there was no need. He picked up the documents and read them. This type of report was generally not understood by outsiders, and even if understood, it would take a lot of time to browse through because it contained a lot of nonsense and some surface-level data done for appearances. However, Dong Xuebing flipped through it a few times and roughly understood it. He had been the Investment Promotion Bureau Director before and knew where the focus should be.

Five minutes later, Dong Xuebing put down the documents and remained silent.

Originally, from the information he got from Mayor Jiang, Dong Xuebing had anticipated the situation and knew their investment promotion work was poor. However, he didn't expect it to be this bad.

The average annual investment promotion target was less than five million in the past five years. Dong Xuebing looked at Zheng Dayou and said, "Not even five million in a year?"

Zheng Dayou pondered for a moment. "Yes, and last year was considered a lot."

When he was the Investment Promotion Bureau Director in Yantai County, Dong Xuebing's subordinates could easily secure an investment of five to ten million with a casual signature. Investments in the range of one to two million were even delegated to the staff members when the business department leaders didn't bother. However, these investments that the Yantai County Investment Promotion Bureau looked down upon were roughly equivalent to the annual investment promotion performance of Zhen Shui County.

It was truly shocking, and the comparison was eye-opening.

Chapter 1417: Dong Xuebing's determination

Afternoon.

County Investment Promotion Bureau.

Second floor, Director's office.

Dong Xuebing didn't look too good. He was genuinely frustrated by the investment promotion performance in their county. He could see that it wasn't because the staff at the Investment Promotion Bureau lacked capability. It was simply that the conditions in their county were unfavorable. Otherwise, with Zheng Dayou achieving such modest results every year, how could he continue sitting steadily in the position of Bureau Director without being held accountable? Obviously, in the eyes of the county, Zheng Dayou wasn't deemed highly responsible. They might even consider attracting investments in the millions as a commendable achievement. Dong Xuebing casually took a pack of Zhonghua cigarettes from his pocket, flicked one out, and lit it up. Although Zheng Dayou politely offered him a lighter, Dong Xuebing declined, waving his hand and lighting it himself. Zheng Dayou, being considerably older, treated him with a lot of courtesy, and Dong Xuebing had a good impression of him, naturally showing respect.

"Old Zheng, do you smoke?"

"I do, but not much."

"Well, have one."

"I'll smoke my own cigarettes."

"Come on. Take mine."

"Okay, I'll take one of your good cigarettes."

Dong Xuebing handed him one, and Zheng Dayou accepted it with both hands, sniffed it first, and then leisurely took a puff. Dong Xuebing looked at the cigarette box on his desk. Baodou is a domestic brand that costs about two or three RMB. He sighed in his heart. It wasn't that he looked down on Zheng Dayou, but he felt helpless about the economic situation in their county. In the investment promotion department where Dong Xuebing worked, even the staff who didn't smoke

casually pulled out cigarettes worth at least a few dozen RMB. Such departments needed to maintain face. Investors had to believe they were trustworthy and had strength before considering investing. If even the Director smoked cigarettes worth two or three RMB, with no independent office space, and only four people in total, who would be willing to invest? People would probably just take a look and leave. Dong Xuebing knew that this was just a superficial analysis. Establishing a good facade for the Investment Promotion Bureau would require financial support, which their county couldn't afford. It was an impossible task. No matter how much Dong Xuebing talked about it, it wouldn't change the fact that it wasn't his money alone but the money of the entire county.

The situation must be turned around.

This cannot continue.

Dong Xuebing didn't complain for long before he began to think of solutions. He knew that complaining was useless. The county's economic situation was there, and no complaining would change that. Crying and complaining about hardship wouldn't solve the problem; they had to rely on themselves. Dong Xuebing had already laid down the law with Jiang Fangfang before. Although Sister Jiang didn't agree, Dong Xuebing had already spoken. He must help Sister Jiang secure the funds for the road construction. Moreover, the time for Huilan to give birth was not far off. Dong Xuebing had to achieve some outstanding results to have a chance to be promoted ahead of schedule and reunite with his wife in a short time. So, to others, it might not seem like Dong Xuebing, who was in charge of investment promotion, was under much pressure. Because everyone knew that their county's investment promotion was not doing well, which was considered normal. But only Dong Xuebing himself felt immense pressure.

"Old Zheng."

"Mayor Dong, what do you want to say?"

"Get everyone together; I have a few words to say."

If it were another department, gathering everyone would involve some hustle and bustle, contacting people from different units, and making phone calls. But not for their Investment Promotion Bureau; a shout was all it took.

Just four people.

Every detail was visible.

One minute later, in the office area outside.

Cheng Yujie, Chen Yunsong, and Gong Na were all standing there.

Dong Xuebing looked at them, composed himself, and spoke strongly, "I've just discussed the situation with Director Zheng. I don't know what you all are thinking, but after hearing about the investment results of our Investment Promotion Bureau, I feel very uncomfortable and annoyed. An average annual investment attraction of five million is something no one would believe. I know our county's situation, but always finding objective reasons is never meaningful. To achieve results, we have to rely on ourselves. Everyone should know that the counties under Mei He City are also among the top impoverished areas, but it's hard to find a county worse than ours in terms of investment promotion results. Some Counties even have good results. I heard about one county where the annual investment reaches three to four hundred million. I want to ask, why can they

succeed while we cannot? Speaking about objective factors is useless. I refuse to believe that we are worse than others. If they can do it, so can we."

Zheng Dayou immediately led the applause.

Chen Yunsong and Gong Na also clapped but with less vigor.

Dong Xuebing looked at them and said, "From the applause, I can tell there is not much confidence. I know you want to say something, but let me say this before you do. There will be an investment promotion conference in the city on Saturday, lasting at least a week. The city should attract many powerful investors. This is an opportunity for us. I've been busy with other matters, but starting today, I will focus all my attention and energy on our Investment Promotion Bureau for the next month. From tomorrow onwards, my office will be here. Zheng, you don't need much preparation. There's an empty desk here; I'll work with everyone here."

Zheng Dayou was taken aback.

The other staff didn't react either, unexpectedly looking at Dong Xuebing.

Dong Xuebing said, "I will apply for some funds. It won't be much, but it will be enough. I'll consider the remaining details and specific execution plan when I return today. Tomorrow, I will give everyone a schedule. If you have any suggestions, as long as they help us attract investors, think about them when you return. You can bring it up tomorrow. The future work will be a lot, and it will be busy. Let me give you a heads-up. I hope your spirits and enthusiasm will be different when I see everyone tomorrow."

Gong Na cutely raised her hand.

Dong Xuebing nodded at her, "You have something to say."

Gong Na bravely said, "If the target is the city's investment promotion conference, our manpower may not be enough."

Zheng Dayou hesitated, "Mayor Dong, besides funding, can we ask the county for a few more people? There are only four of us running around; it's really"

"Four people? You're not just four people," Dong Xuebing walked slowly, tapping one of the empty desks, "This is my seat now. From today, we are five people. If we don't have enough receptionists, I'll handle it. Any problems?"

The group exchanged surprised glances, realizing that Mayor Dong was serious.

Chapter 1418: Former Colleague got into trouble

Afternoon.

County Government.

After boosting morale at the Investment Promotion Bureau, Dong Xuebing returned to the County Party Committee compound. In his office, he began working on the investment promotion plan. There wasn't much detailed content just a rough outline of the policies and work strategies. The specific execution plans were also relatively vague. Dong Xuebing didn't have great confidence in whether he could connect with potential investors. However, he outlined the main investment promotion plan tailored to the specific situation in Zhen Shui County. He wrote some lofty and speculative ideas for sectors like agriculture and animal husbandry. This plan was primarily to

secure policies, funds, and approval from the county. Whether it could be smoothly implemented depended on how the Investment Promotion Bureau executed it.

One hour

Two hours

Three hours

It was past six in the evening when Dong Xuebing finally finished writing.

Picking up the draft, he glanced at it. Aside from his less-than-pleasant handwriting, everything else looked fine. Dong Xuebing then picked up the phone and called Secretary Li.

"Hello, Secretary Li."

"Is this Mayor Dong?"

"Yes, has Mayor Jiang finished work?"

"Not yet, still in the office."

"Alright, I've finished the investment promotion plan. I'm coming over now."

After tidying up the plan, Dong Xuebing looked out the window. Many staff had already left work, and the clerks were gradually leaving.

Upstairs.

Outside the County Mayor's office.

Dong Xuebing was about to knock on the door when it opened. Jiang Fangfang, carrying a bag, walked out. Inside, the secretary, Li Xiaona, could be seen packing things. She was leaving, too.

"Mayor Jiang, the investment promotion plan."

"After work. Let's leave together. We can talk on the way."

"Alright, then, sit in my car. I'll give you a ride back."

"Okay, you go back and pack your things. I'll wait for you downstairs."

"Got it. I'll be right back."

Dong Xuebing knew that Mayor Jiang might have something to attend to in the evening or was tired today. So, he quickly returned to his office, grabbed his bag, and then hurried downstairs. He didn't want to keep Jiang Fangfang waiting for too long. Just as he reached the ground floor, he saw Jiang Fangfang talking to a staff, waiting in front of the Land Rover. When Dong Xuebing approached, Jiang Fangfang said the final words to the person and then got into the car, waiting for him.

The car started and quickly left the County Party Committee compound.

Inside the car, Dong Xuebing handed the plan to her. "Take a look."

Jiang Fangfang nodded, took it, and carefully read it. When the car returned to the residential area and stopped below their dormitory building, Mayor Jiang had almost finished reading.

"It's good," Jiang Fangfang commented.

"Then, let's proceed this way," Dong Xuebing said.

Jiang Fangfang nodded slightly. "Tomorrow afternoon, there's a Party Committee meeting. It's the meeting that was postponed before."

"I heard about it." With Jiang Fangfang's matters settled, Dong Xuebing was curious about what twists and turns might happen with the Meng faction at this meeting. He was also very concerned about this meeting.

"At that time, I'll try to fight for some policies for you," Jiang Fangfang said as she looked at him. "If you need anything, let me know in advance."

Thinking momentarily, Dong Xuebing said, "Mainly, it's money. I originally thought fifty thousand would be enough, but when I visited the Investment Promotion Bureau at noon, I didn't expect the environment there to be like that. So, it would be best if you could allocate more. Oh, and the issue of manpower. The entire Investment Promotion Bureau has only four people. Even the Deputy Director and Office Director positions are vacant. This is a bit disconnected and affects work efficiency. What do you think?"

Jiang Fangfang pondered for a moment. "I'll think about it when I get back."

Dong Xuebing opened the door and got out of the car, intending to help Mayor Jiang open the car door.

However, Jiang Fangfang had already opened the door herself and got out. Side by side, they walked into the building. As they walked, Jiang Fangfang said, "In the afternoon, I briefly chatted with Secretary Meng. He's also worried about the financial situation. We estimated the current financial resources won't last for the year's second half. It's not enough. Afterward, I mentioned this year's investment promotion conference in the city. Secretary Meng is also quite concerned. After all, last year our county attracted a considerable investment of five million from the city's investment promotion conference. If Secretary Meng is willing to put effort into supporting investment promotion, money shouldn't be a big issue. However, the problem of the shortage of personnel is not easy to solve. The county set limits on personnel quotas a few years ago to save expenses. Every unit can't just ask for personnel as they wish. The achievements of the Investment Promotion Bureau have always been in a slump. If we set a precedent for you, others will criticize it. This is not easy to handle. Let's see at the standing committee meeting tomorrow."

Dong Xuebing spoke firmly, "It's still the same, rest assured. As long as you provide us with policies and funds, there will be absolutely no problem with attracting investments. I guarantee it."

Jiang Fangfang looked at him, "It's good to have such confidence. I'll say it again, just loosen up. As long as we can attract funds, I'll bear the consequences even if the sky falls."

As they spoke, the two of them reached the floor of Dong Xuebing's home. "Mayor Jiang, I'll head back now."

However, Jiang Fangfang didn't move, standing there and saying, "My luggage."

"Oh, almost forgot," Dong Xuebing slapped his forehead, "Look at my memory. Please come in."

"I won't go in."

"Alright, then wait a moment."

Dong Xuebing quickly used the key to open the door. After entering, he went to the bedroom and brought out Jiang Fangfang's suitcase. Most of it contained Mayor Jiang's personal clothes. Thinking about the video from last night, Dong Xuebing blushed. After going out, he didn't dare to look Jiang Fangfang in the eyes. Just held her things and went upstairs. "I'll help you carry it to the doorstep."

"Thank you," Jiang Fangfang also followed upstairs. "I need to go back and check on my mother tonight, so I won't invite you for dinner. Let's do it another day."

Watching Mayor Jiang enter the house, Dong Xuebing went downstairs to his home.

As soon as he entered, his phone started ringing before he could even take off his shoes.

Dong Xuebing checked the number and was slightly surprised because this call was unexpected. It turned out to be a former colleague from when he first entered the system at the State Security Bureau in the western part of Beijing.

It was Chang Juan.

A woman in her thirties.

A particularly well-dressed and cute older sister who loved to dress up and loved to slack off.

After Dong Xuebing became the Deputy Director, Chang Juan was the first to approach him. Although she was somewhat lazy, she was a good person. However, they hadn't been in much contact over the past two years.

"Hello, Sister Chang." Dong Xuebing answered the phone with a smile.

A woman's voice came from the other end, "Xuebing, I'm in trouble."

"Ah," Dong Xuebing was startled. "What happened, Sister Chang?"

"A new Deputy Director who just arrived keeps harassing me. Yesterday, he annoyed me, and in anger, I kicked him in the groin."

"Ah, how's the person now?"

"He's hospitalized."

"What's happening now?"

"I've been suspended and might be dismissed. Sister can't continue working. " At this point, crying sounds could be heard from Chang Juan over the phone.

Dong Xuebing is protective of his subordinates. Chang Juan had worked under him for quite some time, and although she was lazy, she was a good person. So, when he heard this, he became somewhat angry. "He harassed you. Is there any evidence of him taking advantage of you?"

Chang Juan cried, "No, no evidence at all."

Dong Xuebing hurriedly said, "Sister Chang, stop crying first. What's the situation with that Deputy Director? Did the bureau say anything? Did he ask you to compensate for medical expenses? What's the situation?"

"I paid him a hundred thousand. The hospital said that the Deputy Director was seriously injured, and it might have a significant impact on his future sexual life. I don't know if it's true or not. All

our savings, my husband and I were used for compensation." Although she was a civil servant, Chang Juan, unlike Tan Limei, had always been a staff member and couldn't earn much. A hundred thousand RMB was not a small amount for an ordinary family. "As for the Bureau's attitude, I can tell from the suspension that they don't care about me, just like a horned beast. They don't care about a small staff like me."

"If the money is insufficient, I'll give it to you first."

"No need. I've already compensated, and I've mediated. Now the problem is that I might lose my job. My Sister has a child to raise, and my husband is not competent. If I'm fired from my civil service position, I"

"Have you contacted Tan Limei?"

"Little Tan helped me plead, but it didn't work. Her rank is not enough."

"This matter is indeed not easy to handle. If there is evidence"

"Xuebing, I know you have great abilities. You must help Sister out of this. We've been colleagues for so many years. You can't just ignore me."

"How could that be? Well, let me think about it. I can't intervene in this matter. You know about my relationship with Zheng Anguo. Many of the leaders I used to work with have been transferred. So, Sister Chang, check the situation first and wait for a while. If that person wants to dismiss you from the civil service or pursue criminal liability against you, call me."

"They definitely want to dismiss me. After I was suspended this morning, the way they looked at me already had that flavor. I also received a letter."

"Wait a little longer. I'll inquire for you."

After hanging up the phone, Dong Xuebing called Tan Limei to ask about the situation. Through Tan Limei's description, Dong Xuebing roughly understood the situation. This matter was indeed not simple. Chang Juan had publicly kicked a Deputy Division Chief level leader, which was beyond the norm. Chang Juan was unlike Dong Xuebing, who had an official position, capability, and background. Dong Xuebing could afford to fight, but Chang Juan couldn't. This time, Sister Chang was in a bit of trouble.

But Sister Chang was ruthless enough. She dared to act.

Dong Xuebing was speechless, but he liked Chang Juan's personality. Unconventional and straightforward, Dong Xuebing was also that kind of person.

Chapter 1419: Operator Xiao Dong

The next day.

Tuesday morning.

The weather warmed up, and Dong Xuebing wore a short-sleeved shirt before heading out. Instead of going to the County Party Committee compound, he drove straight to the County Investment Promotion Bureau.

Inside the investment promotion bureau compound.

"Mayor Dong."

" Mayor Dong."

"Uh, good morning to you."

There were three departments in this small compound.

Others in the government offices also recognized Dong Xuebing, greeting him one after another.

Due to various incidents, Dong Xuebing had gained a somewhat infamous reputation in Zhen Shui County. While the ordinary people may not be too concerned, people in the government offices were well aware of him. He went to the central government to ask for money, fell off a building in the city, injured someone in a fight, possessed medical skills, and so on.

Dong Xuebing exchanged greetings with them.

Upstairs.

Second-floor office area.

When Dong Xuebing arrived, he found that all four people from the investment promotion bureau were inside, gathered around Bureau Director Zheng Dayou, discussing something.

"Ah."

" Mayor Dong."

"You've arrived."

Everyone immediately came forward.

Dong Xuebing nodded, "What are you discussing?"

Zheng Dayou said, "We're discussing how to handle the matters for the investment promotion meeting."

"Okay," Dong Xuebing said, "As I mentioned yesterday if you have any suggestions, let me know. The main issue is how to use the funds allocated. Old Zheng, you go ahead."

Zheng Dayou momentarily pondered, "I think we should buy a car."

Dong Xuebing looked at Cheng Yujie, "And you, Sister Cheng?"

Hearing Dong County Mayor addressing her politely, Cheng Yujie was pleasantly surprised and said, "I also think buying a car is a good idea."

Chen Yunsong also said, "Our investment promotion bureau doesn't have a single car, which is quite embarrassing. Every time investors come, we have to apply to the county, and we still can't get approval most of the time. We can only borrow cars from the Health Bureau and Education Bureau. It's just to leave a good impression on the investors."

Dong Xuebing looked at the office clerk Gong Na, "Xiao Gong."

Gong Na hesitated but also suggested buying a car.

"It seems everyone has discussed it," Dong Xuebing nodded slightly. "Alright, let's buy a car, around two hundred thousand each. Let's start with two cars."

Zheng Dayou was surprised, "Two hundred thousand for two cars?"

Others were also shocked. Only a few cars in Zhen Shui County were worth two hundred thousand RMB. They didn't expect Mayor Dong to not only agree but also be so decisive. They didn't know that Mayor Dong and they were on the same page. Investment promotion, to a large extent, was about face. Since they couldn't change the objective investment environment in Zhen Shui County, they had to put more effort into appearances. Dong Xuebing intended to buy cars, and if given a few million, he even wanted to improve the office environment and establish a separate workplace.

Zheng Dayou, of course, thought that two hundred thousand for a car was good. However, he hesitated, "Will the County agree to this?"

"Don't worry about that. The County strongly supports our investment promotion activities this time. There is a Party Committee meeting in the afternoon, and I will try to get more policies. However, since the County supports us so much, we cannot disappoint the County leaders or the people in the county. Let me make it clear: we can only succeed this time, not fail."

Zheng Dayou and several staff felt the pressure.

"Alright, let's start working," Dong Xuebing instructed. He sat directly in an office area with everyone, "Give me all the investment promotion project information that our County can provide."

Gong Na, the lowest-ranked staff here, naturally had the task of running around. After acknowledging this, she immediately found the information for him.

Dong Xuebing browsed through it.

While Gong Na went to get water from the water room, Dong Xuebing looked at Chen Yunsong, "Xiao Chen, go and order the cars. Try to get them as soon as possible. Don't worry about the money. It will be here before the afternoon." After that, he turned to Cheng Yujie, "Sister Cheng, give me a copy of the information we have on the investors, and then call each of them."

Cheng Yujie immediately responded, "Okay."

Zheng Dayou saw Mayor Dong sitting in the office area with everyone, sharing the same joys and sorrows. He couldn't go back to his own office. If Mayor Dong didn't go, how could he? So, Zheng Dayou moved his things from his office to the office area.

Everyone was busy.

Ring, ring, ring.

The front desk phone rang.

Gong Na seemed to be getting the information and wasn't around.

Chen Yunsong went out, Cheng Yujie was making calls to contact investors, and Zheng Dayou was busy calling old friends who had previously invested in Zhen Shui County.

Dong Xuebing took a look and decided to go to the front desk himself. He picked up the phone and said, "Hello, Zhen Shui County Investment Promotion Bureau."

"Yunsong, it's me."

"Who are you?"

"I'm your sister."

"Xiao Chen is not here. I'm Dong Xuebing."

Then a surprised voice came from the other end of the phone, "Mayor Dong, oh, hey, why are you answering the front desk phone? I, I'm Chen Xiaomei."

Dong Xuebing was taken aback, "Old Chen."

Chen Xiaomei said awkwardly, "Sorry, Mayor Dong, I misheard. I thought it was my brother."

Chen Yunsong and Dong Xuebing were about the same age, and their voices were naturally somewhat similar. Dong Xuebing said indifferently, "I asked Xiao Chen to order the car. Call his mobile phone. Oh, Xiao Chen is your brother."

"Yeah, my younger brother."

"Okay, got it."

Relationships are everywhere. Dong Xuebing remembered it after hearing it. Since he had ambiguous interactions with Chen Xiaomei, if she said Xiao Chen was her real brother, he would naturally take more care of him.

After hanging up the phone, Dong Xuebing saw that Gong Na hadn't returned home, so he continued to answer the phone.

Ring, ring, ring

Ring, ring, ring

Three or four calls in a row.

Seeing Dong Xuebing becoming a telephone operator, Zheng Dayou and others were dumbfounded. After reacting, they quickly went up to try to take over. Letting a County Leader answer the phone was indeed a bit. However, Dong Xuebing didn't agree. He told them to focus on their work, "Just busy with your tasks."

Ring, ring, ring, the phone rang again.

Dong Xuebing answered, "Hello, Zhen Shui County Investment Promotion Bureau."

Unexpectedly, Jiang Fangfang's voice came from the other end, "The news has spread throughout the county government compound that you went to the Investment Promotion Bureau to be a telephone operator. I didn't believe it. I thought I'd try it, and it turns out to be true."

Dong Xuebing smiled wryly, "Short-handed, can't let everyone be busy while I watch."

Jiang Fangfang lightly said, "You're right. Okay, I won't disturb your work."

Dong Xuebing, with a County Leader's dignity, became a telephone operator, which was somewhat speechless, but precisely because of Dong Xuebing's hands-on effort and determination, he infected everyone at the Investment Promotion Bureau. Zheng Dayou, Cheng Yujie, and Gong Na seeing Mayor Dong this way, were inspired. They became more serious, investing all their energy into their work.

Chapter 1420: Sister Chang Seeking Shelter.

Morning.

County Investment Promotion Bureau.

Just after 11 pm.

Staff Member Gong Na quickly took over the front desk after finishing her work, and

Dong Xuebing also left the receptionist's position and returned to his desk.

Checking information.

Reviewing investment projects.

Creating project promotional materials.

Dong Xuebing was busy with various tasks.

Ring, ring, ring, his phone suddenly rang. He checked the number. It was a call from Yao Cui.

"Hello, Mayor Dong."

"Xiao Yao, what's up?"

"There's someone looking for you at the entrance of the main compound."

"They can call me if they are looking for me."

"I'm not sure. The person is downstairs and is not from our office, and the security guard didn't let her in."

"Is it a man or a woman? If it's not urgent, tell her to come another day. I'm busy with much work at the Investment Promotion Bureau today."

"It's a woman, and I don't know her name. She seems to have said she's your sister."

"I don't have a sister. If the security reported it that way, let her come to the Investment Promotion Bureau to find me."

"Okay, I'll inform security to give her the address. By the way, she seems to have luggage. Maybe she's not familiar with this area. Should I arrange for a car to pick her up?"

"Does the office have a car?"

"There's one. I'll contact the driver."

"Alright, please do that, Xiao Yao."

"By the way, I heard you're a receptionist at the Investment Promotion Bureau."

"We're short-staffed. I'll handle it for now."

"Maybe I should come over this afternoon to help."

"No need. There's a lot of work in the County, and I rely on you to oversee things at the County government. The Family Quarters project command center and other departments need coordination. I don't trust anyone else. Just stay there. If there's anything, notify me immediately."

"Okay, I understand."

"That's it. Don't come over. Let the driver take her."

Dong Xuebing had no real sisters, but he had too many "big sisters." He was unsure who was looking for him and why she brought luggage. He decided not to dwell on it. After all, it was almost lunchtime, and he would see the person soon. He'd focus on work for now.

Dong Xuebing continued to type rapidly on the keyboard. He selected a few existing images and used Photoshop to enhance the appearance of the project promotion materials. Subordinates usually did this design work, but due to the manpower shortage, Dong Xuebing had to do it himself. Fortunately, with his official background and a computer science degree, it wasn't too challenging. Ten minutes later.

The County Party Committee compound was very close, and Dong Xuebing heard the sound of a car entering the area. Moments later, the sound of the car leaving echoed in the distance.

The person had probably arrived.

Dong Xuebing looked towards the entrance.

The sound of dragging luggage gradually approached like gurgling water in the corridor.

In the next moment, a fairly attractive woman appeared at the Investment Promotion Bureau office entrance, pulling a suitcase, looking dusty and tired.

At a glance, the woman saw Dong Xuebing. "Xuebing."

Dong Xuebing was stunned and quickly stepped forward. "Sister Chang, why are you here?"

To his surprise, the person was his former colleague Chang Juan, who had called him yesterday. Dong Xuebing hadn't expected it to be her. The two hadn't seen each other for about two years. Seeing her again now, Dong Xuebing felt a bit emotional. He looked Chang Juan up and down, and she hadn't changed much her face and overall appearance remained the same. She seemed more beautiful, with mature charm exuding her face and body. She looked quite lovely, dressed in a blouse and a rose-patterned long skirt. However, Chang Juan's face showed a bit of fatigue and distress, indicating that she had been troubled at work in the past few days.

Looking at Dong Xuebing, Chang Juan burst into tears, "Xuebing."

Dong Xuebing exclaimed, "What are you doing? Please don't cry." He feared this situation and turned to Zheng Dayou, saying, "Old Zheng, is the office door locked?"

Zheng Dayou immediately replied, "It's not locked."

"Good, I'll use it then," Dong Xuebing said.

Chen Yunsong, who had returned early to arrange a car, walked up and helped Chang Juan with her luggage. "Big sister, let me take it to the office for you."

Gong Na, seeing this, also stood up to pour hot water.

As friends of Mayor Dong, they naturally wanted to take care of her.

After a while.

In the Bureau Chief's office.

Everyone else had left, leaving only Dong Xuebing and Chang Juan.

Chang Juan held the warm water Gong Na had poured for her and drank it in big gulps. She took out a tissue, wiped the corners of her mouth, and then lifted the tissue, wiping away her tears again.

"Chang Jie, don't cry. If there's something, tell me."

"Xuebing, I came here this time to seek refuge with you. You can't ignore me."

"Well, isn't there still a chance for things to turn around? Have they fired you?"

"Not yet, but it's not far off. When they do, I'll have no way out."

"Oh, it's not that serious. Why did you come with your luggage? You didn't even call ahead."

"I thought about it yesterday. You're the only one who can help me. I was afraid you'd refuse if I called, so I took a flight early in the morning to come directly."

"So, what do you mean?"

"I'm not leaving. Help me find a place and I can't stay in that place any longer. I can't wait for them to fire me from my civil service position."

"I'll find a place for you."

"You won't abandon me, will you?"

"How could I? But does your husband know about this?"

"He knows. I told him last night."

"But if you come here, what about your child?"

"My husband takes care of the child. He may be unable to make money, but he can care for the family and the child."

"But you and your husband and child live in different places. This isn't a long-term solution."

"I don't care. Anyway, I must keep my civil service job. If I lose my job, who will support my family? I can't rely on my husband. Xuebing, I know you have a lot of connections. We've been colleagues for so many years. You can't ignore your sister if I'm in trouble."

Chang Juan threw away the damp tissue, replaced it with a new one to wipe away her tears, and said, "I mean, stay with you for a while to avoid the trouble. After this period, you can transfer me back to Beijing. Anyway, I'll follow you during this time. If you don't care for me, I'll sleep on the street. I can't go back anymore."

Dong Xuebing smiled bitterly, "It's not that simple, Chang Jie. Your personnel file is still in Beijing. How can I transfer you here?"

Chang Juan said, "You must have a way."

Dong Xuebing replied, "It's too big of a leap. Here"

Upon hearing this, Chang Juan cried even louder, "Then I'll leave. I won't disturb you."

"Don't go," Dong Xuebing quickly grabbed her arm and made her sit back down. "Let me think about it. Will that work, Chang Jie?"

"Okay."

"Well, if you don't kick him, it'll be easier."

"That old bastard. I will beat him every time I see him. Kicking him was light. It's obvious he harassed me, and he even made me pay for all my belongings, medical expenses, and mental damages. Next time I see that bastard, I'll kill him."

Dong Xuebing sweated, "Calm down. Come on, Chang Jie, have some more water."

After this round of scolding, Chang Juan forgot about crying for a while and complained for a long time.

People in Beijing have a distinctive way of scolding, colloquially known as "Beijing scolding." Listening to it, Dong Xuebing couldn't help but find it amusing. Suddenly, he felt quite familiar. Sister Chang, he remembered, also had this kind of personality. She was lazy, couldn't do any serious work, loved to dress up, and was vain. But if you provoked her, she could be quite fierce, as evidenced by this incident. Chang Jie's ruthlessness far surpassed Dong Xuebing's.

Finally, Chang Juan also grew tired of scolding. She took a few deep breaths, and her expression softened when she looked at Dong Xuebing beside her. "Xuebing, have I caused you trouble?"

"Not at all."

"I didn't mean to bother you. If it's too troublesome, I'll go back."

"Look at what you're saying. We've been friends for so many years. How can I not take care of something if you have something?"

"You're really good. Much better than the man in our family."

Dong Xuebing coughed, feeling a bit cornered by the conversation. He was a person who cared about his face a lot, but in his heart, he did want to help Chang Juan. In the unit where Dong Xuebing used to work, he was known for being protective of his friends. "Let me inquire first. Which department would you like to go to?"

When Chang Juan heard this, she immediately said, "Any department is fine. Sister will listen to you."

Dong Xuebing said, "The departments I'm in charge of are just a few. Currently, our Investment Promotion Bureau is severely short-staffed. However, adding people requires approval from the county, and there will probably be discussions in the afternoon's Party Committee meeting. I can't guarantee you anything, but I'll let you know. Just so you know, our Zhen Shui County is a national-level impoverished county with very poor conditions. You must have seen it on your way here. It's not comparable to Beijing."

Chang Juan said, "I am not afraid."

"You have to be prepared."

"Don't worry, sister is mentally prepared."

"Okay, I'll try to help you if you say so. Whether it works or not, I can't be certain. But I'll do my best. It's almost lunchtime now. Let me take you to eat something. You've been on the road long and must be tired. After lunch, I'll call our leaders and see if they can release you." Dong Xuebing didn't dare to promise too much, but he must have some confidence since he had already said half of it. Even though his relationship with Zhen An Guo wasn't very good, Dong Xuebing couldn't interfere

too much in their bureau's affairs. However, requesting personnel transfer was normal, and it wouldn't be considered overstepping.

Chang Juan looked moved and gazed at him deeply. "Xuebing, you're good to sister."